

# The Trefoil

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Enjoy teamwork  
at its best



GUIDING FOR ADULTS  
**Trefoil Guild**

## *In this issue*

Find out all about  
our first virtual  
Annual Meeting

How members  
are finding new  
ways to connect

Discovering a  
new craft for the  
Voyage award

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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

Welcome to our first magazine of 2021, and a time for us all to be looking forward. I know we are all hoping for a better year than we had in 2020, and now that we have a vaccine in the pipeline we can hopefully begin to return to a more normal life.

Spring is the time of new beginnings, new growth and new hope. It is the time of year when we can all look forward to spotting the first shoots of favourite plants, longer days and, hopefully, better weather.

The same is true for Trefoil: the first shoots of planning for the future, days when we can meet outside and enjoy each other's company.

Nationally we are looking forward to the country and region advisers' event, our Annual Meeting – both of which will be held virtually – our national conference and our Walking Festival.

The Board of Trustees and staff have worked tirelessly over the last year to ensure that our programme plans are progressing and that we are ready for the new shoots of growth whenever and wherever we see them. We have welcomed a number of new guilds, which have been

meeting online over the past year, and I know that many will be looking forward to being able to meet up face to face.

How lucky we are that during this pandemic we have been able to rely, to whatever extent, on technology. Ten years ago we had not heard of Facebook, FaceTime, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Twitter or Instagram. These have become a way of life and, indeed, a lifeline for many.

We will continue to keep guidance for members up to date using the website, Facebook and other social media channels as well as our traditional cascade system.

I continue to be amazed at the resourcefulness of our members in finding new ways to communicate with each other. Although I haven't been able to meet members face to face for a year now, I have met many of you on your Zoom calls. The benefit of this for me has been that I have been able to link names to faces. However, nothing will replace meeting you all face to face as we move forward.

Take care and stay safe.

**Eileen Martin**

# Join us for our first ever virtual Annual Meeting

This unique and historic event will be different and yet familiar – and you're all invited, says Eileen Martin, national Chair

The Trefoil Guild Annual Meeting is a very important event in the Trefoil calendar. It is our opportunity to showcase who we are, what we are about and to hear reports about our activities in the preceding year. For many members it is also their opportunity to meet up with friends, old and new. Many members spend the weekend in the area and some also extend their time away from home by joining organised tours.

In 2020 we were unable to hold our Annual Meeting in Southend-on-Sea, and we know just how disappointed you all were, as were the Board of Trustees. The decision taken was for the safety of all our members.

For me, it was also the disappointment of not meeting up with members at what would have been my first Annual Meeting as your national Chair. This

made me reflect on Annual Meetings I have attended, and although many of you will have attended far more events than I, each event has a special place in my memory.

In 2013 I attended my first Annual Meeting in Glasgow Concert Hall, in my role as deputy Scottish chief commissioner and Girlguiding Scotland's representative. What a welcome, what a wonderful experience, but little did I know what would follow.

In 2016 I attended the event in Harrogate as designate country Chair for Trefoil Guild Scotland. By 2017 I was Chair of Trefoil Guild Scotland and travelled to Brighton; 2018 saw us all in Birmingham for the wonderful 75th birthday celebrations, and 2019 in Southport saw me announced as your national Chair.

The Board of Trustees are determined to



Getting together will be virtual this year



A special sight of red tops and Trefoil scarves



hold an event in 2021, therefore we are announcing a very special date – please put Saturday 19 June 2021 in your diary for a unique event. For the first time in the history of Trefoil Guild we will be holding a virtual Annual Meeting. We would love as many members as possible to join us for this historic event.

Plans are underway for how the meeting will be shared with members, allowing those who have never attended an Annual Meeting as well as those for whom this is an annual event to come together to celebrate all that is good about our great organisation.

Yes, it will be different, but will also have a familiarity about it. Liz Burnley, our President, will chair the meeting and we will have the usual reports from me, and Heather Hern, our treasurer. We will also hear from the Chief Guide, Amanda Medler, about Girlguiding.

We know that for many of you the sight of a sea of red tops is really special, as it

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***“We are announcing a very special date – please put Saturday 19 June 2021 in your diary for a unique event”***

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Why not wear a necker to feel part of the event?



Join us virtually to celebrate Trefoil Guild

is for us when we sit on the stage. It gives us the feeling of really belonging to something important, so why not choose something to wear that makes you feel part of the event, whether that's a necker, scarf, polo shirt or just something fancy.

The one part of the Annual Meeting we can't provide virtually is our much-appreciated tea and coffee following the meeting when we have a chance to meet up with friends old and new. But – circumstances allowing – maybe you could have a get-together with others in your guild, or meet virtually with them afterwards. This will of course depend on the vaccine rollout and any guidance in place at the time.

We will share the final details in the next issue of *The Trefoil* magazine, but we will also keep information up to date on our website, Facebook page, Twitter account and using the traditional cascade method through countries and regions, counties and guilds.

We will be there, will you?

All photographs of members throughout this issue were taken in accordance with Covid-19 guidance at the time.

# Noticeboard

Bulletins and information for all our members compiled by Frances Parrett

## Worthy challenges

Scotland Trefoil have created a challenge that can be used either by a guild or by individual members, explains Patrice Graham, PRA Scotland. The aim is to learn about and enjoy five different aspects of Scottish life: history, wildlife, food and drink, creativity and the out of doors.

To earn the badge, eight clauses must be completed. Would your members be interested? For more information contact [trefoilsotlandpra@gmail.com](mailto:trefoilsotlandpra@gmail.com).



Meanwhile, North East England Trefoil are raising funds for the Air Ambulance charity that keeps three ambulances operating across the regions of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Cumbria with the Great North Air Ambulance Challenge, says Chris Bulmer, PRA North East England. Badges are £1.50 each, and you can get the syllabus for the challenge from the North East England page on the Trefoil Guild website.

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March. National Women's Day was first held in the USA in 1909, a year after a rally where women marched against oppression and inequality. In 1910, at an international conference in Copenhagen, delegates approved the idea of an International Women's Day, and the first one was held in 1911.

Sheila Leete recalls, "While in Sangam in 2010, women from Pune were permitted to march for the first time. Several of us joined these ladies, asking for rights such as safe housing and public toilets. Understanding their living conditions had a profound effect on me. Could your guild celebrate this important day, maybe by suggesting who you think has changed the lives of women for the better?"

## Feed me, Seymour!

Indomitable Eileen O'Grady of Shepton Mallet Trefoil Guild has been growing an amaryllis, which she measures every day, and she now has concerns that it is turning into Audrey from the film *Little Shop of Horrors*! Nevertheless, a plan is now in hand for every member to have one next winter, so they can turn it into a competition.

## Popular STARS

"Let's give a big 'thank you' to the team who set up the STARS Challenge, launched in spring 2019," says Sheila Leete, National Programme and Development Adviser. "Who would have envisaged that STARS would become so popular, keeping members focussed, involved and thinking wider, during this worldwide pandemic? It's been good to see just how many of you are completing all the themes."

## Magazine news

Jo Taylor, current Editor of *The Trefoil*, says, “Frances Parrett and I have come to the end of our roles as Editor and Deputy Editor of *The Trefoil*. We would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board for their ideas and support, the staff at Newhall for their expertise and advice, everyone who has contributed to the magazine and of course you, the readers.

“We are very pleased to introduce you to our replacements: Judy Ellis (Editor) and Jane Smart (Deputy Editor).”

Judy was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger in Glamorgan and an adult leader in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Shropshire, where she now lives. She has held roles at all levels of Girlguiding, from district to international commissioner, and was a member of the WAGGGS Europe Committee for six years. She was Chair of Shropshire Trefoil and has recently retired from the role of international adviser for Trefoil Guild.

Jane lives with her husband in Bridgend,



New Editor Judy Ellis



Jane Smart is now Deputy Editor of *The Trefoil*

South Wales. Since becoming a Guide at 14 she has thoroughly enjoyed various roles in Girlguiding Cymru, Girlguiding UK, Trefoil Guild Wales and WAGGGS. She is presently Chair of Bridgend Trefoil Guild. Jane loves singing, anything creative and meeting people. She is looking forward to meeting you as she ventures on a new and exciting journey.

Adds Jo, “I am sure that Judy and Jane will enjoy their new roles and I look forward to reading the next edition of *The Trefoil* when it lands on my doormat.”

## 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 June issue is 24 March 2021.



## Your snapshots

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

### *On the move*

Three members ran, and two walked, around Derwentwater at a social distance and had cake and a warm drink from flasks when we finished. I love how Trefoil Guild stretches us!

**Lyn Roberts, Derwent Trefoil Guild**



### *Reindeer delight*

The Scottish Challenge Badge was designed to be done either independently or working with other guild members. Since guilds are still unable to meet, I visited the Cairngorm Reindeer Centre with my husband to learn about Britain's only free-ranging herd of reindeer. It was a joy and a pleasure to get up close and personal with these amazing animals.

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

### *Cooking up a storm*

River Ash Trefoil held a rolling cookout with sittings for either breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea. Not all members had experience of cooking on an open fire, so there was some learning of new skills as well as the renewal of old ones. No fingers were burnt or hair singed throughout the day!

**Margaret Bennet,  
River Ash Trefoil Guild**







### *Sea swimming*

As part of my Silver Voyage award I decided to swim regularly, but, sadly, lockdown closed the pool.

Spotting some people swimming in the sea, my husband and I decided to give it a try too; and I continued this activity in various bays, achieving

more than 100 sea swims during the glorious summer months.

Amazingly, it didn't end there, and now five Trefoil members are sea swimming every day... right through the winter months!

**Margaret Redhead,**  
**Guernsey and Sarnia Trefoil Guilds**



### *Sculpture trail*

We went on a socially distanced discovery walk to find sculptures in the Lee Valley Regional Park.

**Marion Caslake,**  
**South East Herts**  
**Trefoil Guild**



### *Tree planting*

On a bright, crisp and dry December morning, members of Sandbach Trefoil Guild worked with Park Ranger Mark to plant 50 trees at Brereton Country Park.

Our tree planting is part of a larger scheme to plant 520 trees to extend the woodlands and provide more habitats for breeding birds.

**Libby Mooney, Sandbach Trefoil Guild**



### *Doggie treats*

We all contributed doggie treats/toys to make up a hamper for the Police Dog training kennels in Hereford to raffle to raise funds at Christmas.

**Nancy Wheatland,  
Kington Trefoil Guild**

### *Lovely lunch*

As social distancing was not required on the Isle of Man, we enjoyed a pre-Christmas lunch together. During the meal, Freda Black (county Chair) was given cards and gifts for her 80th birthday.

**Heather Bellinger,  
Eastern District Trefoil Guild**





## Keeping safe

The pandemic has meant many changes and restrictions to our lives and we have had to find ways of doing things safely. Some Ulster Trefoil Guild members have risen to the challenge and have done some thinking 'outside the box'. Yvonne Devlin of S. Tyrone Trefoil Guild, did not want her five-year-old grandson to miss out on treats, so they were delivered at a safe distance using her suitably sanitised litter picker!

**Lizzie Hogg,**

**South Tyrone Trefoil Guild**



## Greenhouse meeting

Our guild members held a meeting, each in their own house or garden, then rang each other to say what they had done. We could only have one or two others with us at the time due to the lockdown restrictions. Pictured are Stella Porter and Joan Maggs in my greenhouse (it was far too wet in the garden!).

**Sally Bye, Portishead Trefoil Guild**



## Beautiful blankets

Mia Girling from Gribbin Trefoil Guild sewed quilts and made crochet blankets for the homeless during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

**Daphne Anderson,**  
**Gribbin Trefoil Guild**



### *Wonderful walk*

We walked from Llanrwst to Trefriw, over the River Conwy and visited the Mill at Trefriw before returning to Llanrwst for lunch.

**Wendy Moore, Arfon Trefoil Guild**

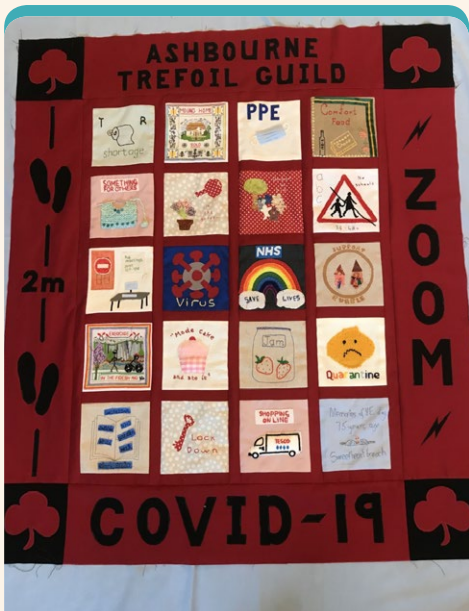


### *Crafting by Zoom*

Kilwinning Trefoil Guild meets on Zoom once a month and December's activity was led by Judith Sydee, who demonstrated how to make Swedish advent stars.

**Rae Hill, Kilwinning Trefoil Guild**





## Memory quilt

Ashbourne Trefoil in Derbyshire decided to make a memory quilt to mark the end of an extraordinary year. Each member designed and embroidered a square depicting events or activities with which we have been involved this year.

**Janet Tibbit, Ashbourne Trefoil Guild**

**Janet Tibbit, Ashbourne Trefoil Guild**



***STARS in action***

Carterton Trefoil (in agreement with Carterton Town Council) planted nine kilos of daffodil bulbs. Lots of digging of big holes using muscles we did not know we had; and then back bending, planting the bulbs. It was good exercise and fun. Well done ladies!

**Pam Howard, Carterton Trefoil Guild**

### Pam Howard, Carterton Trefoil Guild



*Shoebbox appeal*

Gibraltar Trefoil Guild met for the first time in 2020 and we managed to contribute 18 filled shoe boxes to an appeal to provide essential necessities as well as treats, sweets, toys etc. for children in Ghana to receive Christmas presents for the first time ever.

**Maira Dalmedo, Gibraltar Trefoil Guild**

**Moira Dalmedo, Gibraltar Trefoil Guild**

## *Listen, learn and lead*

The national conference in October aims to build on the ingenuity and effort displayed by Trefoil members to take us forward into next year and beyond



Members will work together to plan the way forward for Trefoil Guild

Last year was the year of planning, cancelling, rescheduling and holding virtual meetings and events. Throughout 2020 the Board of Trustees and staff worked together, albeit virtually, to ensure that we are ready to swing into action when the time is right and we are able to revert to some form of normality.

One example of this is the national conference, traditionally held every four years, for which our plans are well underway. The 2021 Trefoil Guild national conference (formerly known as the Teams Conference) will take place from Friday 1 October to Sunday 3 October at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme will be Listen,

Learn and Lead, and the aim is for our Board of Trustees and invited members from across the country and region teams and TGIFC to work together to plan the way forward both nationally and in the countries and regions, for the benefit of all our members.

Country and region Chairs have invited members of their team to attend as well as their programme, PR and international advisers. They will join the national Chair, national advisers and other trustees as well as representatives from TGIFC, the Internet Guild and others. The conference will be led by two facilitators and will build on the work of the task and finish groups and the advisers' virtual event in

March. We have set up a task and finish group to work alongside the staff, national advisers and the national Chair to plan and organise the welcoming of participants, breakout room allocation, evening entertainment, and to ensure the smooth running of the event. Our thanks go to them for their support and enthusiasm.

Both prior to and during the event we will be working closely with the venue to ensure that any guidance in place due to Covid-19 is adhered to, as it is not yet clear what restrictions we may have to follow. But we are Trefoil, we are adaptable and we will do what we have to do!

The timing of this conference could not be better. Much has changed throughout 2020 and into 2021, and many more members and guilds have now begun to use technology to keep in touch and hold their regular meetings. The meetings have been different from those we have been used to, but we have been amazed at the ingenuity of our members and the efforts made to embrace the technology, whether it is keeping in touch by Zoom, Microsoft Teams etc, or keeping up to date using our website and Facebook pages.

We will be reflecting on our previous successes and seeking out areas where we can all work together to further develop an interesting programme aimed at all our members, regardless of age or where we

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***“We will be reflecting on our previous successes and seeking out areas where we can all work together to further develop an interesting, stimulating programme”***

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live. By October we will have held our first virtual Annual Meeting (see pages 4 and 5) and will have received feedback from members, many of whom will have been able to attend for the first time, and others for whom travel has become a challenge. This will enable us to look at future events and how we can continue to appeal to as many members as possible.

The December issue of *The Trefoil* will include highlights from the conference and will share with all our members the decisions taken over the weekend to move Trefoil forward and how this will be achieved.

In the lead up to the conference, the Board of Trustees, advisers and country and region Chairs will all be gathering information from across our membership to help formulate our thinking and to ensure we deliver what our members really want.

Look out 2022 and beyond – here we come!



Building on the work of task and finish groups

# Raising funds for BBC Children in Need



How we teamed up with Pudsey to raise over £290k

Last November we came together with BBC Children in Need to celebrate Pudsey's 40th year. To mark this very special occasion, we launched the 'Act Your Age' fundraising challenge in which we encouraged our members to take their age and do something good with it, along with a special Pudsey badge to raise funds.

With the help and amazing hard work of our members and volunteers, by the beginning of December we had raised over £290,000 from our fundraising page, which will be split equally between the two organisations and will go on to make a difference to the lives of young people across the UK.

In a time of ongoing financial impact caused by the pandemic, the money we were able to raise will support Girlguiding to continue working alongside our dedicated volunteers to support girls' and young women's wellbeing during this unprecedented time.

For BBC Children in Need, the funds raised will support local charities and projects in communities across the UK that are helping children and young people facing a range of disadvantages such as living in poverty, being disabled or ill, or experiencing distress, neglect or trauma.

## More about the challenge

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and volunteers were challenged to come

together to have some fun and raise money to enable more young people across the UK to access life-changing activities and support in their local areas. We encouraged our members to come up with an 'Act Your Age' fundraising activity inspired by their age, or the collective age of their family or unit. Whether that was a six-year-old Rainbow climbing the equivalent number of steps up to Big Ben in six hours, an eight-year-old Brownie undertaking eight minutes of sponsored keepy-uppies, or a 13-year-old unit collectively taking on a virtual half marathon.

## Emma and Sophie

Emma, 1st Bishopton Brownie unit leader, and her six-year-old Rainbow daughter, Sophie, from Renfrewshire in Scotland, combined their ages and walked for 47 minutes for 47 days for their fundraising challenge. She could not wait to take up their challenge, saying, "It's great to be

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***"It's great to be able to plan something fun that we can do together to help make a difference to the lives of children and young people in the UK"***

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able to plan something fun that we can do together to help make a difference to the lives of children and young people in the UK". She loves being a part of her community and providing a variety of opportunities for our girls. Girlguiding has also helped her develop new skills, make new friends and travel to new parts of the world.

3rd Bishopton Rainbow Sophie loves being a Rainbow and having fun with her friends. She was elated to have fun with mummy and help Girlguiding and Children in Need too!

### Emma Guthrie

Emma Guthrie, Girlguiding's Assistant Chief Guide, was incredibly excited and proud to be partnering with BBC Children in Need in its milestone 40th year.

She said, "This year has been challenging for everyone, especially our children and young people, and it's imperative now more than ever that we do everything we can to ensure that they are not forgotten and have access to the support they need to thrive."

### Well-known supporters

We were also extremely lucky to receive help from many of our supporters, including our President, The Countess of Wessex, who baked 55 cheesy bacon scones as part of her challenge.

England football players Millie Bright (age 27) and Rachel Daly (age 28) also led by example with their own challenges. The Lionesses performed 55 keepee-uppies to raise funds for the cause. They were delighted to be supporting BBC Children in Need and Girlguiding to help raise funds to help support children and young



Girlguiding members received a special badge

people, and they hoped to encourage others across the nation to do the same.

BBC presenter Kate Silverton, showed us her support by swimming 50 laps to raise funds. As a former Guide herself, she hoped to be able to encourage the Girlguiding community to get behind 'Act Your Age' and challenge themselves to do something remarkable.

Whilst she knew it was going to be no mean feat swimming 50 laps, she recognised how important it is to raise money for children and young people across the UK during this difficult time, saying, "I shall be displaying my Pudsey badge proudly!"

# *An away day in... Colchester*

This vibrant market town has a long and varied history, from the Romans and Boudica to jam and Humpty Dumpty

Surrounded by arable farming in North Essex is Colchester, England's oldest recorded town and birthplace of Boudica, queen of the Iceni tribe. Today, Colchester is a vibrant market town, but evidence of its long history is all around.

Approach the town along the Avenue of Remembrance, full of cherry and sweet chestnut trees, and in the distance you'll see 'Jumbo', the water tower that has been there since Victorian times.

Visit the first and largest of the Royal Palaces, **Colchester Castle**, ordered by William the Conqueror. It has a huge Norman keep, and houses artefacts from the Roman temple of Claudius. The gardens and park sweep down to the River Colne where, still visible and well preserved, are parts of the old Roman wall. More can be seen at **Balkerne Gate**, the original main entrance to the town.

Nearby are **Hollytrees Museum**, housing three centuries of social history, and in a former church, the **Natural History Museum**, exhibiting the wildlife and geology of north Essex. Firstsite, an exhibition and art centre, houses a Roman



The lake in Colchester Castle gardens

mosaic found locally and has a rolling programme of visual art exhibitions.

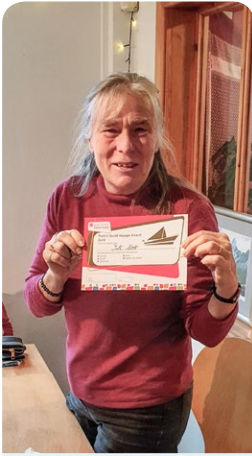
Wander around the town and explore the 16th century **Dutch Quarter**, where the Flemish refugees settled. See too the stone houses built from Roman rubble and the Victorian Town Hall, topped by a statue of St Helena. The High Street has a mixture of old and new, with small independent shops and large chain stores. The oldest complete building is the Saxon Holy Trinity Church, now an art centre and cafe.

On the outskirts are the spectacular ruins of **St Botolph's Priory** and the later **St John's Abbey**. Find out about a recent discovery, a Roman chariot racing track, at the **Roman Circus Visitor Centre**. Nearby attractions include Dedham Vale, with its connections to artist John Constable; Mersea Island, which is best known for its seafood and oysters; Tiptree, for the world-famous jam factory; and Colchester Zoo with its varied breeding programmes.

And finally, Colchester also has connections to famous nursery rhymes including *Old King Cole*, *Humpty Dumpty* and *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.



Colchester Castle was built in the 11th century



## It's Gold for Jill

Jill Stott of Arfon Trefoil Guild was recently presented with her Gold Voyage award. Jill was the leader of the TOPAZ project in India in 2019, and she used some of the project for her award.

## Musical honour

In December 2020, Doris Young, Chair of Queen's Cross Trefoil Guild in Aberdeen, was honoured for her contribution to the world of Scottish country dancing. Doris has been involved with Scottish country dance for 50 years, as a teacher and also by sharing her passion and energy for dancing and inspiring many others. In recognition of her dedication, Gordon Shand composed a beautiful tune entitled *Here's To Mrs Young*, and some of her current and former pupils joined the presentation by Zoom.



## Silver brooch awards

Congratulations to three members from South West England who have been awarded the Trefoil Guild Silver brooch: Val Sewell (previous region Chair), Sue Norton and Jane Withey.

## British Empire Medal

The following Trefoil members received the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours List: Anne Esslemont, Leeds North East Trefoil Guild, for services to Young People in Roundhay, Leeds through Girlguiding UK; Phyllis Jeffers, Portadown Trefoil Guild, for services to Guiding and to Young People; Patricia Tarry, Woodside (Eastleigh) Trefoil Guild, Volunteer, Girl Guides and Scouts, for services to Girlguiding.

*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.*

# Lockdown thoughts

Rachel Winkel of Ely Trefoil, Anglia, submitted her thoughts for the Trefoil 2020 booklet. We decided to share them with you all

## Time

There's been a lot more of it, which in some ways has been a breath of fresh air! As a mum of three (aged 12-21) it's the first time in 21 years I've not been driving Mum's Taxi on the countless daily runs between nursery, work, after-school clubs, supermarket, sports, Girlguiding... Still didn't manage any 'me' time though, as the laundry, catering, tidying and dishwashing fairies seem to have been furloughed.



Where are those laundry fairies?

## Recording

The 2020 calendar was ditched early on but we still needed something to keep track of days and dates and daughter's medical kit changes. We pegged a daily (colour-coded) card to the door and noted key events. Despite being at home, most days had a highlight/first/celebration to look forward to or reflect on. Making memories has finally started to overtake material possessions on folks' list of priorities.



Noting key events helps make memories

## Entertainment

Definitely the DIY option this year with everyone required to make their own fun. I took the DIY part literally. Yes, whilst the rest of the country was sensibly stocking up on toilet rolls and flour, I was doing the equivalent supermarket sweep at B&Q. I now have a tiled kitchen but still haven't got round to baking banana or sourdough bread. Something to save for lockdown number 6.0 perhaps?

My girls and I have completed our own bodyweight in badges, which are starting to stockpile. Of course, I haven't found time to sew them on to my blanket yet – too busy doing nothing.



Even DIY can be regarded as entertainment





Celebrating with family and friends virtually

## Family & friends

Not seeing friends and family has been hard for everyone. Yet bizarrely, given that they don't live locally, I've seen more of my family than I normally would. Online quizzes, calls to plan lockdown birthday surprises (18th, 21st and 50th) have kept us in regular contact. Friends near and far have also made time to look out for each other. Several of those 'we must make this the year we meet up' messages scribbled in Christmas cards have actually happened, albeit virtually.



Getting back into work attire was a challenge

## Overindulging

Lockdown waistline may yet be the defining memory. Less time being active and more time to graze is a heady cocktail.

Working-from-home uniform is not just comfortable but far more forgiving. Shoe-horning myself back into work attire was an unexpected challenge.

## Internet

This time last year, Zooming was something I only associated with space rockets. Since March, it's felt like learning verbs in French as we all added, "I Zoomed, you Zoomed, he/she/it Zoomed" to our essential vocabulary. A mixed blessing that has enabled us to work, rest and play in a new format. Finding that balance is the trickiest part – the joys of home-schooling are hugely overrated, both as parent and as a teacher.



Zooming has been a mixed blessing

## Living

Life's not a dress rehearsal so I'm still trying to enjoy the journey. The kids learned as tots not to ask "Are we there yet?" which is handy, as I've not got the foggiest when we'll arrive and I expect a couple more diversions in 2021. I've had news of babies 'hatched', toasted couples that 'matched' and felt the sorrow of only being able to offer virtual hugs to families of those sadly 'despatched'. It's been a year with a difference, but I'm grateful that I'm still travelling. Wishing you all 'Bon voyage' through 2021!

# Discovering the craft of ganutell

For her Gold Voyage award, Jeanette Thompson of Iveagh Trefoil Guild set about learning the historic Maltese craft of creating flowers out of coiled wire

Having completed the Bronze and Silver Voyage award, I embarked on Gold. For both the Bronze and Silver I had undertaken a new skill and now it was time to decide what skill I would undertake for Gold. I considered revisiting skills that had lapsed with the aim of improving on the skill level I had acquired, but I felt that I really wanted to challenge myself by learning a new and different skill.

During a conversation I had with a friend, she mentioned that her niece produced some lovely pieces of work in ganutell. I had never heard of ganutell before. As with all other things about which I want to get information, I consulted the internet and discovered that ganutell is strictly the name of expandable wire, but in Malta it is a term for intricate and delicate work using the wire, thread, beads, pearls, chenille and sequins to make flowers.

I decided that this was a skill I would like to acquire and set about finding out information about how to do it. On the internet I found a book entitled *Ganutell* by Maria Kerr, so I ordered a copy thinking that I could teach myself

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***“I am still trying to perfect my pieces but am happy that I can now produce acceptable pieces of work”***

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One of the flowers Jeanette made in Malta

the skill using this book. The book is very informative and gives comprehensive instructions and pictures of completed pieces. Materials and tools were duly ordered, and so began my love affair with ganutell.

Unfortunately, as with many love affairs, all did not go smoothly. When I followed the instructions, my completed pieces did not really resemble the pictures in the book. I then started asking various local craft instructors to see if I could get some assistance. None of them had ever heard of ganutell. What should I do next? Should I just give up? Giving up is not really in my nature, and when someone tells me that I will not be able to do



A ganutell creation made on returning home

something, that makes me all the more determined to do it.

My next move was to contact the author of the book, who suggested that I attend one of her courses – the courses were, of course, held in Malta! After much

deliberation, I decided to take Maria up on her offer and arranged to travel to Malta and have one-to-one sessions with her. For three days we started at 9am and finished at 6pm. While I do not think that I was Maria's star pupil, and I think she needed to take a holiday when I left, I was pleased to be able to produce passable pieces of work to bring home.

On returning home, I acquired wires, threads, beads, spindles, wire cutters, scissors, calipers, tweezers, long-nosed pliers etc, and started practising the techniques. Ganutell is not difficult but needs lots of practice and patience to perfect. A year after my trip, I am still trying to perfect my pieces but am happy that I can now produce acceptable pieces of work; definitely not up to Maria's standard – so still room for improvement.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to source some of the materials required, so I am restricted in the pieces I am able to produce – an ongoing challenge. Perhaps another trip to Malta for a follow up course with Maria would help...



Another delicate flower posy by Jeanette



Ganutell needs lots of practice and patience

## Meet a guild

Frances Parrett meets a guild that loves travel and food

### Hope Farm Trefoil

Girlguiding leaders in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, who wanted to meet socially realised the local guild met on the same night as most of their unit meetings... so Hope Farm Trefoil was formed in 2015.

Even before that, Debra Millican was division commissioner, and with all her other guiding commitments she decided, quite rightly, that it was time for her to do something 'for her'. Now, the guild numbers around 26 members, and although they have great memories of their first four years, they managed to keep the impetus going during 2020. Debra told me all about their young –



Ready for the zip wire at Waddow Hall

and young at heart – members and what Trefoil means to them.

“Like other Trefoil members we love travel and food, and have many trips out, as well as enjoying craft and board game evenings; inviting guests; and ‘bring and share’ evenings,” she explained. “There are chocolate tasting evenings plus the popular annual trip to Parkgate on the Dee Estuary for chips and ice cream



Our Promise is important





Teamwork at its best

– although not at the same time! Some members attended the Heritage Weekend at Waddow to celebrate its 90 years, which inspired us to make a challenge badge to raise funds for this, our nearest Girlguiding activity centre. We agreed that we had spent many happy days there as individuals, and as a group, and wanted to help somehow. You can find out more at [facebook.com/WaddowHallChallengeBadge](https://facebook.com/WaddowHallChallengeBadge). Other members visited Pax Lodge as well as various Girlguiding and Scouting camp sites – and *Harry Potter* film sites!

“When we held our annual pilgrimage to Waddow in 2019 we took some Rangers with us and 33 of us had a fantastic weekend. The Rangers want to join our Trefoil as soon as they can.

“As soon as lockdown started we began holding Zoom meetings and had a great time doing activities like virtual museums, virtual escape rooms, guided craft and quizzes. Our virtual Spanish evening worked well, and there were other activities based around the STARS Challenge. We decided to meet twice a month, with the second meeting being

a coffee and chat session, because some members live alone and were missing seeing others.

“We are considered to be a ‘young’ guild, but actually we have a wide-ranging membership in terms of age and guiding backgrounds. We try to provide a flexible programme that appeals to everyone, and members get on really well and support each other in a great way; at one meeting, a young member was helped with her first contract of employment, whilst another member was being shown how to set up and use Facebook.”

The majority of Hope Farm Trefoil are Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Ranger leaders (and one Beaver leader). All are busy people; some are just now graduating from university while others work in a wide variety of challenging jobs such as the NHS and education; one member has a pottery studio (her expertise was really beneficial when painting pottery Christmas mugs). Despite this, they still find time to Zoom for tea and chats, and to have fun together. Thanks to Debra and Kathryn for their help.



Craft evenings are a big hit



## *Reach out around the world*

In these strange times we need to use all we have learned during the last year to keep the spirit of guiding alive says Liz Joy, former GOLD Co-ordinator from Staffordshire

During these unprecedented times, we have found that the world, instead of getting smaller, seems to be getting bigger again. Whereas, not that long ago, we could jump on a plane and visit almost any destination we wished, now we are lucky if we can visit our neighbour or go down the road to the local shop.

Sometimes it seems we think we are the only ones in this dilemma, but we are not alone in this country, or in the rest of the world. Our guiding friends in all countries will be experiencing what we are going through. We might not be

able to visit them, but we need to keep the spirit and hope of guiding relevant today, as we reach out in other ways.

Many of us have discovered and developed technology skills we didn't know we could do, or had even shied away from, but they have now become second nature. Let us put those skills into practice. Remember, the old-fashioned pen pal system that existed years ago? Why not develop that through the technology and social media that we have today?

Maybe you have an international friend who you have not been in contact

with recently. Try and make contact again. This could be a basis for getting the younger members of Girlguiding linked with Guides in another country.

World Thinking Day is such an important date in the guiding calendar and we have not been able to celebrate in some of the traditional ways we usually do. Start using the new skills and knowledge you have gained over the last year and suggest innovative ways of marking traditional guiding events in your local area and worldwide.

Even if you do not have international links at the moment, use your new skills to interest the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in your area. Think of ways you can engage them to discover the joys of international guiding that are already out there, and start to bring the world close again. Let's make it smaller and part of our own community, and do it by flying the flag for Trefoil.

Always remember to look at the Trefoil webpages for ideas, or to submit your own activities or ideas that have worked. For more support and information about

what opportunities are still available at the present time, you can contact your international adviser. If you are not sure who your local international adviser is, then you will be able to find out through your region international adviser or your region office.

International is as relevant now as it has always been, if not more so. Once we are able to travel more freely again, we need to rediscover the wonder of going to other countries. Like all international travel, TOPAZ, as I'm sure you are all aware, has had to be postponed, but it will go ahead as soon as is feasible.

Watch this space!

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***“Start using the new skills and knowledge you have gained over the last year and suggest innovative ways of marking traditional guiding events in your local area and worldwide”***

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Many of us have discovered and developed technology skills



# Zoom through STARS

A number of responses on Trefoil Guild STARS Facebook page and 'Zoom through STARS' was born!



Afternoon tea via Zoom led to requests for a recipe book

Tracy needed a Teamwork challenge for her Voyage award, posted on Facebook and asked if anyone would like to help plan a virtual event for Trefoil Guild Scotland members.

Tracy, Catherine, Janet and Morna started planning.

The idea was to offer opportunities for our members to complete STARS challenges in our own homes whilst in lockdown and perhaps even shielding. The planning team met a few times over Zoom and

shared contacts and ideas that could be offered as short workshops or talks delivered over the course of the weekend.

Sheila Leete's 'Alternative ideas for STARS challenges' was helpful and certainly provided food for thought. Without venues, catering, booking forms and transport to organise, our Zoom event took

shape quickly. We had no idea how many would join us, if any. On the day, each session had a named leader and co-host





running the technology in the background, and all resources and links were shared with the team beforehand in case of any technical blips.

Zoom features such as the waiting room, chat, annotate and breakout rooms were useful – especially the chat function. The schedule included longer breaks at lunch and tea-time to allow for meals and dog walks. About 100 participants joined us over the course of the weekend and our busiest session had 64 eager listeners!

### THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED:

**SATURDAY:** social sessions – bring your cuppa, getting to know Zoom, talk about TOPAZ in Russia, Gaelic Tree Alphabet, favourite guiding games, knot-tying, campfire sing along.

**SUNDAY:** bring your breakfast, book club, Gold Voyage award talk, afternoon tea and recipe share, and board games.

And what fun we had! It was great hearing about travels to Russia and Our Chalet, trees, playing Kim's game, Sacttegories, and so much more. Some of our members spotted old friends on screen and reconnected – wonderful! Many members marvelled at the new technology and learned how to participate on Zoom.

Following the event, we had many requests for a recipe book following our afternoon tea, copies of the wonderful 'tree presentation' to enjoy ourselves or with our guilds, and there were some keen knotters too!

'How about a Wellness day next?' said Mar. A couple of months later we enjoyed our Virtual Wellness Day, which included origami and Zentangle art (zentangle.com), healthy hands, mindfulness, DIY pampering, Sound Bath relaxation and

more. Once again, the event was well attended, and the feedback was great.

The thinking behind this was about keeping body and mind healthy. Origami for concentration, Zentangle 'doodling' with our coloured pencils to soothe, home-made face packs, lip-scrubs and foot soaks for fun. The recipes had been circulated previously. Some workshops were led by professionals; healthy hands by The Body Shop took us through hand care and massage – lovely! Karen led us through mindfulness and the beautiful Sound Bath with bells and resonant singing bowls from Sound as a Bell – a relaxing end to our Wellness Day.

At the end of last year we had a virtual Christmas Afternoon Tea. The focus this time was on our Scottish Challenge 2020, so we learned about reindeer, made Scottish cocktails, crafts and had a wee sing-along. What's not to like!

How about running a virtual event in your area? It's great fun and can all be done using technology and free software.



Knot-tying proved very popular

# Your letters

Find out what other Trefoil members have on their minds

## Connecting through STARS


 I was shielding and bored so started looking for different parts of the STARS Challenge I could do whilst at home. A lot of time was spent gardening, and having completed all the obvious sections I decided to try to communicate with another guild. I thought that perhaps I could find someone in Northamptonshire where I started my guiding journey in 1949, but failed there so then tried Leicestershire where I also spent years guiding. Here I found my daughter's Brown Owl, who I also knew as a guider and as the mum of one of my guides. Then I remembered I had a cousin who was a Ranger guider in Warwickshire. She pointed me in the direction of a lovely lady called Mary, who is a member of Southam Trefoil Guild and we started corresponding via email. It's amazing the number of similarities we have, from guiding to a love of sport and the city of Coventry. We now



correspond every week. I feel I have known Mary for years. She has told me about her many guiding journeys, her family and what her guild is doing during the lockdown. It has been a different journey for me, but something to occupy my time and another part of my STARS Challenge.

**Rita Hall, Tavistock Trefoil Guild**

## An ode to Covid 2020

 March to June we all found,  
The power of nature all around.  
We went on walks near to home  
and found new paths we hadn't known.  
Then strolling slowly in July,  
It really made me want to sigh!  
The noise of traffic back again  
And visitors put such a strain...  
On quiet towns and country seats  
While locals stayed in their retreats.  
In August crowds were often seen  
By seaside and on village greens.  
We stayed home because we could,  
The garden's looking very good!  
We hired a skip  
Oh! What a blast  
Lots went in – it filled up fast.  
I've tidied every shelf and drawer  
But somehow there seems even more!  
'Things of purpose' so Ed says  
And they must stay for better days.  
A cold and wet September came.  
So we began to up our game.  
A visit to the superstore,  
The garden centre and much more.  
Harlow Carr and National Trust  
Living here – oh! Lucky us.  
Dentist, flu jab once again  
In and out like weathermen.  
Need new glasses – what a fuss.  
We haven't even tried the bus!  
Although we haven't ventured far  
We've been for trips out in the car.  
A picnic on the sunny days  
We've kept busy in lots of ways.  
The emails and the texts that come  
Stop me feeling sad and glum.  
You ladies have been always there  
Your friendship is beyond compare.  
When this is over, I can see  
What a party there will be!

**Heather Bulcock, Ripon Trefoil Guild**

## Virtual camping



We were very sorry that our annual Trefoil camp had to be cancelled, so we decided to run a virtual camp instead. It was based around the Guide WW2 Home Defence Badge, which was a bulldog, and we adapted the syllabus for coronavirus – mask equivalent, food shortages and confined games.

Northamptonshire Trefoil members and Girlguiding leaders were invited, so we could show the range of activities Trefoil Guild undertake. We had more than 70 participants via Facebook and by email.

We were so very impressed by the various modes of transport that were used to get to the camp, from Tardis to snail, elephant to spacehopper; we were glad, and rather surprised, that everyone managed to arrive safely!

Various activities were held during the camp. Kim's game; a quiz based around 'How the Girl Guides Won the War'; making of gas/coronavirus masks; games to entertain children during an air raid or lockdown; wartime food recipes; sharing earliest camp memories and a bit of make do and mend. We were delighted by how readily everyone joined in, with some providing their own activities and challenges.

We held a campfire with previously requested favourite songs, and time to make 'smores'. Our closing ceremony was led by our county Chair, and included Goodbye



and Taps. We produced participation certificates and had badges made to be purchased by anyone attending, any profit from sale of the badges being sent to Northamptonshire Trefoil Guild.

**Jackie Pentlow,**

**Northamptonshire Trefoil Guild**

## Penfriends for 50 years



In 1949 as a Girl Guide, I became penfriends with Marjatta, a 14-year-old Guide living in Turku, Finland. Two years later I took Marjatta to our Guide camp in Dorset and in 1952 I went to Finland, quite an experience in those days! Marjatta took me to her Guide camp and I did plenty of sightseeing in the beautiful country.

Over the years our friendship grew, we both studied, got married and started our families. We had wonderful holidays when we both visited each other with our young children and compared their progress. One summer Ewart and I did a tour of Scandinavia; of course Finland was included. We last saw Marjatta and her husband Leo at their summer home in the South of France.

Sadly, three or four years ago I found out that Marjatta had Alzheimers, and in 2020 she passed away.

**Beryl Redwood, Dorsetwide/Parkstone Trefoil Guild**



**At a camp in Turku**

*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)*

# Giving service

Hospital volunteers of all ages have provided much-needed support to staff during the pandemic, says Sheran Oke, Trefoil International Adviser

Our lives have changed so much over the past year. Some have had to stay indoors with limited face to face contact with family and friends. Others have taken the opportunity to embrace new technology and keep in contact using social media. We have even embraced our new online Trefoil meetings. And for some, normal routine has remained, with work playing a significant part in our lives.

I work in a hospital and can relate to this. It is a place where although much has changed, one thing has remained a constant source of support – volunteers. They support front line staff and patients. Some are members of Girlguiding or Trefoil, but they all are following our Trefoil and guiding principles of giving service.

Prior to the pandemic, the age profile of our hospital volunteers was predominately

senior. They provided many invaluable functions, such as providing a meet and greet service at main entrances, providing a transport function around the site for patients with mobility issues, or visiting those who sadly had no visitors.

As we went into lockdown some of our volunteers were unable to leave their homes, yet we continued to work together and find ways in which, if they wanted to, they could still be involved, such as painting pebbles for hope, crocheting hearts for patients, sewing cloth bags for staff to transfer their uniform between home and the hospital, and still being able to connect with patients through virtual visiting on iPad – it was amazing that we could still find a way that our volunteers could connect with us and still give service.

As the pandemic progressed, we saw a different profile of volunteers come forward to support the hospital. As schools, colleges and universities closed, we trained the young, enthusiastic individuals who now started to offer their services. Whilst we no longer needed a meet and greet function at our main entrances (as visiting was no longer allowed), we did need to provide a service for relatives to drop off things for family members, which our new volunteers were able to do.

Other new opportunities also emerged, such as providing a ‘letters to loved one’



“We have used pebbles for a number of reasons – to give to patients but also to staff as something from our community to allow them to recognise that we care about them”





"The hearts are made in pairs. Visiting is restricted and if individuals are at their end of life, we would place the hearts in the patient's hands, with one being given to the family as a lasting memory of their loved one"

service and 'letters to a friend' – friends and family members would send a message into their relatives, which would be printed off and taken to the patient and read to them if necessary. Another was to provide a virtual visiting session for the patient using the ward iPad. Other volunteers were linked to a ward and quickly became part of the ward team, working alongside team members, doing basic tasks such as tea rounds and bed making. I did meet one young volunteer who wanted to do something to help and, while she was unable to attend college, had volunteered and would use this as part of the service element for her Queen's Guide award.

It may be some time until we find ourselves returning to some form of

normality, whatever that might be. If, however, what I have written makes you think that there is something you may be interested in, or able to do, then contact the volunteering service at your local hospital or your local community service and find out more about what opportunities may be available for you.

Or if you are one of these amazing volunteers and want to share your experiences, please email *The Trefoil* at [thetrefoilmagazine@girlguiding.org.uk](mailto:thetrefoilmagazine@girlguiding.org.uk), with Volunteers as the subject. We would love to share your stories in a later issue.

- Sheran is the Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Services at Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust

# The British women quiz

How well do you know your female history?  
Find out with our fun quiz...



**1** Who was the first woman to gain a medical qualification in Britain?

**2** Which fashion designer started her business on the King's Road in London at a boutique called Bazaar?

**3** What does Barbara Castle have in common with Olave Baden-Powell?

**4** Constance Markievicz was the first woman elected to the British Parliament but she never took her seat – why?

**5** Boudica, the Warrior Queen, led attacks against the Roman invaders of Britain. Of which tribe was she queen?

**6** Who wrote *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* – the first of 66 detective novels?

**7** Actress Virginia McKenna is the founder of which wildlife charity, named after one of her well-known films?

**8** Elizabeth I was the third child of Henry VIII. Who was her mother?

**9** Who was the first British astronaut?

**10** Aphra Behn (or Benn) was the first woman in Britain to have earned her living as what?

**11** Who was novelist Mary Ann Evans better known as?

**12** Who was the first black British woman to win an Olympic gold medal?

**13** Who was the last woman to be hanged in the United Kingdom?

**14** Which controversial artist was appointed Professor of Drawing at the Royal Academy in December 2011? She is one of the first two female professors since the Academy was founded in 1768.

**15** Jane Austen completed six novels during her lifetime. What was the name of her seventh, unfinished, novel?

**16** This woman, one of the founders of computer science, was the daughter of the poet Lord Byron. What was her name?

**17** The Nightingale Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, named after Florence Nightingale, is at which London hospital?

**18** What was significant about the year that Virginia Wade won the Ladies Singles title at Wimbledon?

**19** 21 is the longest-running number one album by a female solo artist in the history of the UK and US Album Charts. Who is that artist?

**20** What was the name of the nurse who was executed by the Germans during World War I for helping some

200 Allied soldiers escape from German occupied Belgium?

**21** Who became the first female boxer to become an Olympic champion in 2012?

**22** Who was the first woman to be elected to the British Parliament to take her seat?

**23** Which TV cook started her career as the cookery editor of *Housewife* magazine?

**24** Who was the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia?

**25** Nell Gwynne was a mistress of Charles II. What was her 'day job'?

**26** J.K. Rowling, the world's first billionaire author, also writes the Cormoran Strike series of novels under what pseudonym?

**27** Which successful model went on to win two Golden Globe Awards for her role in *The Boy Friend*?

**28** Who at the age of 13 became the youngest solo performer ever to be seen in a *Royal Variety Performance* before King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1948?

**29** Victoria Adams married footballer David Beckham in 1999. What was her nickname when she was a Spice Girl?

**30** Which Paralympian won a total of 16 medals, including 11 golds, held over 30 world records and won the London Marathon six times?

**31** In which cathedral did Lady Diana Spencer marry Prince Charles in 1981?

**32** What is the name of the fifth First Minister of Scotland and leader of the Scottish National Party – the first woman to hold either position?

**33** Ruth Jones and James Corden co-wrote and starred in which popular TV series?

**34** Jessica Ennis Hill was the 2012 Olympic champion, a three-time world champion, and the 2010 European champion in which event?

**35** Was Millicent Garrett Fawcett a suffragette or a suffragist?

**36** Which actress turned politician won her seat in 2010 with a majority of 42?

**37** How many of the previous answers were or are Dames (DBE)?

**38** Which three of the previous answers were educated at the University of Sheffield?

**39** Some of the previous answers were born abroad – who (and where)?

**40** Which two of the previous answers were sisters?

Answers will be in the next edition of *The Trefoil*, and will be on the Trefoil Guild website at the beginning of April.



# Our tour of New Zealand

Trefoil members enjoyed a tour of the country's North Island courtesy of GirlGuiding New Zealand, reveals Anne Worswick of Bebington Trefoil Guild

On 15 February 2020, six Trefoil members from across the UK and one from Canada met in Auckland for a tour of New Zealand's North Island, courtesy of GirlGuiding New Zealand, ably led by Jennifer Mayer, who had persuaded her retired-teacher brother to be our driver, and he proved to be a great asset.

We opened the tour with a trip up the Sky Tower from where we had panoramic views of the whole city – from the Tasman Sea lapping the western fringes to the much closer Pacific Ocean on the eastern side where the docks are located.

The next day, we began a two-day journey to the north, travelling en route



Taking a break in the park at Rotorua

through the Waipoua Forest, stopping to see the largest native kauri tree – now protected – which measures 4.91 metres in diameter and 17.8 metres to the first branch, and also to visit the Kauri Museum.

Our ultimate goal was Cape Reinga, where we walked to the lighthouse, from which we could see where the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean meet and, for the adventurous, the highlight was sandboarding down a huge sand dune.

Our return journey took in Ninety Mile Beach, which, despite its name, is not 90 miles long. We undertook this trip in a vehicle specially designed to cope with the drive on the sand.

We then drove to the beautiful Bay of Islands where we enjoyed a day trip on a catamaran. Although the day was fine



Admiring Cape Reinga lighthouse

and sunny, a strong wind prevented us sailing through the Hole in the Rock, but the dolphins playing around the vessel were our compensation. We could not leave the Bay without visiting the Waitangi Treaty Grounds where Maori chiefs and the British signed the treaty by which NZ became a dominion of Great Britain.

As we journeyed on, we called in at the Zealong Tea Estate where we learned how the tea is picked and processed, and enjoyed tasting the different teas, which was followed by a 'high tea lunch'.

We then headed for the Maori cultural centre of NZ – Rotorua – with its geysers and mud pools. Some of the party opted to go on the Floatplane and experience take-off and landing on water. The flight provided views of hidden lakes and the cavernous craters resulting from the largest volcanic eruption in NZ's living memory. This was followed by a visit to Tamaki Maori Village for an evening learning about Maori rituals and where we were entertained by a short concert, which included *Pokarekare Ana* – familiar to all singing circle members.

Moving on southwards, we had an overnight stop at Lake Taupo and, before leaving, the adventurous had the opportunity once again to test their nerves with a ride on a Huka jet, which travels at 50 miles an hour and performs 360-degree spins!

Moving further inland, the scenery changed as we travelled through the

central plateau, where we saw our first and only snow, prior to reaching Palmerston North, our overnight stop. We began our brief visit to the capital, Wellington, with a visit to the grounds of the Parliament Buildings before heading for the cable car, which took us up a steep hillside for views of the city and harbour. After a drive round the coastline, with the northern tip of the South Island just visible, we visited Te Papa Tongarewa, the Museum of New Zealand. Some of us returned the next morning prior to going our separate ways.

Like anything involving Trefoil Guild members, shopping, laughter and food played a significant role, and our 2,000-mile journey involved many stops during which we visited a whole range of eateries. However, quite special was the barbeque hosted by Jennifer at her home by Lake Taupo.

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***“Like anything involving Trefoil Guild members, shopping, laughter and food played a significant role”***

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At one of the national parks in Rotorua

# Getting together

In the latest in our series about groups that might interest you, Judy Ellis takes a look at The Olave Baden-Powell Society (O B-P S)

The purpose of the Olave Baden-Powell Society is to support the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Membership fees and fundraising events over its 37 years have raised more than £3,500,000 to help WAGGGS plan and carry out the programme initiatives that have made it such an important global organisation. Campaigns such as ‘Stop the violence’, leadership programmes like ‘Leading for her world’ and informal education programmes at grassroots level like ‘Girl-powered nutrition’ have all been made possible with the financial support of the O B-P S.

Like any guiding organisation, O B-P S has an important social element. The 1,600 members come from 63 countries and they can meet at an annual event in a different country each year. There they attend information sessions given by WAGGGS staff and the leaders of the local Girl Guide/Girl Scout Association. They meet local girls and leaders, and explore their host country. At a formal dinner, new members are presented and fundraisers recognised. Informally, old friends meet and new friends are made.

The UK group of members meet twice a year – once at Pax Lodge and once in a different part of the country. Unlike members from other countries, who are usually wealthy, sometimes royal, philanthropists, the majority of British

members have paid the membership fee from their income because they believe supporting WAGGGS is important. Where possible they use the Girlguiding activity centres for their gatherings, and the programme is informal, usually including visits to local places of interest, plenty of food and singing!

The membership fee is £6,000, which can be paid in a lump sum or six instalments. There are two other methods to support the Society: you can make a bequest in your will of £12,000, or make it the beneficiary of an £18,000 life insurance policy. Membership of the O B-P S gives WAGGGS a regular income so that it can make and carry out plans that help girls to influence people and policies in their own countries, so improving the position of women.



For more information see [wagggs.org/en/support-us/ob-ps/join-us/](https://wagggs.org/en/support-us/ob-ps/join-us/)



## Trefoil 2020 booklet

The response to our request for your experiences of living during a pandemic has been overwhelming, says Sheila Leete, National Programme and Development Adviser

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our Trefoil 2020 booklet. We are delighted with the articles submitted; it will be quite a challenge to select which pieces to include.

I could not have achieved this without the help of the country and region programme and development advisers. Without their support, I would still be working my way through articles.

With limited space in the booklet, we aim to include a number of additional pieces in future editions of *The Trefoil*.

Your thoughts, feelings, and experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic will remind us, not only of difficult times, tears shed and missing loved ones – experiences that we hope will not be repeated in our lifetime – but also of the care and friendship of our Trefoil friends – smiles shared, support given and received.

We hope that you will purchase a copy, not only for yourself, but for family and friends, whether or not they are members of Trefoil Guild.

## World quiz answers

How many did you get right?

In the December issue of *The Trefoil* we set you a challenge in the form of a picture quiz. Below are the answers – how many did you guess?

 + R = Qatar

 +  = Taiwan

 +  = Iran



 +  = Germany

 + S = Wales

 + U = Peru

 +  = Belgium

J +  = Japan

 + U +  = Portugal

U +  = Ukraine



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