

The Trefoil

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Bridging the
generations



GUIDING FOR ADULTS
Trefoil Guild

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Meet the TOPAZ
team as they get
ready for Russia

Walk this way for
country rambles
across Britain

Discovering tears
and laughter at
a clinic in Africa

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The official journal of the Trefoil Guild

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National President Liz Burnley

National Chairman Pat Downer

Editorial Board Jo Taylor (Chairman), Frances Parrett, Charlotte Anslow, Pat Downer, Judy Ellis, Ann Hall, Pauline Merchant, Elizabeth Higton, Gillian Spriggs

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The Chairman writes...

Hello everyone,

I am so pleased that we have received so many positive comments about our new-look magazine. It is always difficult when trying something new, and I am sure there will continue to be improvements as time goes on. So many thanks to our Editorial Board and readers' panel.

When you read this, a record number of nearly 2,000 of you will be preparing to attend our annual meeting in Harrogate. I am pleased that so many of you can come but a little saddened that, since the application form appeared on the cover sheet of the last magazine, many applications have come in from people saying they "hadn't heard about it before". It just proves how important it is to cascade all information, to look at the website and read your magazine.

For those who haven't visited our website recently, you should do so, as it is a completely new design. Every Country, Region and TGIFC has their

own page and so you will be able to keep up to date with events nationally and locally. Just tell your programme adviser about any activity you want advertised. Or if you are away from home, you might also like to visit another guild and make new friends, so just look at the calendar page for details.

Many of you will know Sue Dickenson as the voice at the end of the Trefoil Guild phone. She has decided that she wishes to retire at the end of June and so, on your behalf, I would like to thank her very much for all her help, advice and friendship, and to wish her well in her retirement.

Have a wonderful summer and hopefully enjoy some warm and sunny weather.

Best wishes,

Pat Downer

Welcome to your new website

This revamped portal into the world of Trefoil Guild aims to support existing members and encourage new ones



You may have noticed something different about trefoilguild.co.uk if you logged on during May. That was because our website has had a bit of a revamp.

With the launch of our new-look magazine, your Executive Committee took the decision to update the national website and give every Country and Region their own pages to be responsible for.

Keeping in touch and updated about local and national news, events and information is now a lot easier with the launch of the newly evolved website. With a fresh, engaging design and an easy-to-use format, the updated trefoilguild.co.uk

“With a fresh, engaging design and an easy-to-use format, the updated trefoilguild.co.uk is now up and running”

is now up and running with a format that opens on smartphones and tablets as well as desktop computers, so you can access the website at home and away.

In addition, the new website will also help to improve the administration and

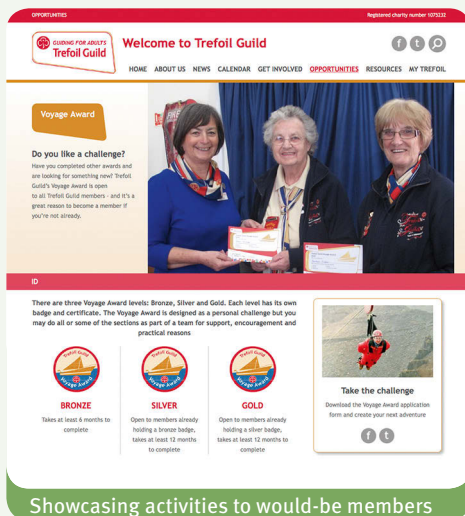


efficiencies of running Trefoil Guild and allow members and guild Chairmen greater autonomy to update their own records and post news items.

Training on the new features for Country and Region co-ordinators is currently under way and once completed will enable them to do their own sectional updates via the easy-to-use content management system with its simplified intuitive navigation. Training will be cascaded to local levels in the autumn.

With the whole site now a showcase for Trefoil Guild – who we are and what we do, as well as a demonstration of all the successful guilds around the country – we believe it will act as a portal for attracting new members, especially as you don't need to be a technical whizz to use the site. The user-friendly process gives those

with only basic computing knowledge – as well as those with more advanced skills – the ability to contribute to the website's content in a consistent, universal manner.



Why not visit trefoilguild.co.uk and have a look around today?

Noticeboard

Bulletins and information to keep
Trefoil Guild members up to date



Members' discount at The Nadler Victoria

The Nadler Victoria Hotel

Trefoil Guild members are being offered a 15% discount at the Nadler Victoria Hotel, situated behind Girlguiding HQ. If you would like to take advantage of the discount, please contact the Trefoil Guild office and they will let you know the code.

Channel swim 1966

Susan Hill (née Oley) would like to get in touch with all those who took part in the Girl Guides Association Channel Relay Swim on the 13 August 1966, completing it in a time of 13hrs 10mins. In particular, she'd like to hear from Sally Rose, Wendy Draper, Karen Wood, Christina White and Margaret Greenway. If you know any of the people above then please get in touch with Susan Hill via email at enquiries@thconsulting.co.uk.

Voyage Award update

From 1 September, completed Record Books at Bronze and Silver level for the Voyage Award will be signed off and returned to participants by Country and Region Programme and Development Advisers. Metal badges and certificates will continue to be sent to County Chairmen from the Trefoil Guild office.



Celebrate Together

Keep a look out for more information in upcoming issues of *The Trefoil* for all you need to know about celebrating in 2018 within your guilds, counties, Countries and Regions. There will be lots of ways to get involved and all members will be encouraged to take part.

Readership Panel

Our Readership Panel is proving to be very useful! They contribute by choosing their favourite photos, letters etc, for the next issue of *The Trefoil* magazine and by giving their opinions on articles that have featured in previous ones.

If you have the time to give your opinions, are comfortable with IT and are interested in improving our magazine, please contact the Trefoil Guild Office. For more information, visit the new Trefoil Guild website and click on Opportunities and then Readership Panel.

Meanwhile, did you volunteer to be part of the Readership Panel and no one has contacted you yet? It could be that we haven't been able to reach you by email! Please contact us again on trefoilguild@girlguiding.org.uk.



Smiling guild members make for better photos

What do you do?

We would like to hear about the kind of activities and days that counties provide for members. What format does your annual meeting take? Do you still have an annual meeting? Do you have a church service? Do you have county challenges? Do you have a problem getting members together? Your letters and articles on this subject would be greatly valued.

Census 2016

Congratulations to Anglia, South West England and TGIFC who all had an increase in membership this year.



What activities does your county provide?

Submissions to the magazine and website

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



magazine please state whether you are happy for them to be considered for the website if there is too little space in the magazine. Submission date for the September issue is 4 July 2016.

Your snapshots

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



Meridian Line walk

Surrey East Walking Group visited East Grinstead, Sussex, which has one of the best-preserved streets of medieval houses in the country. It also has the Greenwich Meridian Line through its centre, and the council has installed an 11.5 ton local stone inscribed with a Meridian Line in the grounds of East Court, as shown in our picture.

Veronica Ballard, Surrey East, LASER



Chiming for guide dogs

Eight members of Cheam Division Trefoil Guild, who have been learning to play handbells, gave a concert for family and guild members from around the Greater London West county. A raffle was held to raise money for our chosen charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind. Paul and his dog Spencer attended for the charity and we presented him with a cheque for £650 raised by the concert.

Sylvia Wood, Cheam Division Trefoil Guild, Greater London West, LASER

Musical stars

Members of Blyth Trefoil Guild helped Rainbows at their local church make music at the Division Carol Service.

Chris Scruton on behalf of Ann McDougall, Blyth Trefoil Guild, Northumberland, NEE



Thinking Day with Rainbows

Battersea and Clapham Trefoil Guild members visited two new Rainbow units to join in with their Thinking Day celebrations and renewal of Promises. It was a wonderful opportunity to keep up the link between Trefoil Guild and units in our area, and a joy to meet former Guides who are still involved in the District.

Jean Barclay,
Clapham Trefoil Guild, London South West, LASER



Bridge celebration

When Jean Bivens of Middlesbrough Trefoil Guild was invited to join members of Girlguiding Cleveland to celebrate the 104th anniversary of the iconic Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough, she was delighted because in 1984 she had served tea on the bridge as part of the national Guiding Tea Challenge. Jean, along with some of her Trefoil Guild friends from Hartlepool, reached the top of the bridge by making the journey there in the new glass lift where she met up with members from every section for a photocall.

Mary Lee,
Middlesbrough and
Hartlepool Trefoil
Guilds, Cleveland, NEE



Treasure trail

Members of Forest Hall Trefoil Guild in North Tyneside took part in the County President's Challenge where we did an activity that started with each letter of the word Promise. We followed clues for a treasure trail around Newcastle Upon Tyne, from the quayside to the city centre, which enabled us to investigate the local area.

Joanna McHugh,
Forest Hall Trefoil Guild, North Tyneside, NEE

Horses for special needs riders

Woodford Trefoil Guild spent an enjoyable afternoon at Chigwell Riding Trust for Special Needs. It started with a guided tour of the stables to meet the horses and ponies. We were then able to watch a lesson in progress followed by a film explaining the advantages of riding for people with special needs. After a very welcome cup of tea it was back outside for the photo shoot with De Niro, the pony we sponsor. Chigwell was the first riding centre in the world for special needs and has about 170 riders a week of all ages.

**Judith Groves, Woodford Trefoil Guild,
London Over the Border, LASER**



Time for tea!

Margaret Thornley and Sheila Macadam enjoying a Moroccan tea ceremony in Marrakech, Morocco.

**Margaret Thornley,
Ellesmere Port and
Deeside, Wirral NWE**

Knitting challenge

For the 70-year Challenge our guild made knitted and crocheted squares. A group of six members started meeting once a fortnight to continue with their knitting and so far have completed 14 knee blankets. Members are pictured with the blankets before they go out to the residential and nursing homes in the Ramsey area.

**Margaret Thornley on behalf of Jayne
Corteen, Northern District Trefoil Guild,
Isle of Man, NWE**



Best foot forward

After a brief break over Christmas and New Year, the Scottish Rambling Group set off once more, and walks are being led in the north and south of the country as well as in the central belt of Scotland. Plans are now being discussed for the Rambling Group to spend a break at Netherurd.

Isobel Irving, Scotland PRA



Zip line fun

Members of Ross-shire Voyage Award group met up to try out a zip trek that consists of 14 zip lines that criss-cross a gorge, travelling downhill as you go. It was brilliant fun and everyone enjoyed it. All Trefoil Guilds should consider it – age is no barrier!

Moirra McKenna, Ross-shire Voyager Group, Ross-shire, Scotland



Aiming for activity day

Members of Trefoil Guild Scotland took part in the first activity day held for them at Netherurd, where they signed up for the climbing wall, archery, zorbing and 'folf' (a type of hand golf using Frisbees). Unfortunately there wasn't time to include the caving and the zip wire, but maybe they will be the targets for the next event!

Isobel Irving, Scotland PRA



Guiding traditions

Eleven members of Neath Trefoil Guild held their Thinking Day celebration looking back at traditions of guiding. Members brought along polished pennies and placed them carefully to form a trefoil. Betty Haines, our most senior member, brought along the 'fairy folk' made by her husband, which she and later her daughter used in their own Brownie packs. It was a very enjoyable morning, full of guiding memories, with all proceeds going to WAGGGS.

Mary Roberts,
Neath Trefoil Guild, West Glamorgan, Wales



Sunshine break

Fifty-five Trefoil Guild members headed to Foxlease for Fox-Break14 – and got the weather right! The daffodil-themed break featured geocaching and birdwatching walks in gentle spring sunshine. Some helped with gardening, others drummed, rang hand-bells and learnt new craft skills. A good giggle was had by all!

Frances Parrett,
Fox-Break
Administrator

Songs from around the world

Members of West Glamorgan Music for Fun group enjoyed singing songs from around the world to celebrate Thinking Day. Jill and Maggie accompanied us on guitars and Lucy on ukulele, which she is learning as one of her challenges for the Voyage Award. The rest of us contributed with various percussion instruments.

Mary Roberts, Music for Fun Group,
West Glamorgan, Wales





Snow business

Headlights were required for a heady walk in the snow at Our Chalet.

Jan Vince
on behalf
of **Christine Buffrey,**
Wimborne,
Corfe Mullen
and Dorsetwide
Trefoil Guilds,
Dorset,
SWE



Bright Sparks

Members of Meopham Trefoil Guild went with Darnley Division to Sparks at Alexandra Palace. There was so much to do and we all had a great day. Liz Rolph and Wendy Williams took on the 'timed tyre-change challenge' – Trefoil Guild members really are game to have a go at anything!

Wendy Williams, Meopham Trefoil Guild, Kent East, LASER



Royal recognition

During the recent Royal visit to Malta for the Commonwealth Conference, HRH Prince Philip inaugurated the International Award of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The Trefoil Guild of Malta's Secretary and a gold awardee, Marion Higgins, was a guest and was presented to the Prince.

Marion Higgins,
Malta Trefoil Guild, TGIFC

Meet the TOPAZ Action team 2016!

Here are the eight Trefoil Guild members heading to Russia later this year



Members of the Action team are Maggie, Susan, Rosie, Jenny, Faith, Jenie, Muriel and Elizabeth

Maggie Cook

Maggie is from Bristol where she worked as a primary school supply teacher and is skilled at producing games and handicraft ideas. She started guiding in Stockton-on-Tees aged seven in 3rd Stockton Brownie Unit and remembers tying packer's knots on bedding rolls in the dark, while being timed, as part of the Guides' Discoverers Challenge. The badge her patrol won is on her camp blanket to this day. She's already started fundraising for the team.

Susan Nicholls

Susan lives in Caversham, Berkshire, and began guiding as a Brownie in South Wales. As a linguist, she is used to communicating with non-English speakers, which should make travelling around Russia and working through interpreters easier. She enjoyed leading groups to camps in Poland and Sweden, but thought she wouldn't have another chance to work internationally until she heard about TOPAZ. As someone who is good at organisation, she is working on the team travel manual with Maggie.

Elizabeth Higton

Elizabeth lives in Ayrshire and joined guiding as an Assistant Guide Leader. Her last job was as head of a special school for children with profound learning disabilities who also had multiple physical and sensory disabilities. Giving girls with disabilities the opportunity to camp and experience challenging activities was the most satisfying part of her guiding. She will look after the health and first aid for the team, and hopes to be able to encourage new units to include girls with disabilities.

Jenie Dore

Jenie lives in Ewell, Surrey. She joined Worcester Park Brownies at the age of seven. Accompanying Cuddington District Guides up the Jungfrauoch in the Swiss Alps remains a vivid memory, and she is thrilled to working with Russian Girl Scouting as, like Susan, she, too, thought she wouldn't have the chance to work internationally again. Jenie is a dental receptionist and will help Elizabeth with team health and first aid, but she also hopes to show the Russian girls the fun they can have in Girl Scouting.

Jenny Davies

Jenny lives in Welshpool and was a lifeguard trainer and swimming teacher. She has been in guiding since becoming a Brownie in Stafford at the age of seven. She enjoys working with the girls, watching their enjoyment and seeing their confidence grow. Jenny was the Welsh Russia co-ordinator in the 1990s, with experience of training

Sangam in 1989, which led to her interest in WAGGGS and international guiding. She will be one of the two trainers leading the planning of taster and recruitment sessions in Russia.

Faith Dexter

Faith is from Selsey, West Sussex, and began guiding to save her daughter's Brownie Unit. A visit to New Zealand

with an international guiding group gave her new friends and memorable experiences. She has a degree in Russian and Soviet studies, which required her to live in St Petersburg and Yaroslavl for several months. She speaks Russian and is already working out the must-see places for any time they have for sightseeing.

Muriel Rayner

Muriel lives in Shrewsbury and was a Brownie in Edinburgh. She taught

boys with autistic spectrum disorders at a special school. Meeting Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, at a guide camp was a highlight of her guiding, while working from Sangam with slum children is another. As a Trainer, she will work with Rosie preparing sessions. She is the team treasurer, looking after funds raised and paying invoices.



The team get together along with Judy Ellis, second right

in Russia. She's already passing on tips. Her experience as PR adviser for Wales will be useful in promoting Girl Scouting.

Rosie Spence

Rosie lives in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. She was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger in Caterham. While at university, she helped with 10th Bath Brownies and is still Leader there. She was the Biology and Biochemistry Department's placement officer at the University of Bath. Rosie was selected to go to the Trainers' event at

Find out more about the TOPAZ Action team's first meeting on pages 26 and 27

Say hello to the new Chief Guide

Valerie Le Vaillant has stepped into the role recently vacated by Gill Slocombe

Girlguiding announced that Valerie would succeed Gill on 28 May 2016 as Chief Guide – so as you are reading this, she will have already started her new role!

Gill said, “We had the highest number of applications ever for the role. How incredibly fortunate we are to have so many talented and inspiring women within guiding! I am grateful to all who applied, and to the many members who took part in the selection process online by sharing their views on our applicants – thank you!”

About Valerie

Valerie lives in Kent with her husband Bob and their three daughters, who are all in The Senior Section. She has been part of Girlguiding since she became a Brownie aged seven and progressed through the sections to achieve her Queen’s Guide Award.

Both as a Leader and a Commissioner, Valerie has been a fantastic champion for growing Girlguiding. She has supported and developed units in every section and has represented guiding locally, nationally and overseas.

Valerie will bring to the role great passion and enthusiasm for all that Girlguiding does, and will be an inspiring role model and champion for girls everywhere reaching their full potential. In her own words, “I am committed to taking guiding to even higher levels of excellence, and to growing and widening



Valerie has taken over the reins as Chief Guide

our membership. I am thrilled to be taking on this worthwhile role.”

Valerie is a multidisciplinary property professional. She is a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) and the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) for the Society for the Environment.

In 2001 she received an OBE for services to architecture and the community in East London. She is an expert in economic and sustainable development and is co-founding director of Le Vaillant Owen Consultancy, which deals in sustainable development and regeneration.

In December 2009 Valerie was made a Cabinet Office Ambassador to champion



Girlguiding President HRH The Countess of Wessex attends the official opening of the revamped HQ

equality and diversity in ministerial and public appointments, and in 2015 she won the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in the National Women in Construction Awards.

Girlguiding said 'hello' to Valerie at the official opening of their refurbished HQ in April attended by their President, HRH The Countess of Wessex, and her daughter, Lady Louise Windsor, who is a Guide. Members of Lady Louise's unit joined in the formal opening ceremony, and afterwards members of all sections took part in activities at ICANDO whilst other invited guests looked around the building.

The day was full of surprises for both Gill and her deputy, Angela Milln, who was presented with the Silver Fish by The

Countess. After the event, on Facebook, Angela said, "Thank you so much to everyone for your good wishes, for your scheming and your support. Thanks for making today such a great celebration of an amazing five years as Deputy Chief Guide!"

Guests were treated to reminders from Gill's term of office that perhaps did not make guiding headlines, and she was presented with appropriate gifts to remind her of those moments. Finally, both Gill and Angela received a formal thank you from Girlguiding, friends and family, and they cut a cake to mark the occasion.

It was a wonderful day to mark the opening of Girlguiding HQ, meet Valerie, and say thank you to Gill and Angela.



Gill greets The Countess and other dignitaries



The Countess with Lady Louise's Guide unit



Jackie's favourite reading matter



Philip Larkin: Life, Art and Love
James Booth
Bloomsbury
Paperbacks
ISBN 1408851695

Jane Eyre

Charlotte Brontë
William Collins
ISBN
0008182256

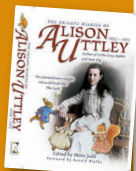


Trouble at the Little Village School

Gervase Phinn
Hodder Paperbacks
ISBN 1444705601

The Private Diaries of Alison Uttley

Denis Judd
Remember
When
ISBN
1844681289



Jackie Dickinson

The Region Chairman of Trefoil Guild in North East England couldn't do without reading, despite being busy organising the Annual Meeting

Currently, Jackie is reading *Philip Larkin: Life, Art and Love* by James Booth. The author was Professor of English at Hull University where Larkin worked as the librarian and has drawn on his correspondence with a variety of the poet's friends to reveal a comprehensive portrait of the man. Jackie also went to Hull University (although not at the same time!) and is very involved with plans for a memorial plaque for Larkin to be placed in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey later this year.

Living in Yorkshire, Jackie has a fondness for the Brontës, and studied *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë for O-level English. She is fascinated that sisters living in a parsonage at Haworth, West Yorkshire with very little chance for romance were still able to write these books.

The speaker at this year's Annual Meeting in Harrogate is Gervase Phinn, and Jackie is reading the second in his Little Village School series, *Trouble at the Little Village School*, which reveals the trials of the new head teacher in Barton-in-the-Dale's primary school.

As a child, Jackie enjoyed the *Little Grey Rabbit* books by Alison Uttley, and has recently read *The Private Diaries of Alison Uttley* edited by Professor Denis Judd. Enid Blyton was also a favourite author.

Susan Hill's *Simon Serrailier* detective novels are books Jackie especially enjoys, as they are beautifully crafted, and the one book that she would not give away is *South Riding* by Winifred Holtby. The author was born in East Yorkshire, not far from where Jackie was brought up, and the book tells the story of a headmistress who brings progressive ideas to her school.

Jackie spoke to Gillian Spriggs

Disability is no barrier

Annette Whitney of Scarborough Trefoil Guild proves that age and disability are no barrier to adventurous activities

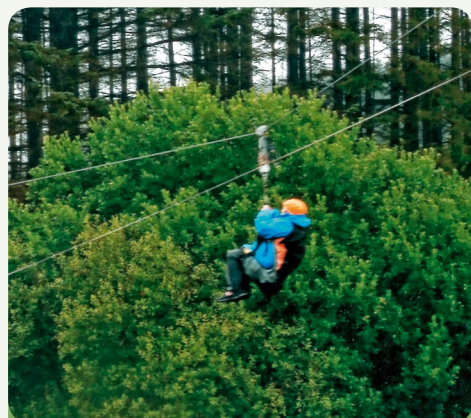
Annette thought that she would like to celebrate her 85th birthday in style. She was inspired by watching the TV programme *Countryfile* in 2015 when she saw a severely disabled person go abseiling in the Lake District for charity, and this started her thinking.

Annette decided she would try abseiling and have a go on a zip wire at the Calvert Trust in Kielder, Northumberland, to raise money for Yorkshire Coast Sight Support (formerly the Scarborough Blind and Partially Sighted Society). They have been Annette's lifeline since she joined them and they help her cope with the problems caused by her macular degeneration.

The charity take her on outings, have weekly meetings with like-sighted people and offer her the chance to do all sorts of things, as well as providing courses to help her to live with her disability. Annette



In a harness, Annette abseils down a slope



Annette glides through Kielder on a zip wire

really enjoyed the abseiling and did it twice, although only went on the zip wire once, and through doing these activities she raised £2,200.

For the abseiling, Annette went up a slope in a wheelchair, but abseiled down in a harness with a person on either side to make sure she was safe, while controlling the ropes herself. On the zip wire she was on her own!

Annette is now thinking what she can do for her next challenge.

Ann Kemp, Scarborough Trefoil Guild



Programme ideas

with Ann Hall,

National Programme and Development Adviser

Mentoring and the Voyage Award

A mentor is not just a tester or assessor – they should be a support throughout your Voyage Award challenge.

Show your Record Book to your mentor right at the start. Perhaps you could copy the pages ‘What is the Voyage Award?’ and ‘The Mentor’s Role’ and give these to your mentor, as problems occasionally arise when a member approaches someone to sign off without any prior discussion.

You need a mentor for each section of your award. You can use the same mentor for more than one section or a different mentor for each. Look for someone who has an interest or knowledge in the challenge you are planning to work on:

- A fellow member of your guild.
- A leader in your district.
- A work colleague.
- A member or leader of your sports club, keep-fit class, walking, painting or sewing group, charity or interest group.



A mentor should offer you support and advice

Talk to your mentor as soon as you’ve decided on your challenge to discuss your plans. You should both agree the challenge is appropriate to you and to the level of award, and that it will fill the hours. The challenges should increase at each level, so don’t be too ambitious at Bronze – you still have Silver and Gold!



Ensure your challenge matches the award level

Your mentor is there to support you, offer advice and ensure you carry out your challenge to the best of your ability. They shouldn’t be a family member or friend.

Keep in touch with your mentor; discuss your progress and any problems you may encounter. When you have completed your challenge show your records, notes, or results to your mentor to sign and fill in your Record Book.

Check www.trefoilguild.co.uk/Voyage-Award for information and find answers to queries in the FAQs section.

Picture perfect

Planning a visit to Italy by ship, Diane Traves, from Shaftesbury Trefoil Guild, decided to find out more about photography for her Voyage Award



Diane's photo of Venice taken from the ship

After years of being a full-time carer to her younger sister and father, Diane was able to follow her dream to visit the land of architecture, culture and climate. Another driving factor was her decision to learn photography and the need to create memories with, and for, a beloved granddaughter.

The first thing she needed to learn was how to save photos digitally, and an expert friend who had been a Ranger in Diane's unit, was very happy to help her do that. Then the journey to Italy was on board a ship, which offered the opportunity of a course all about cameras – how they work and how to get the best



pictures. Just what she needed! By the time the ship docked, Diane was ready to put her new skills into action and get practising.

The results, seen here, are certainly delightful, and she has been continuing to use her skills on a trip to Belgium and plans to develop them while visiting North East England and Malta this year. She finds that she particularly enjoys the colours she can achieve with landscapes.

Diane feels we all need to be positive in life and to capture the moments we want to treasure while we can.

Congratulations on achieving your Bronze Voyage Award, Diane.



Statues in Florence make interesting subjects



The cobble street of Gold Hill, Shaftesbury

Introducing the Finance and General Purposes committee

How we look after Trefoil Guild funds



Back: Sue Dickenson (office), Pat Downer (National Chairman), Catherine Gilchrist (Ulster), Judy Morris (LASER), Sheila Clarke (North West England), Charlotte Anslow (office); Front: Kim Clegg (Honorary Treasurer), Annette Bond (Anglia, Chairman of sub-committee)

The Finance & General Purposes Committee reports and is responsible to the Executive Committee. We meet three times a year with the National Chairman and Honorary Treasurer and discuss recommendations on:

- Budgets for all Trefoil Guild resources, such as *The Trefoil* magazine.
- Subscriptions.
- Expenditure.
- Investments, insurance and risk management.

Our accounts are independently examined and we support other sub-committees or groups and matters referred to us by the National Executive Committee or members of Trefoil Guild.

We also make decisions about applications for grants from various funds that are held by Trefoil Guild, namely the KD Lee Bursary Fund, the Holiday Fund,

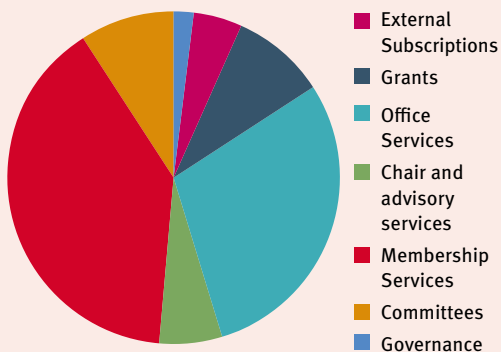
the Platinum Fund and the Support, Development and Relief Fund. We will tell you more about them in the future and you can also find out about them by visiting the Trefoil Guild website.

We will be choosing a topic from our meetings to discuss in future issues of *The Trefoil* so we can go into more depth about current matters and how decisions and recommendations are made.

How do we spend your membership subscriptions?

Our costs will be higher in 2016 as we now have four magazines annually (and each costs us £1 per member for the magazine and postage). To help you understand our spending please see the graphic below.

Expenditure in 2016 broken down by key services



(Data as of 20 April 2016)

Freeman honour

History was made when Anne Hodges was created the first Honorary Freeman of North Petherton, Somerset – the highest honour a town council can bestow on someone. It was given to Anne in recognition of her distinguished service as a town councillor and also for her work for Girlguiding and local charities. Anne has held a number of guiding roles and is currently the chairperson of North Petherton Trefoil Guild.



Gold Voyage Awards

Congratulations to the following who have gained their Gold Voyage Awards: Olive Wilson of Soham Trefoil Guild in East Cambridgeshire; Jeanette King of St Neots Guild in Cambridge West; Gillian Thawley of Brooke Guild in Norfolk; Ann Louise Goddard of Ridgeway Guild and Joyce Harrison of Witney Guild, both Oxfordshire.



Lifetime recognition

Mrs Kath Becket, a member of Stone Trefoil Guild, received a richly deserved Lifetime Achievement Award from Mrs Sheila Slaney, Stone and Eccleshall Division Commissioner, in recognition of the contribution that she has given to guiding in Stone and Eccleshall and also in Longton, where she started her guiding service.

For many years Kath ran two Guide Units, worked with the Stone Scout and Guide band (looking after the equipment and travelling abroad with the band), and helped at gang shows. For the last 30 years she has been Badge Secretary for guiding in Stone and Eccleshall and is a member of Stone Trefoil Guild.

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

Meet a guild

Frances Parrett reveals the origins of Cannock Trefoil Guild

How does a new Trefoil Guild start?

The answer to the above question is as varied as the guilds themselves! However, in the case of Cannock Trefoil Guild, I can tell you exactly how it started. There was a chat over a coffee at Staffordshire's Unity International Camp at Shugborough in July 2014. A discussion started about whether there would be enough interest... many of the staff at the camp were asked... a scarf and badge tabs were purchased... and Cannock Trefoil Guild was born!



Members quickly got a scarf and badge tabs

Growing guild

Now, two years later, the guild has been awarded the county trophy, which celebrates the guild with the greatest increase in membership during a year – congratulations ladies!

So, who are these fun-loving members? Well, Karen is the chairman and she and her daughter, Rhiannon, are both busy leaders. They say that Karen's mum,

a long-standing Trefoil Guild member, put the idea into their heads and that, as a family, guiding has given them many wonderful experiences. Karen believes it develops an individual's time management, organisational skills, links with other people – and a sense of humour and fun!

The guild meets in Cannock, a market town on the edge of Cannock Chase, which is the UK's smallest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), so there are lots of opportunities for outdoor activities.

Fire and frisbee golf

Cannock Chase has sweeping heathland and ancient forests that were once royal hunting grounds. Beaudesert Activity Centre is a great place for Guides and



Cannock Chase is a great place for outdoor fun

Brownies, but it's also a place Trefoil Guild members can barbeque, learn archery or try frisbee golf! Next time they will be better prepared for the guild barbecue because they have since visited Cannock fire station to find out about fire prevention and try out the fire-fighter kit – the best bit was sitting in the fire engine.

Members of the guild have an adventurous spirit and love to travel. Several went on a long coach journey to visit the German Christmas markets where there was lots of shopping but also opportunities for sampling local



Sampling local beverages on a trip to Germany

beverages. They travelled by cable car, visited Koblenz and, of course, enjoyed the glühwein and local cakes.

Dancing queens

Teresa, the guild's first secretary, even participated in the World Scout Jamboree in Japan (a bit different from your work with the Department for Work and Pensions, Teresa!), and three members took Rangers to Sangam while others enjoyed Disneyland with their Brownies and Guides.

An evening that everyone enjoyed was a Burns Night celebration with Scottish dancing. They say they struggled with



Members enjoy the dancing on Burns Night

counting, and their lefts and rights, let alone the skipping, but members were very encouraged by the group who came to teach them the dances.

They are truly inspirational! Some of them are in their 70s and 80s while one lady is 90 years old!

Perfect pots

Crafts aren't forgotten, and as the guild is based in Staffordshire it's really not surprising that members enjoyed visiting a pottery to create some rather beautiful objects (I'm very impressed!).



Beautiful creation made during a pottery visit



Their programme involves trying new things

Sharing skills

This hard-working group of women, who give their all to Girlguiding, even find time to undertake the Voyage Award. Karen says, "Our programme reflects the things we are interested in, and while trying something new, we are finding out new things and sharing our skills."

All members agree that it's the making friends that is the best bit of being part of Trefoil Guild; they will obviously continue doing that for years to come.



International Outlook

from Judy Ellis,
National International Adviser

Dynamic discussions at the National Advisers' Meeting

At the beginning of March, the Country and Region International Advisers attended the National Advisers' Meeting in Birmingham. It was an opportunity to plan our support for you for the next few years and resulted in some dynamic discussions!

One of the topics that was explored in some detail was the sort of activities we can offer you for guild meetings, and an international resource including these should be available in time for next year's programme planning.

Part of the role of the International Adviser at all levels is to offer advice to our members who are travelling abroad. We try to keep up to date with things like visas and vaccinations, and have the countrywide network of advisers to consult if the question is something out of our experience. The group talked about different situations across the country that had arisen that needed advice from International Advisers. That meant those new to

the job had the benefit of hearing how experienced advisers had acted.

A discussion about how to organise visits to the four World Centres (I know there are five, but you can't yet visit Kusafiri!) resulted in new visits being planned, so look out for them in your Country or Region. If no one in your area is organising one, look across the border, as one of the ways of making such visits viable is by Country/Region joint trips.

TOPAZ

The other event in March was the first meeting of the TOPAZ Action team. They



Hats off to the TOPAZ Action team and their trip to Russia

now know they will be visiting Volgograd to meet the Regional Government Youth Service, then on to Astrakhan, Samara and St Petersburg to hold events to recruit both girls and leaders. They might also hold an event in Moscow if the Russian Association of Girl Scouts (RADS) can organise it.

This was the first time the whole team had met face-to-face, and I was impressed by how well they integrated. They listed all the jobs to be done, all the equipment they needed to take, both personal and team, discussed visa requirements, vaccinations, travel arrangements, what to wear and money needed.

Team members volunteered to do jobs according to their skills. They will continue preparation electronically and will meet in September for a final check.

Between the serious discussion they played games designed to introduce them to Russian culture, and made matryoshka dolls, all with a great deal of laughter!

Talking about money led to fundraising and publicity suggestions, and you can expect to see a lot about TOPAZ at Country/Region and National events.

When TOPAZ was set up, we promised that everyone would be able to take part, even if they were unable to travel. To give you all the opportunity to be part of the project, the team is constructing a challenge that you can do in guild meetings. If you take part, there will be a badge that you can buy.

Several members have asked what they can do to support TOPAZ – the answer is help us raise funds for current and future projects. All the funds raised from badge sales will go

Late traveller tip

Pax Lodge (below) is now available through Booking.com. If you're booking at short notice, check their price, as Pax Lodge will match it, and rates go down as the date approaches.



Deep Griha Society

The Deep Griha Society in Pune last year celebrated its 40th year supporting people from the local communities working with crèches, eye clinic, health services and IT lessons. To find out more, email Susannah Hodge (Chair of the Friends of Deep Griha Society) at friendsofdgsuk@gmail.com.

into the team fund to buy training equipment to use in Russia, or to pay for the venues used. Some members are already fundraising as part of a Voyage Award, or taking activity evenings into local units for a small fee.

My Malawi experience

Gill Pilling (nee Taylor) of Ross-shire Trefoil Guild was a doctor with her local hospice, which has links with Tiyanjane Palliative Care Clinic, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi



Gill Pilling, with clinic nurse Osman, goes to see patients on a home visit

As a Girl Guide in Ulverston in the 1960s, and inspired by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Gill nurtured an ambition to work in Africa. Since 2009 she has spent several weeks a year working with the staff at the clinic.

She says, “During summer in Malawi, at the start of the dry season, some trees are bright with blossom and everywhere is still green. The weather is not too hot or cold, with blue skies and no rain, comfortable for walking along the red dusty roads.

“Fruit in Malawi is eaten in season; it is fresh and delicious with avocados the size of melons, and oranges and lemons full of

flavour. Although the markets are a riot of colourful clothes and produce, they are noisy and dusty, crowded with ragged, dirty children begging and full of pushing, clamouring traders who are anxious to sell something, however small. Malawi is one of the world’s 20 poorest countries and

“The aim is to ‘add life to days, not just days to life’ by managing often distressing problems and treating the patient with dignity”

persistence helps to put food on the table. In 2015, 2.8 million people went hungry as the crops failed due to rain and floods.

“All the patients seen by the Tiyanjane team have life-limiting illnesses, often HIV/AIDS related, and the aim is to ‘add life to days, not just days to life’ by managing often distressing problems and treating the patient with dignity. The staff support families by helping them understand that the condition is neither infectious nor the result of an evil spell, and they give practical advice on care as there is no social or nursing support.

“When fuel is available, patients who can no longer manage the bumpy ride to the clinic in the dilapidated, overcrowded minibuses will be visited at home by the nurses, often with many stops to ask for directions to their mud-brick hut.

“Morphine is available in Malawi, but medication for easing symptoms such as nausea are not. I take with me a holdall full of medicines they need when I go to Malawi, and I am grateful to Ross-shire

Trefoil Guild members who have very generously contributed to the cost of these drugs for the last few years.

“Being able to offer some medication to a patient to improve their quality of life helps the nurses to stay positive too. Malawians cope with the difficulties they face by laughing, and as a result Tiyanjane is easily the noisiest clinic in the hospital. Tiyanjane staff members are

“Malawians cope with difficulties by laughing, and as a result Tiyanjane is the noisiest clinic in the hospital”

a caring team, full of fun, very sincere and supportive of each other. It is hard for them to cope with the distress they witness on a daily basis, and Muslims and Christians alike share prayers before their weekly meeting. At the end of the day they all walk together, joining everyone else chattering animatedly, to catch the fume-belching, ramshackle minibuses home. As the evening sun sinks rapidly below the horizon, becoming redder by the minute, Malawi really does seem to live up to its name as ‘the warm heart of Africa’.

“I am very grateful to those Girlguiding Leaders who inspired me so long ago to go to Africa; it has been such an amazing and very humbling experience. The staff in the clinic have asked me to go again this year and I don’t think I can resist the invitation, but it will have to be the last time – I can still encourage them, but now I am no longer practising in the UK, my clinical skills will become increasingly rusty.”



Morphine being dispensed during a clinic consultation at Tiyanjane Care Clinic

Your letters

Find out what other Trefoil Guild members have on their minds

Sailors' Society day to remember



There were 11 of us, all members from Kent and Somerset. We met up as old friends at All Hallows Church on Tower Hill in London for the annual carol service of the Sailors' Society. An invitation to this event is received each year because many of our guild members knit hats, balaclavas and mitts for the society. These garments are really appreciated, especially by those seamen who have no experience of being at sea in our cold winters and may lack the necessary warm clothes.

The church looked beautiful, decked out with greenery and fairy lights and the inevitable Christmas tree. The service was

the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols and the singing and choir were superb.

After the service, mince pies and coffee were served in the church, and we went to the refectory to enjoy a hearty lunch before journeying home. (However, we were not allowed to depart until we had devoured our share of the mince pies!)

"Goodbye and a happy Christmas," the staff shouted as we left. "See you next year!" we replied.

Brenda Bickerton, Yeovil Trefoil Guild, Somerset

Wear 'uniform' with pride



In reply to the letter regarding Trefoil wear in the March issue.

Although we are a non-uniform organisation, I feel that the optional Trefoil wear gives us an identity within the guiding family. When helping at Guide/Brownie events I have noticed that



Trefoil Guild members from Kent and Somerset enjoyed a carol service for the Sailors' Society

Guides and Brownies respond more easily to us when we are in our 'uniform'.

Out and about as a group, we are often asked who we represent, which is a good opportunity to recruit a new member, and it is a pleasure to greet a stranger wearing a Trefoil scarf.


From the amount of polos and scarves I've seen at Regional and National meetings, I think many members are of the same opinion as me.

May those who choose to do so continue to wear their 'uniform' with pride.

Jackie Regan, 1st Eastbourne Trefoil Guild

Trefoil Guild members took the time to write to us about the new-look magazine, as can be seen in the following letters

Thank you for listening

 I'd like to say how pleased I was to receive my copy of *The Trefoil* magazine this week. I have, for the last two magazines, received it on an audio memory stick to listen to. I could no longer read the shiny paper, as I am registered partially sighted.


For some reason I got a copy of the new-look magazine, but have enjoyed reading it along with listening to it. I was amazed how much I could now read with my magnifying glass.

We have new visiting members in our guild, so will pass the magazine on to them. Thank you for listening to readers' comments and acting on them.

Ruth Oddie,

Woburn District Trefoil Guild, Bedfordshire

It's a pleasure to read


 Thank you for the new style of Trefoil Guild magazine.

It is a pleasure to be able to read it comfortably without all of the difficulties caused by the light reflecting on the glossy paper.

I am sure I cannot have been the only member who had this problem.

Liz Hawkins, Penrith Trefoil Guild, Cumbria North

New-look magazine view

 I have just read my new copy of *The Trefoil* magazine. In Jo Taylor's article she mentions that some people found it difficult to read items with background colour, and that is something I have found.

She also mentions that the glossy paper affected some people with breathing difficulties. This surprised me as I had never found any problem, but I really dislike the smell of the new paper. However, I don't have breathing difficulties, so will just hold it at arm's length! I just thought I would mention it in case others find the same thing and you wanted to know how many people are involved.

With best wishes to the magazine staff.

Maureen Cliff, Berkshire Lone Trefoil Guild

*Please send your letters to:
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17-19 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 0PT or
Email: thetrefoilmagazine@girlguiding.org.uk*

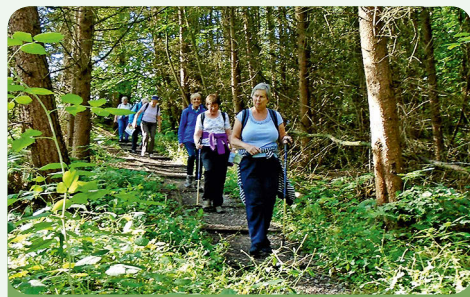
Walks around the country

Trefoil Guild members share their favourite rambles in three different regions

The Tolkien Trail

While on a break staying at Waddow Hall, members of East Yorkshire guilds explored the local five-mile Tolkien Trail. Author JRR Tolkien stayed in the area in the 1940s when his son was studying for the priesthood. His love of the surrounding countryside inspired him to use some of the places and features in his novels *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Starting in Hurst Green (Hobbiton), the walk leads across fields to Stonyhurst College, which was built by the Shireburn family in the 16th century – there are references to ‘Shirebourne’ in the novels. Tolkien stayed at New Lodge guest house



The Tolkien Trail enters a wooded area

(to become Tom Bombadil’s home) with its views of Pendle Hill, noted for its association with witches and sorcery and possibly the inspiration for Middle Earth’s Misty Mountains.

Passing other landmarks, the walk enters woods and a long stretch of steps down to the Lancashire/Yorkshire



Members take a break on the route

boundary on the river Hodder and Cromwell’s Bridge (Brandywine Bridge), which Cromwell is said to have crossed on his way from Skipton to the Battle of Preston in 1648. It then

continues along the riverbank to where the Hodder joins the Ribble. At Hacking Hall, the nearby ferry (Buckleberry Ferry) once carried passengers across the Ribble.

The walk finishes with a view of the magnificent early Christian stone cross plus a steady climb back to Hurst Green and the Shireburn Arms – an excellent place to end the walk and partake of well-earned refreshments.

The Tolkien Trail leaflet can be downloaded at visitlancashire.com/dbimsgs/Tolkien_Trail.pdf

June Hutchinson, Beverley Trefoil Guild

Walks of friendship

Scottish Trefoil Guild walking adviser Elizabeth Howie has planned walks across Scotland led by a variety of people. Walking is a great opportunity to learn the history or geography of an area, meet new people, or just walk and talk!

At the Falls of Clyde, New Lanark, we walked around the four waterfalls before

visiting the Great Tapestry of Scotland exhibition, which celebrates Scottish history, where we were invited to put a few stitches into the final panel.

A walk through Greenock Cut in Renfrewshire led us through historical landscapes with views across the sea, and our leader described how the channels were built to carry water from the reservoir to operate the engines of the mills of Greenock.

During a leisurely stroll along the Union Canal from Falkirk to Linlithgow, we admired signs of spring on the banks and barges moored along the water's edge.

We had an early start to get the ferry to the Isle of Arran; we walked through Glen Rosa and Brodick Castle grounds before climbing a hill where we were entranced by the wildflowers, including orchids, and the photographers among us had the best of times.

Some of the group went out late at night to experience the wonderful colours and music of the Enchanted Forest in Pitlochry where lightscapes lit up the forest and music floated up from the valleys and across the water – an amazing experience.

Elizabeth Howie,
Walking Adviser, Trefoil Guild Scotland



The Union Canal from Falkirk to Linlithgow

Bird walk at Foxlease

There had been an overnight frost that gave a sharp cleanliness to the morning when seven intrepid 'Fox-breakers' met for a pre-breakfast bird-watching walk.

The group of trees above the phone box was a magnet for a wide range of small birds, but we reluctantly tore ourselves



Birdwatchers enjoy an early stroll in the wood

away and set off for the wood behind the Coach House. We spotted a tiny goldcrest flittering frantically in the search for food. Robins sang to greet us, each one claimed as her own special friend by Hilary, the volunteer gardener at Foxlease.

In the wood we were surrounded by the chirr of blue tits and the chiming of great tits. A charm of goldfinches twittered high in the trees, contrasting with calls from jackdaws, rooks and carrion crows.

Three deer bounded away across a field, but the grey squirrels were busy foraging and ignored us. Although we never saw him, a great spotted woodpecker was drumming not far away. A single dunnock, chaffinches 'pinking' and finally views of a song thrush high in the tree above the phone box completed an enjoyable walk.

Julie Ottley, *Yeo Vale Trefoil Guild*

Science – water of life

You may have stopped studying science at school as soon as you could, but much has changed and these days experiments do not need dedicated laboratories

At two residential events for Trefoil Guild on the theme of Challenge Yourself, members undertook several science-based activities. In the Survival Challenge, solar stills from the 2013 Big Brownie Birthday resource were set up and clear water produced from a ‘muddy’ (food colouring) water source.

As the sun cannot always be guaranteed, it was helpful to set up the experiment using hot water and let the system work for around 24 hours. The production of water from leafy plants was also investigated. This activity can lead to discussion and action on the importance of clean water in all countries.

Meanwhile, the Problem-Solving Challenge introduced members to DNA

“The challenge was to extract DNA and find out which Trefoil Guild member was resistant to malaria”

and genetics, as nearly every day we are told of exciting new discoveries involving them. In 2003, the Human Genome Project finished sequencing human DNA. This has resulted in finding genes in our DNA that cause disease, designing medicines specific to a patient, identifying people involved in crimes and many, many more uses. The challenge was to extract DNA and find out which Trefoil Guild member

was resistant to malaria. For health and safety reasons, the DNA was extracted from strawberries*. This was fun to do and exciting to see the white strands of DNA separating out. To find out who was resistant to malaria, we set up a gel electrophoresis experiment using food dyes**. We were able to use the results to identify the person who was resistant to malaria. This led to some very interesting discussions about DNA, genes and the



Members set up a solar still...

inherited diseases that can be identified now.

Maybe your children or grandchildren have separated the component inks of biro or felt-tip pen by chromatography? The ink is placed on paper and liquid (water) seeps along, producing patterns as the individual colours separate out. Once dried, the paper can be used for craftwork.

When very large numbers of people are asked to record specific information, it is called citizen science. There is a whole spectrum of citizen science activities, from participative to collaborative through to co-created projects, where the public work alongside scientists to contribute ideas,

“There is a whole spectrum of citizen science activities, from participative to collaborative through to co-created projects”

questions and methods to the research project. The RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch and projects undertaken with the TV show *Springwatch* are well-known examples, and because of the large number of observations, any variability in individual recordings becomes insignificant.

Taking part in these kinds of activities can be hugely enjoyable as well as giving an insight into the world of science for people of all ages, and, in many cases,



...and clean water was produced from 'muddy' liquid

you do not have to leave your home to participate. For details, visit britishscienceassociation.org/citizen-science.

Arlene Redman, Lones Trefoil Guild Scotland, Trefoil Guild Scotland International Adviser;

Mar Rae, Bishopton Trefoil Guild Renfrewshire, Secretary Trefoil Guild Scotland

Where can I find out more?

Science centres and museums; nature reserves and regional parks; Brownie Annual 2016 is a wonderful source of information and ideas for activities; teachers in junior schools with a special interest and specialist teachers working in senior schools; Girlguiding members and friends who work in a science-based role; you can use a search engine to find ideas, but remember to work safely.

*stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/strawberry-dna/ **learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/labs/gel/electrophoresis/

How to... use Dropbox

Charlotte Anslow on the easy way to share files online

Dropbox provides an online space for you to be able share your documents across devices and with friends and colleagues for collaborative working.

First, you need to sign up on the Dropbox website at dropbox.com using your email address and a password. Once you have an account, you can upload whichever documents you need to be able to access or share.

You can create files and folders to help organise your projects and include

different types of media – such as video and photographs – plus documents.

Dropbox has apps for easy use on mobile devices, and email notifications



are received if any items have been shared, so you never miss when a project has been updated.

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- Organised breaks available including a variety of activities and workshops.

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- Organised breaks available including a variety of craft and hobby workshops.



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Blackland Farm



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5-9 September	Food Glorious Food Delicious demonstrations and tempting tastings in the heart of the Ribble Valley's food capital.	Waddow Hall
15 September	Royal Parks Ramble A self-guided tour of London's Royal Parks, followed by a tasty cream tea at ICANDO.	ICANDO
21-23 October	Christmas Cake and Table Decoration Making Make, bake and take home some festive treats.	Foxlease
31 October-4 November	Hags and Heritage Discover the history and heritage of Waddow Hall and the surrounding area.	Waddow Hall
25-27 November <small>NEW DATE!</small>	60s Weekend A musical tribute to the icons of the 1960s' music scene.	Foxlease
2 December	Baubles and Ballroom A scrumptious three-course meal followed by ballroom dancing.	Waddow Hall
2-4 December <small>NEW DATE!</small>	Tinsel, Turkey and Shopping A Christmas break filled with carols, mince pies and an escorted shopping trip to Southampton.	Foxlease
7 December	Christmas Comedy Night A festive meal followed by comedy entertainment.	Waddow Hall
9-11 December <small>NEW DATE!</small>	Victorian Christmas Show Weekend A traditional festive celebration.	Foxlease
11-17 December	Christmas Tree Festival A spectacular display of trees, crafts and more.	Waddow Hall

Foxlease - 023 8028 2638, foxlease@girlguiding.org.uk, www.foxlease.org.uk

Waddow Hall - 01200 423186, waddow@girlguiding.org.uk, www.waddow.org.uk

ICANDO - 020 7592 1818, icando@girlguiding.org.uk, www.icando.org.uk

Fri 16th – Mon 19th December 2016

Get into the Festive Spirit at The Netherlands' Christmas Markets!

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