

The Trefoil

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Hats off to Trefoil Guild!



GUIDING FOR ADULTS
Trefoil Guild

In this issue

Memories of our
Annual Meeting
caught on camera

Senior Section
tales of travel
and adventure

Programme ideas
and suggestions:
as easy as ABC

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The Trefoil



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The official journal of the Trefoil Guild

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The Chairman writes...

Hello everyone,

I hope you have all had a good summer with family, friends, Trefoil Guild and guiding. There used to be a time when things went quiet in the summer but this doesn't seem to be the case now!

What a wonderful time we all had in Harrogate. Thank you to North East England members for making us so very welcome and making the event run so smoothly. I am sure many of us are still laughing at the scenarios told to us by our speaker, Dr Gervase Phinn.

This edition of the magazine is being devoted to our Annual Meeting and replaces the usual annual report that you have received in the past. By combining them, we can give you a flavour of the event as well as you reading the national reports and those from the Countries and Regions. The usual snapshots have been replaced by photos from the event and your snapshots will be used on the website.

The carrier sheet contains important advance notice of the change in the way we will manage our subscription and census for next year. Further

information will be available from your Country/Region Chairman in September.

Sue Dickenson (above, with Pat) said farewell to us at Harrogate and later to colleagues she has worked with during the past 18 years. Sue, you are greatly missed but I hope you enjoy reading this edition without having had any involvement in it!

On 8 August we welcomed Mrs Marie Burgess (right) as a full-time office manager and PA

to the national Chairman. Marie is a Division Commissioner in Croydon and, until

recently, ran a Brownie unit. She worked in the region office for LaSER and so brings a wealth of guiding knowledge with her.

I hope you enjoy this special edition; the editorial board welcomes all feedback.

Yours in Trefoil,

Pat Downer



Annual Report

Reflections on a successful year for Trefoil Guild



Achievements and performance

As an organisation, Trefoil Guild has continued to be forward looking in its plans and arrangements to enable all members to have a positive and meaningful experience.

The Executive Committee has seen few changes during the year, with only one Region Chairman completing her term of office, and she has been successfully replaced. The Honorary Treasurer completed her term of office and a new volunteer commenced on 1 January 2016. A new President for the organisation was appointed in June 2015.

Following a residential event, the Executive Committee and Council developed a new forward plan of action for the next three years:

- To review our organisational structure and support networks to include a digital strategy.
- To develop our four key messages.

- To grow our membership and to retain existing members.

Our charity's objectives of supporting Girlguiding and the community have continued, with many members helping at local guiding events and supporting local and national charities. In addition, grants have been available from our charity to support (a) our members and their carers, and (b) Girlguiding members selected to travel overseas.

Organisational structure and digital strategy

Digital strategy had to take precedence over structure as the suppliers of the magazine and our website hosts gave notice from November 2015 and March 2016 respectively.

We have secured a contract with a new supplier for both to ensure that members continue to receive the magazine in 2016 with an updated website being in operation from April 2016.

Grow membership and retain existing members

Despite a small drop in membership numbers, which is unfortunately inevitable due to the high number of older members, we have again seen a growth in membership numbers for under 60 year olds. This is a direct consequence of attracting younger members with our Voyage Award.

“The biggest success continues to be the Voyage Award, with 1,426 members currently working on the scheme”

We have also seen an increase in membership in foreign countries.

In 2015 we introduced a Thanks and Recognition brooch and certificate to recognise the work that many of our existing members do for Trefoil Guild.

Develop our key messages

Our key messages of find friendship, get active, get involved and give support continue to be developed both nationally and locally. A partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has been developed and the first group of Trefoil Guild members will visit Russia in 2016 to help develop guiding there.

We have also set up a partnership with Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) in readiness for celebrating our 75th birthday in 2018.

The biggest success continues to be the Voyage Award, with 1,426 members currently working on the scheme. In 2015, 625 members joined at bronze level, with 248 gaining bronze, 24 silver and 17 gold.

The national Annual Meeting was held in Derry/Londonderry and was well supported, both by local members and by more than 500 who travelled to Ulster from England, Scotland and Wales.

Conclusion

This has been a successful year for our organisation and we are delighted that, following major renovations, we have returned to our permanent office within Girlguiding Headquarters.

We have firm plans for continuing our partnership with WAGGGS and will be sending another team to Russia in 2017. Plans are also well developed for our 75th celebrations in 2018. With a wide variety of quality programmes, we hope to grow our membership further in 2016.



Pat.

Pat Downer,
Chairman

Noticeboard

Bulletins and information to keep
Trefoil Guild members up to date



Farewell cake for Sue as she retires

Sue says goodbye to the Trefoil Guild office

We were able to say thank you and goodbye to Sue Dickenson during the Annual Meeting in Harrogate. She has now finished as our office manager and will no longer be the voice at the end of the phone for us all. Sue is going to enjoy her retirement, and has promised to find a guild near to her new home (when she and her husband find it!), so we will be able to welcome her as a member in the auditorium in Brighton. Thank you Sue, for all you have done for Trefoil Guild.

On our website...

Have you found your region's page yet? As well as forms you need and information about the Voyage Award, the website has stories of members' adventures; updates from TOPAZ participants; achievements by people in your area. It's a fund of fun, facts and friendship! Visit trefoilguild.co.uk.

Are you planning for 2018?

Plans are taking shape
to make 2018

– Trefoil Guild's

75th birthday

– a very special

year for all. Our

badge (right) will be

available as a metal brooch and a cloth

sew-on one. They will be available at

the Annual Meeting in Brighton in 2017.

As well as the national celebration events, countries, regions, counties, lots of districts and local guilds are also planning celebrations.

An online resource to help you plan your events will be out later this year, together with suggestions and themed ideas to celebrate our 75th birthday.



Voyage Award

From 1 September 2016, completed record books at Bronze and Silver level will be signed and returned by your Country/Region Programme & Development Adviser. Record books at Gold level will still be sent to the Trefoil Guild office for the national Chairman's signature. Badges and certificates at all levels will continue to be sent to your County Chairman from the Trefoil Guild office.

We suggest that you make a copy of the pages of your record book whilst it is being processed.



Good luck to the TOPAZ team in Russia

TOPAZ news

Our very best love and good wishes go with the first TOPAZ team who will be in Russia during much of October.

We are all looking forward to hearing about your travels and meetings in Astrakhan, Saratov, St Petersburg etc. *счастливого пути!* (Have a good journey!)

Who's in charge of photos?

Does your guild have: a treasurer, a programme person, a secretary... and a photographer? Photos need to be taken with a camera – sorry, mobile phone snaps aren't detailed enough! With so many Country/Region website pages, we need your photos! Please find a photographer each time you do something interesting, fun or exciting... and do smile when they start snapping!

Have you ordered a necker?

The necker is priced at £6, and p&p of £1 for each is payable for quantities of one to three neckers. Orders of four neckers or more, up to 20, will be subject to p&p of £3.50 for the entire order.

Neckers will not be available from Girlguiding Trading Service, so you will need to complete the order form on the magazine carrier sheet, or Trefoil Guild website, and return it to the Trefoil Guild office.

The neckers were selling like hot cakes (or should we say Yorkshire curd tarts?) in June at the Annual Meeting in Harrogate, and were looking very smart!



Have you got your new Trefoil Guild necker yet?

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 December issue is 3 October 2016.



Your snapshots

Here is a selection of snapshots that were taken in Harrogate during the weekend of the Annual Meeting. Can you spot yourself in any of them?










Your letters

Find out what other Trefoil Guild members have on their minds

What a wonderful family

 From an absentee Trefoil Guild member: From October 2013 until March 2016 I have been unable to attend any Trefoil Guild meetings, but I was certainly not 'out of sight, out of mind'.

I became a post member and the monthly letter kept me in touch and made me feel like a true member of our wonderful family. In addition, the cards, letters, telephone calls, flowers and visits were greatly appreciated – I live 20 miles from our meeting place!

Some of our members even travelled to my home and escorted me to various hospital appointments – sometimes in very rough weather. They all certainly helped with my recovery and I now hope to keep on my feet. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.


Pam Cottle (nee Spiers),

Gloucestershire West Trefoil Guild



Pam with members of the Trefoil Guild 'family'

Let's reveal the guiding connection


 Returning from the Annual Meeting in Harrogate, our chatty taxi driver asked what we'd been doing, so we told him. He lit up when we explained the guiding connection – his wife had been a Guide Leader and he was sure she'd be interested in the Trefoil Guild.

Later, working at a hospital coffee shop and wearing our Trefoil Guild shirts, four ladies asked who we were. They had been Guides, were amazed at the connection and asked about local guilds.

If only we had 'guiding' in our name, eg Trefoil Guides or similar, people would get the connection, and those who had experienced guiding might be drawn to giving 'guiding for adults' a try. Isn't it time we revealed our true identity?

Barbara Wing, Reigate Trefoil Guild, Surrey East

Thank you and goodbye

 I would like to express my thanks to everyone for the many wonderful gifts and cards I received on my retirement from the Trefoil Guild office.

Being able to say goodbye to nearly 2,000 members at the Annual Meeting in Harrogate was very special.

I look forward to receiving my magazine as a Trefoil Guild member and reading all about the things everyone is doing.

Best wishes to you all.

Sue Dickenson

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



An unforgettable day

On Maundy Thursday 2016, Anneliese Barrell, of Plymouth, Devon, was presented with the Royal Maundy Money by Her Majesty the Queen in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Says Anneliese, "The service during which the money was presented was awe inspiring, the Chapel was full and the pomp and ceremony was at its best."

The Queen presented two leather pouches each to 90 men and 90 women containing specially minted silver coins worth 90p, a 50p coin commemorating the Battle of Hastings and a £5 coin celebrating the 90th birthday of Her Majesty.

Anneliese was chosen for this honour for her lifetime of service to the church. She was until recently South West England Trefoil Guild PRA and is still Devon PRA.

Gold Voyage Award

Congratulations to the following members who have gained the Gold Voyage Award: Jean Mullane and Mary Ellard from Witham Trefoil Guild, Essex North East, and Wendy Ingle from Guideacres Trefoil Guild in Essex South East.

Anne's honour

Anne Lampson of Axbridge, Somerset, was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours List for services to young people through Girlguiding and to the community. The medal was presented by the Lord Lieutenant in Taunton in May. Anne was also invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Anne made her Brownie Promise in 1945, became a Guide, a Sea Ranger, then a Leader. Anne joined Axbridge Trefoil Guild, and was County Chairman in 2010. Photo by Michelle Grist.



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.



Guiding adventure

Jane Miles from the Isle of Man shares her memories in the second article to celebrate the centenary of The Senior Section

Jane Miles (nee Brookin) began her guiding adventure as a Brownie at St Cuthbert's Southport, then moved to St John's Ainsdale, where Mrs Chester was Brown Owl. Flying up from Brownies to 17th Southport Guides, Jane recalls her Captain Doris Plummer as a leader who was dedicated to her company and who trained Guides to a high standard in all aspects of guiding. She describes her time with the 17th as brilliant, being a wonderful grounding for life.

Her many guiding memories include camping in the Isle of Man, the Lake District, Belgium and Holland, travelling to UK camps in the back of a furniture van. Several members of the unit gained the Queen's Guide Award, and Jane became a member of the Sea Rangers' ship Queen Charlotte, which was started by Doris Plummer. She attended an International Camp at Knowsley Hall with American,



Left, Marion and Jane; above, with their VW

Canadian, Dutch and French visitors, and was hostess to Woody, an American Girl Scout. During this period, Jane had three penfriends; Tupou from the Cook Islands, Dinie from Denmark and Sylvie from Switzerland. Unfortunately, she has now lost touch with all of them. Later, Jane was first a helper and then trained as Lieutenant at 17th Southport Guides.

She sailed on a cargo boat to Israel in 1963 to spend time working on a kibbutz. En route she stopped in Algeria, where she saw extreme poverty, and Malta where the damage from the Second World War was still being repaired. She also visited Cyprus and remembers the exquisite Lefkara lace. She still visits this beautiful island regularly to see the mosaics in Paphos, which back then had just been discovered.

Her year on the kibbutz was hard work, but a wonderful chance to see the Holy Land. She spent her time collecting eggs to send to Italy, working in banana and avocado fields and looking after children who were learning



Guides at Loreto Mission with their flag



Festival time in Salisbury, Rhodesia



Taking part in a guiding ceremony in Africa

to swim in the pool. Meeting Margaret Pilkington, who after the war worked with G.I.S. (Guide International Service) in Europe, inspired Jane to apply for a VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) guiding project in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1965. Twenty Rangers and Guiders from all over the UK were interviewed, and Jane was chosen along with Marion Hill from Hove, Sussex – both Sea Rangers – to go to this land-locked country.

Marion and Jane stayed in 132 different homes and missions, travelling about in a VW Kombi given to Rhodesian Guides by the Guide Friendship Fund and WAGGGS. Miss Margaret Knight, a WAGGGS trainer, joined them for a month of trainings – a great experience.

Marion was a qualified nurse and Jane a nursery nurse, so they helped out at schools, clinics and nurseries. They also held general knowledge sessions, usually questions and answers, and because Jane

lived near Liverpool the question always asked was did she know The Beatles?

Jane thoroughly enjoyed the experience of taking Brownies and Guides to Victoria Falls (called The Smoke that Thunders) and remembers campfire songs – the girls picked up the words and actions quickly, adding their own descants and other parts. No actual fire was lit, as it goes dark at 6.30 and it was too dry for an open fire.

Another memory for Jane is talking to Lady Baden-Powell on the telephone when she lived in a Hampton Court Palace ‘grace-and-favour’ apartment.

Jane’s mother was a member of Trefoil Guild, and her daughter is a Brownie Leader. One granddaughter is a Guide and another a Rainbow. Jane has just retired as County Chairman of Trefoil Guild Isle of Man, and is still enjoying her guiding adventure and helping whenever she can.



Singing and dancing at the campsite



At Victoria Falls – The Smoke that Thunders

Girlguiding members go bananas for The Tesco Eat Happy Project

Through The Tesco Eat Happy Project our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been taking part in Farm to Fork Trails to learn about healthy eating and where their food comes from, to earn an Eat Happy badge. Leaders from across the country share their experiences



1st Rainton Gate Brownies enjoy learning

going behind the scenes at Tesco and learning about where food comes from. They get to try lots of different food and have a fun evening with their friends.

Anne Temple's 1st Church Fenton Brownies are now more aware of hidden sugars in fizzy drinks. She says, "They learned about different types of sugar and how many sugar cubes are in various foods and drink." For example, a can of cola can contain more than seven cubes of sugar!

Jackie O'Sullivan, Leader of 1st Chester-le-Street (St Mary's and St Cuthbert's) Guides, was delighted with the trail, saying, "The girls tasted foods they had never tried before at Chester-le-Street Tesco, with one insisting that her mum buy some of the cheese she had tried before they left to go home!"

Fun and informative

Ann Lorimer enjoyed the experience at Tesco in Lurgan, County Armagh. She says, "I took my Guide Unit and they loved it. It gave them an opportunity to find out about different foods and also the different parts of the world they come from. I've already taken my unit back to do another night." The girls really enjoy

Hands on

Sally Dodsworth of 1st Rainton Gate Brownies says, "We had a great time on the Farm to Fork Trail at Tesco Durham with our Brownies. We visited the bakery, fish and cheese counters plus the fruit and vegetable aisles. The Trail Guide and staff were great with the girls and made learning fun."



Cheese was a hit for 1st Chester-le-Street

Meanwhile, Sarah Mower's 2nd Beccles Brownies loved their visit to Tesco Beccles to take part in a Health Trail.

Sarah says, "We made our own muesli, and I'm reliably informed that many of our girls had this for their breakfast the next morning, as did us Leaders – it was yummy. We also did a trail about sustainability where we learned how cocoa is made, and we even tasted different types of chocolate.

"The Farm to Fork Trails are highly recommended, and we all got the new badge – happiness all around."



Bakery know-how for 1st Rainton Gate Brownies

How to arrange your own Farm to Fork Trail with Tesco

Inspired by these stories of Farm to Fork fun? Tell your local units they can find out more and organise their own by going online to find their nearest Tesco store and speaking to a Trail Guide about taking part to earn their Tesco Farm to Fork badge.

The trail can even be used to support the Brownie Cook badge or Rainbow Roundabout Get Healthy. Maybe they'll invite some Trefoil Guild members to go along as helpers!

To learn more about the project and download resources that will help bring learning about food to life, go to www.eathappyproject.com. You could even use some of their ideas and information at your guild meetings.



Margaret's favourite books



Swallows and Amazons

Arthur Ransome
Vintage Children's Classics

978-0099572794

The Old Ways

Robert Macfarlane
Penguin

978-0141030586



Best-Loved Poems

Edited by
Neil Philip
Little, Brown

978-0316724388

England's Thousand Best Churches

Simon Jenkins
Allen Lane

978-1846146640



Margaret Froome

Currently International Adviser for London & South East Region Trefoil Guild, Margaret is also a Mentor for the adult Leadership Qualification

Growing up, Margaret read her brothers' books, and those by Arthur Ransome delighted her – she wonders whether her love of camping with Guides stemmed from these books, especially *Swallows and Amazons*.

She enjoys good travel books and is currently reading *The Old Ways* by Robert Macfarlane, which tells of the author's journey by foot as he follows old tracks in the British Isles and beyond, with stories of geography, history, myth, the natural world and so much more.

Best-Loved Poems edited by Neil Philip is a book to browse through and recall poems learnt at school, such as *Sea Fever* by John Masefield and *Daffodils* by William Wordsworth. Isabelle Brent's beautiful illustrations are also much enjoyed. Some poems may only have a few lines, others several verses, but all tell a story.

When asked which book she would never give away, Margaret said *England's Thousand Best Churches* by Simon Jenkins. When she was taking part in the Dark Horse Venture, the book was essential for one challenge, and although that was achieved, having started visiting the churches she intends to carry on.

Margaret belongs to a choral society. Singing madrigals with a group of friends gives her much pleasure and she owns several madrigal books.

Embroidery is another of Margaret's hobbies and a class she attends is currently working from *Elizabethan Stitches: A Guide To Historic English Needlework* by Jacqui Carey, which she hopes will lead to completing a small design. Margaret says that listening to a CD while stitching is a lovely way to spend an hour or so.

Margaret spoke to Gillian Spriggs

Programme ideas

from Marjorie Emsley and Patricia Wilson,

Programme and Development Advisers, North East England and North West England

As easy as ABC

Programme planning for your Trefoil Guild meetings over the coming year can be 'as easy as ABC' if you use some of the ideas suggested in our A-Z of activities to be published in this and the next three issues of *The Trefoil* magazine

The suggestions in this issue are activities from A-E inclusive and are suitable for autumn meetings and events.

You will be able to add ideas of your own to those suggested here, and if you keep the centre page from this and the next three issues of the magazine, you will end up with a resource of programme ideas for the next few years.

- A**
- Abseiling
 - Adopt a unit in your area
 - Amblers walking group



- Antiques evening
- Apple evening
- Arboretum visit
- Archery
- Archives
- Armchair aerobics



- Art gallery visit
- Art lesson/talk
- As a group – make a church kneeler
- Auction of unwanted items
- Autumn amble



- Book swap
- Bottle tombola
- Bowling
- Brain-teasers
- 'Bring a friend' evening
- Bulb planting
- Bus pass journey

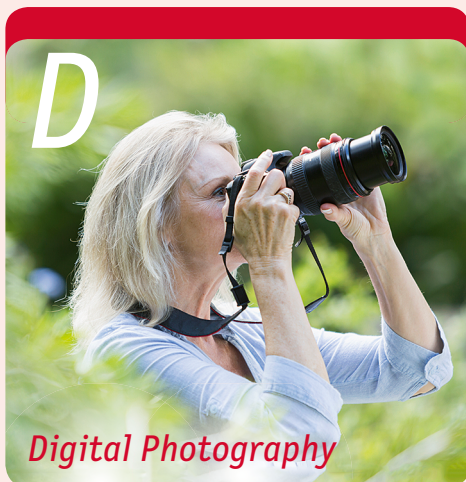
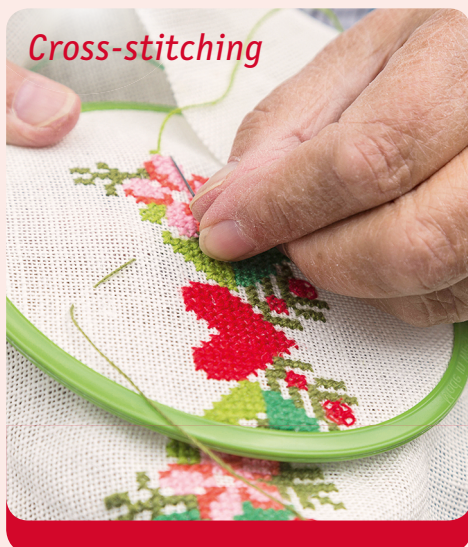
- Balloon modelling
- Bananagrams
- Barbecue
- Barge trip
- Beetle drive
- Bell-ringing
- Bingo
- Birthday party
- Blanket squares project (eg for hospital/abroad/residential home)
- Board games
- Boating
- Book reviews



- Cake evening with recipes
- Calligraphy
- Camp blanket memories
- Campfire singing
- Canal cruise
- Candlelit supper
- Card games
- Card making
- Car maintenance
- Car treasure hunt
- Castle visit
- Challenge evening
- Charity shop challenge (everyone given £1 to see what they can buy)
- Cheese and wine tasting
- Chocolate evening
- Christmas party planning
- Church/cathedral visit
- Cinema visit



- Clothing swap shop
- Coffee morning/evening
- Collections evening (members to show and talk about their collections)
- Colouring books for adults – create a display
- Compile a record of your guild's history
- Computers for beginners
- Cookery demonstration
- Countdown challenge
- Country and Western evening
- Country dancing
- County show outing
- Court procedure talk
- Crafts
- Craft sale
- Create a calendar
- Crime prevention talk
- Crochet
- Croquet
- Crossword challenge
- Curling



- Dabble days
- 'Day or Stay' camp
- Debate
- Découpage
- Desert island discs
- Discussions, eg what the papers say
- 'Do' for District/Division adult leaders
- Dominoes knockout competition
- Dog walking
- Drama
- Drawing
- Duck Race
- Dutch evening





E

*Egg decorating
for Christmas*

Evening meal



- Earliest memories
- Embroidery
- English evening
- Entertain a community group
- Environmental issues
- Extracts from books/magazines

*The A-E of
programme planning:*

- A Ask for ideas
- B Browse the lists
- C Choose what to do
- D Do it!
- E Enjoy and evaluate

Look out for ideas F-K from LaSER and South West England in December's issue of *The Trefoil*

Country & Region reports

A round-up of what's been happening in the Countries and Regions over the past year

Anglia Region

Last year saw members of Anglia guilds very busy doing many activities, having fun and making friends within guiding and Trefoil Guild. The Great Anglia Bake Off enabled us to take part by baking, judging, or just eating what was baked. One guiding division had a new standard dedicated that had been embroidered by Trefoil Guild members. Some members journeyed to London to discover Shaun the Sheep sculptures, which was excellent publicity for Trefoil Guild.

We held our Region house party at Foxlease, which was a super break and very well organised. In October we held a Region quiz and international day.



Tracking down Shaun the Sheep sculptures



Presenting ten Gold level Voyage Awards

Cambridgeshire East answered more quiz questions correctly than any other county – congratulations to their team.

In 2015, we presented the first ten members to achieve Gold level Voyage Awards with their award. Now, a year on, we have 23 'golden' people in Anglia.

Our Annual Review in 2016 was held in Oxfordshire. We were very well entertained by speaker, Alan Brewer, who told us of his time working as a chef for BOAC (as it was then), transporting members of the Royal Family and the Government.

It is a coincidence that my five years as Region Chairman are completed the year the Queen turns 90. Congratulations to Her Majesty, and thank you to Anglia for many invitations to help you all celebrate this magnificent event.

I have had a lovely five years as Region Chairman – and my normal eating habits start again in September!

Margaret Fleetwood
Anglia Region Chairman



Members have been finding friendship and getting active

London and South East Region

LaSER Trefoil Guild has had another exciting year filled with opportunity, activity, challenge and change with our key messages put fully into action.

On a beautiful day in May – with the bluebells in full bloom – Region Trefoil Guild members joined together for a day on the Bluebell Railway in Sussex, giving us an opportunity to ‘Find Friendship’.

Our members have been busy supporting guiding in London and the South East at district, division and county levels and so are ‘Getting Involved’. The number of members participating in the Voyage Award continues to increase, with many progressing from Bronze to Silver.

September saw members meeting at Swanwick for the Trefoil Guild Gathering, while others spent the same weekend joining with guiding on LaSER Roars, enabling us to ‘Get Active’.

Trefoil Guilds across the Region have been able to ‘Give Support’ to different charities, including hospices, RNLI, Air Ambulance and Blood Runners to name



Getting involved by supporting guiding

just a few. We are getting ready to support Riding for the Disabled Association for our 75th Anniversary in 2018.

We are delighted that many of our members have taken Trefoil Guild abroad – visiting the World Centres and Brussels where they made contact with TGIFC. TOPAZ – Trefoil Overseas Partnership: Adventure with Zest – has been launched with two members from our Region being selected for the Active Team, and they are travelling to Russia in 2016.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with our members taking part in a wide range of events and activities.

Sarah Little *LaSER Chairman*

Midlands Region

The year began with a tour around the counties by Jo Dowling and her Deputy, Brenda Ames. They asked for a water theme and did everything from water-based activities to a canal barge trip – a very successful event.

In October, the Region's International Day was hosted by West Mercia in Wolverhampton. The day was based on WAGGGS and the World Centres; we had speakers and displays followed by music, and we even sang the World Song and the songs of the centres.

Twenty-six members travelled to India for Thinking Day at Sangam in their 50th Anniversary year. It was a fantastic and eye-opening experience; when we saw how the people live and how little they have, we decided that we should never complain again (but no doubt we will!). We are currently holding a Region-wide raffle to raise funds for Sangam.

After Sangam, we travelled around the Golden Triangle: Agra, where we visited the Taj Mahal at sunrise; Jaipur, where we rode on elephants up to the monastery and Delhi, a more modern city, where



Enjoyable time at the Annual Meeting

we visited Gandhi's memorial. Certainly a Thinking Day to remember.

Jo retired as Midlands Chairman on 1 May. She has done an excellent job and we thank her, Brenda and the team for all they have done in the last five years.

Midlands was well represented at the Annual Meeting at Harrogate and we thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, from the Civic Reception at the Pump Room and the very entertaining speaker, Dr Gervase Phinn, to coffee at Betty's and a visit to Harewood House.

We now look ahead to the challenges of our 75th Anniversary in 2018...

Eirlais Tomkins

Midlands Region Chairman



Thinking Day was spent in India at Sangam and the Golden Triangle



'Twiddle muffs' have been created to give to dementia sufferers



Jean Rippon and Pat



Talented members



Knitted sheep

North East England Region

The 17 counties that make up our Region have all planned and produced varied and interesting programmes.

Regionally, we have supported The Senior Section's centenary celebration 'Incredible Ewe' by knitting flocks of sheep for their special event at Fountains Abbey.

We have also knitted 'twiddle muffs', which have been given out to dementia sufferers who are in care homes right around the Region.

Our Region President, Margaret Hawthorn, issued a challenge to produce a card suitable for Thinking Day but that also could be used as a notelet. The entries were excellent and the design by Jean Rippon from East Yorkshire was chosen as the overall winner. We had her card printed and

offered for sale at the National Annual Meeting with the other entries on show.

A great deal of our time this year has been taken up with the planning of the National Annual Meeting at Harrogate. Thanks to one of our members, we were able to secure the services of the author Dr Gervase Phinn as our speaker, and he was terrific. We produced entertainment entitled 'Northern Lights' with as much Trefoil Guild talent as possible. We had a great team and tremendous credit for the success of the event is due to them.

Our attention now turns to the biennial Advent Service in York and our trip to Belgium to link up with Trefoil Guild members over there.

Jackie Dickinson

North East England Chairman

North West England Region

Guilds and individual members across North West England have continued to take part in a wide variety of activities and enjoy the fun and friendship. Many have supported guiding, both at weekly meetings and at special events.

The key messages have been used to encourage as many members as possible to get active with Segway riding, croquet, bowls, walking and country dancing to name a few activities; to give support with knitting, international activities, Brownie holidays and camping; to get involved in Thinking Day celebrations, beating the drums, acting, and international crafts; and to find friendship in every activity, outing and meeting that has taken place.

The Annual Meeting in Accrington was a great success, with a humorous talk on the life of a scullery maid.

A Region International Day was held at Preston with informative talks on the work of Water Aid in Africa, the latest WAGGGS projects from a member of the WAGGGS team and the introduction of the GOLD project and TOPAZ from Judy Ellis, the Trefoil Guild International Adviser. The talks were interspersed with international

activities and the day rounded off with belly dancing led by a professional dancer – an hilarious session enjoyed by all.

Four new guilds have been opened with younger members, and I trust that we can build on this and encourage more young women to join us. I have been privileged to visit many counties in the Region for annual meetings and dinner or tea parties. The welcome has always been so friendly and the variety of activities in the reports amazing. We look forward to another rewarding year ahead.

Aileen Higgs

North West England Chairman



Voyage Award members on a trip to Chester



Thinking Day celebrations with Brownies



Segway sessions

Scotland

Trefoil Guild is an organisation of lively, energetic and generous people who are fun loving and up for a challenge.

In 2015, members raised £17,274.50 for the Olivia Giles 500 miles project, which provides prosthetic limbs to children and adults in Africa. Members have supported local and international charities including Street Pastors; Riding for the Disabled; Help for Heroes; The Food Train; Nordoff Robbins; Netherurd, Girlguiding Scotland; Our Chalet; and units, international events and GOLD expeditions.

At Focus on the Future conferences, members planned for the future of Trefoil Guild Scotland, shared ideas, solved problems and planned a 'task and finish' group to take us forward under the banner of our key messages. Our 2016 Annual

Meeting in Aviemore found us absorbed in tales of the journeys undertaken by Liz Burnley, followed by tea and dinner where old and new friends shared stories.

Successful events at Netherurd entitled 'I'm A Girl Guide Get Me Out Of Here' found 60 members challenged to engage in activities outside their comfort zone – survival skills, creativity, musicality, fitness and scientific problem-solving. We celebrated with cocktails, a Glitz and Glamour Dinner and a 'night at the awards' event, leaving all with great memories of another happy occasion.

Our Scottish walking group has notched up many miles in beautiful settings, and some intrepid members have attempted wall climbs, zorbing and archery. Members have achieved Discovery, Dark Horse and Voyage Awards. In 2016 we will see how many tea parties we can notch up to celebrate 100 years of The Senior Section!

Thank you to all my friends in Scotland and across the UK for an amazing five years of challenges, fun and friendship. Our members are the beating heart of our organisation; I am proud to be a member and hope we keep growing and caring.

Elizabeth Higton *Chairman Scotland*



Enjoying a night at the awards



Taking on the outdoors – and the weather, as paper plates go flying!



Climbing challenge

South West England Region

This year has seen the number of Trefoil Guild members in South West England increase, with new guilds being formed. Members have shown a great interest in the Voyage Award scheme, with several Bronze and Silver Awards and one Gold Award gained, and members are to be congratulated upon the variety of activities and challenges that have been achieved.

We have taken part in Cookafest, which was open to all sections, and we had many a treat, sampling the trial entries in the guilds. Some members have travelled abroad to meet with their international friends; others have visited the four World Centres while more members maintain their international friendships via email.

The South West England Annual Meeting was in Hampshire North and attended by 500 members. We were very pleased to have in attendance the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, the Mayor of Basingstoke and our Trefoil Guild National Chairman. The speaker after the meeting proved to be very entertaining and a great success. Many of our members then enjoyed a few days' holiday exploring the area.

We are thoughtful of our responsibilities to others, and when the terrible flooding disaster occurred in the North West last



Enjoying an unusual knitted display in Bristol

winter, we raised funds to help. We were very pleased to provide support to a Guide unit in the area that had twice suffered damage to its building and lost camping equipment. I sincerely thank the Trefoil Guilds in South West England: you were magnificent in your response!

Finally, thank you all for making my initial year of appointment so enjoyable.

Val Sewell

Chairman South West England Region



Friends are always ready to have some fun



Members get ready to make a splash

Ulster

Last year was a very exciting year for our members, as we were the host country for the Annual Meeting. We were thrilled that so many members came to join us and we trust they all returned home with happy memories of their visit to Ulster.

With the good publicity from press and radio coverage, we hope to build on our success and keep Trefoil Guild in the public eye. It was a great opportunity for guilds to meet with their 'twins', and many friendships were renewed.

Our Fun and Friendship weekend was a great success, based around the theme of the Ulster Scots and St Andrew's Day. It is amazing what skills and talents appear when we start acting like Guides again!

As well as refurbishing the Rainbow Cabin at the guiding centre at Lorne,



A feast for the senses at one meeting

guilds were happy to fund a new 'Fairies at the bottom of the Garden' trail – this has been most appealing to Brownies and Rainbows.

We were delighted that one of our members was awarded an MBE and another member has been appointed to the Strategy and Planning Group of WAGGGS. Several members were also pleased to be presented to HRH The Countess of Wessex when she attended a Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle.

At Easter, 13 Trefoil Guild members travelled to India. The first week was spent touring the Golden Triangle and then we joined in the programme at Sangam called Gifts for Change. Here we had the opportunity to take part in some of their community projects – working in a mobile crèche, assisting in an old people's home, joining workers on a recycling site and visiting a refuge for women and children.

In May we had a very informative Focus Day for all guilds when the three advisers shared their expertise in various roles.

Margaret Crawford
Ulster Chairman



Touring the Golden Triangle in India



Annual meetings have had a variety of themes



Jenny Davies takes to the skies in a glider

Wales

We have been very pleased to see the number of Lone members increase, but this does mean that some guilds have had to close. There is light on the horizon because two guilds have opened with another to sort themselves out soon.

The Music for Fun groups continue to meet, and in the 'land of song' this is a gratifying progression. We have been able to combine with Guide Leaders and share old and new songs. International activities have figured more prominently this year with some members representing Trefoil Guild overseas. The guilds are currently involved in a Connect project where they are visiting fellow guilds around Wales.

We are all very supportive of the visit to Russia in September 2016 by two of our members, and I know lots of members have been fundraising on their behalf.

Very many speakers have been heard, visits made and lots and lots of cake eaten and tea drunk – our members in Wales have excelled at this activity! Annual meetings in Wales have taken place, with all of them following a different theme. Many members attended the National Annual Meeting in Londonderry in 2015 and in Harrogate this year. The feeling



Members helping out at Broneirion



Handmade gifts to help raise funds

from these two events was very positive and the venues were very suitable for the number of people that attend. Lots of fun, friendship and laughter were experienced at these events.

We have just held two garden parties to raise money for our centre at Broneirion – both with a fair amount of rain but supported by lots of happy people.

Vivienne Grant
Wales/Cymru Chairman

Trefoil Guilds In Foreign Countries and Branch Associations

There are now guilds in Benelux and France, Bermuda, Cyprus, Germany, Gibraltar, Malta, Spain and St Helena in the South Atlantic. The TGIFC Guild itself has individual members in Australia, Austria, Portugal, United Arab Emirates and the USA, and we have a total of 145 members. Malta is the newest guild, and their members share joint meetings with Maltese friends. There is now a page for TGIFC in the BGIFC newsletter and we hope through this we will find more members.

One of our guilds was the subject of the 'Meet a Guild' article in *The Trefoil*. It showed members cooking and enjoying a day visiting Paris on a riverboat.

Two of our members help at a Brownie unit; the guild at Pinoso in Spain has made contact with a new BGIFC Brownie unit that is 'quite' near – well, only about three hours' drive away!

Around the world, members are working hard for their Voyage Award and we are hoping for our first Gold in Gibraltar. In



Pinoso Guild members with a new standard...



...and enjoying their 70th celebrations

TGIFC, contact is maintained by letter or email. Members receive copies of *The Trefoil* and join in activities with UK guilds when they visit the mainland. We have many enthusiastic members, like every UK guild – we just live a long way away, but we can always keep in touch.

Glen Aston Chairman TGIFC



Benelux and France Trefoil Guild at their county training in Luxembourg

Financial report

For the year to 31 December 2015

Overview

Contrary to expectations, the financial result for the year was positive, although the surplus of £19,091 on the unrestricted funds was attributable to two one-off events – the transfer of £6,162 from LINK and the waiving by Girlguiding of the £8,000 levy due to WAGGGS World – plus the exceptional take-up of the Voyage Award resulting in income of £5,203 after costs. Additional comments are below.

Income

Subscription income fell again in 2015, being £4,207 lower than in 2014, but this was partially offset by the increase of £3,322 in investment income.

Expenditure

The major items of expenditure remained employment costs, the magazine and the Annual Meeting. Only employment costs exceeded budget – by £11,000. Following an independent review of pay scales, a significant increase in pay rates was implemented, which also impacted on employer's pension costs. In addition, the services of the temporary member of staff, employed to cover maternity leave, were retained for most of the year.

Designated and restricted funds

The only income is from donations, investments and bank interest and, with the exception of Talking Trefoil, the only expenditure relates to payment of grants.

Investments

Despite a highly volatile stock market,

which peaked in the summer only to fall back by the year end, there was a small increase – £4,656 – in the total value of our portfolio at 31 December 2015.

Conclusion

Across all funds, the gain in investments boosted the surplus to £25,443, which has been added to the reserves. These now total £622,084; £423,921 relates to unrestricted funds, which are used to run the Trefoil Guild, and £198,163 to the designated and restricted funds.

Anne Worswick,
Treasurer



Trustees' statement

The enclosed figures are a summary of information from the Annual Report of Trefoil Guild. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of our financial affairs. For further information, the full annual accounts (which have been subject to an independent examination) and the Annual Report of the Trustees of Trefoil Guild should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from Trefoil Guild, Girlguiding, 17-19 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0PT.

Pat Downer, For
and on behalf of
the Trustees



Financial statement

For the year ended 31 December 2015

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2015 Total Funds £	2014 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies					
Donations	710	879	1,004	2,593	4,730
LINK	6,162	-	-	6,162	-
Investments					
Bank interest	526	68	88	682	573
Investment income	9,121	325	4,163	13,609	9,183
Charitable activities - unrestricted					
Membership subscriptions	211,557	-	-	211,557	215,764
Members' activities & services provided	21,606	-	-	21,606	23,446
Members' Gathering	40,888	-	-	40,888	-
Total	290,570	1,272	5,255	297,097	253,696
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds					
Investment managers, fees	2,787	99	1,284	4,170	2,841
Charitable activities					
Grants payable	22,029	186	2,105	24,320	25,539
Members' Gathering	40,888	-	-	40,888	(159)
Members' activities and services	169,317	-	1,157	170,474	187,702
Subscriptions	800	-	-	800	780
Governance costs	35,658	-	-	35,658	29,980
Total	271,479	285	4,546	276,310	246,683
Net Income/(expenditure)	19,091	987	709	20,787	7,013
TRANSFERS					
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
	19,091	987	709	20,787	7,013
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/LOSSES					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	1,503	104	3,049	4,656	10,494
Net movement in funds	20,594	1,091	3,758	25,443	17,507
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward	403,327	33,034	160,280	596,641	579,134
Total funds carried forward	423,921	34,125	164,038	622,084	596,641

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with in the statement of financial activities. All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2015

	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	-		-	
Investments	431,696		427,040	
		431,696		427,040
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock	2,527		3,141	
Debtors	12,261		25,028	
Cash at bank and in hand	200,265		179,890	
Total current assets	215,053		208,059	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(24,665)		(38,458)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)		190,388		169,601
Net assets/(liabilities)		622,084		596,641
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Restricted funds		164,038		160,280
Unrestricted funds		458,046		436,361
Total charity funds		622,084		596,641

Directory of Executive Committee

Mrs Liz Burnley, President
Mrs Pat Downer, National Chairman
Mrs Kim Clegg, Honorary Treasurer
Mrs Valerie Le Valliant, Chief Guide
Mrs Jean Kelly, Anglia Chairman
Mrs Sarah Little, LaSER Chairman
Mrs Eirlais Tomkins, Midlands Chairman
Mrs Jackie Dickenson, North East England Chairman
Mrs Aileen Higgs, North West England Chairman
Mrs Eileen Martin, Scotland Chairman
Mrs Val Sewell, South West England Chairman
Miss Hilary Richardson, Ulster Chairman
Mrs Vivienne Grant, Wales Chairman
Mrs Annette Bond, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Mrs Judy Ellis, International Adviser
Mrs Ann Hall, Programme & Development Adviser
Mrs Pauline Merchant, Public Relations Adviser
Mrs Hazel Barkworth, Elected Council Member
Mrs Muriel Rayner, Elected Council Member
Mrs Raye Wyllie, Elected Council Member

Council members

Mrs Jean Mullane, Anglia
Mrs Hazel Barkworth, LaSER
Mrs Muriel Rayner, Midlands
Mrs Jackie Walker, North East England
Mrs Sue Dutton, North West England
Mrs Raye Wyllie, Scotland
Mrs Jane Wilson, South West England
Mrs Karen Cochrane, Ulster
Mrs Linda Hill-Tout, Wales

National Appointments

Mrs Jo Taylor, Editor, *The Trefoil*
Mrs Frances Parrett, Deputy Editor, *The Trefoil*
Mrs Glen Aston, TGIFC
Mrs Doreen King, Talking Trefoil

Staff

Mrs Marie Burgess, PA to the National Chairman and Office Manager
Mrs Charlotte Anslow, Trefoil Guild Administrator

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Get out and about in 2017

A small selection of events on offer at our Activity Centres

3 April and
17 September 2017

Royal Parks Rambles - A self-guided London tour and a tasty cream tea at ICANDO.

ICANDO

16 April 2017

Easter Fair - Fun for the whole family - activities, crafts and an egg hunt.

Foxlease

17 April 2017

Easter Fun Day - Egg hunt, crafts, stalls and adventurous activities for all.

Waddow
Hall

23 July 2017

Open Day - Foxlease's annual open event - everyone welcome.

Foxlease

12-19 August 2017

Family Week - Stay at Blackland Farm with your family and take part in the on-site activities.

Blackland
Farm

16-17 September
2017

Waddow Hall's Big Birthday Bash - Celebrate 90 years with fizz, food, fun and more.

Waddow
Hall

Blackland Farm, Sussex - 01342 810 493, www.blacklandfarm.org.uk
Foxlease, Hampshire - 02380 282 638, www.foxlease.org.uk
ICANDO, London - 020 7592 1818, www.icando.org.uk
Waddow Hall, Lancashire - 01200 423186, www.waddow.org.uk



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Foxlease, Hampshire

- * Festive meals
- * Two-course meal £21.99 per person
- * Three-course meal £26.99 per person
- * Buffet £7-12 per person

Selected festive events

- * Tinsel turkey and shopping weekend, 2-4 December, from £169 per person
- * Victorian Christmas Show weekend, 9-11 December, from £175.50 per person

For more information, and to book, please contact Foxlease: 023 8028 2638

Email: foxlease@girlguiding.org.uk
www.foxlease.org.uk



Waddow Hall, Lancashire

Festive meals

- * Two-course meal £18.50 per person
- * Three-course meal £22.50 per person

Selected festive events

- * Baubles and Ballroom, 2 December, £29.95 per person
- * Christmas Tree Festival, 11-17 December, £1.50 per person

For more information and to book, contact Waddow Hall: 01200 423 186
Email: waddow@girlguiding.org.uk
www.waddow.org.uk

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Blackland Farm



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- En-suite, self-catering and camping available.
- Organised breaks available including a variety of craft and hobby workshops.

Foxlease



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Registered charity number 306016.

Waddow Hall

- In the beautiful Ribble Valley.
- A variety of on-site activities from archery, kayaking and climbing to orienteering, pond-dipping and croquet.
- En-suite, self-catering and camping available.
- Organised breaks available including a variety of activities and workshops.

Waddow Hall



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Registered charity number 306016.