

# NSGF UK NEWS

Newsletter No. 4  
May 2013

## Newsletter of the National Scout and Guide Fellowship United Kingdom.

### National Scout and Guide Fellowship

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm**

The first Annual Meeting was held in the pleasant surroundings of Malvern on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The Chairman, Alan Beavis OBE, welcomed everyone, including Delysia Barker, Secretary Midlands Region Trefoil Guild and GirlGuiding, Worcestershire County President, and Katharine Diver, Western Europe member of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship Europe Region Cttee. Highlighted in the Annual Report was the approval by the ISGF World Committee of the organisation's amended constitution and that members had represented the UK at five international events during the past year, including a large group at the West Europe Gathering in Cork, Ireland.

The Chairman challenged members to, promote the International Fellowship within the wider community and facilitate and promote the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the ISGF on the 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2013.

Before the meeting members had attended annual general meetings of the two organisations within the National Scout and Guide Fellowship, The Baden Powell Guild and the Scout and Guide Fellowship.

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### Baden-Powell Guild of Gt. Britain AGM

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – 11.15am**

The Methodist Church Hall, Somers Park Avenue, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 1SE

The President, Derek Elton, opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the lovely county of Worcestershire. He then talked about "Achievements". The Chairman, David Harbach spoke about 'Tradition' and 'Change', the Guild has made many changes whilst keeping its traditions.

He then presented the Chairman's Cup and several 'Thanks' Certificates. The Secretary, Allan Page reported there were no elections due this year and thanked everyone for sending in their returns and subs promptly. He also thanked Garth Harbach for his work on keeping the web site up to date. The Treasurer, Peter Skilton reported that we had ended the year about £300 up and proposed that subs remain at £8.50. The Editor, Pat Parks, thanked everyone for their contributions to the magazine. Jane Wardropper gave a report on the work of the NSGF over the past year. Dorking branch have offered to host the next AGM on **Saturday 12th April 2014**. The AGM was followed by an excellent lunch and visits to Gt. Malvern Priory Church and Malvern Museum. In the evening members relaxed with a very successful game of Skittles.

### Scout and Guide Fellowship AGM

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 - 11.30am**

Elim Conference Centre, De Walden Road, West Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 4EF

The SAGF held their **inaugural gathering** from 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at the Elim Conference Centre in the beautiful Malvern Hills. During a weekend of **excellent food and refreshments** members enjoyed formulating plans for the future and how best to further the aims and ideals of this unique organisation.

The **first SAGF AGM** was held on Saturday morning, and in the afternoon everyone went to support the UK National Scout and Guide Fellowships annual meeting. The evening was spent with members of the Baden-Powell Guild playing **Skittles at a local Inn**, great fun, especially for Margaret McColm who managed to walk off with the ladies prize in spite of having never played before!

The weekend included **discussion time** with the opportunity for everyone to contribute ideas for the way forward. Future events both here and abroad were discussed and a **gathering for next year** is in the planning stages. Details of this and all forthcoming events will be on the website and in a **SAGF Newsletter** which will be published in early October.

The Elim Centre proved to be a most interesting and appropriate venue as it used to be St James's girls school where both of **Lord and Lady Baden-Powell's daughters** were educated. In the extensive grounds there is a two storey summer house called '**The Chiefs Shelter**' where, from 1928, B-P used to stay when visiting the girls, while a plaque on the wall of the extension to the main building commemorates the fact that he laid the **foundation stone** in 1934.

A tunnel runs, through solid rock, under the road connecting two parts of the original school and there are signatures at each end over the entrances –

**Olave Baden Powell 1930** at the Western end when it was opened and **Baden-Powell of Gilwell 1930**, at the Eastern end when it was completed and finally approved for the school's use in November 1930.

(What better example could there be of Scout and Guide fellowship!)

**If you are interested in following more footsteps of the founder, watch this space and join us for our next Gathering in 2014.**

#### NSGF UK JNC (Joint National Committee) Members

Chairman – Alan Beavis, SAGF

Vice Chairman – Jane Wardropper, BPG

International Sec. – Sue Page, BPG

Treasurer – Peter Short, SAGF

Liz Aveston – Committee Member, SAGF

Allan Page – Committee Member, BPG

## 5<sup>th</sup> European Workshop

A successful workshop organised by the European Committee, was held at a Youth Hostel looking out over the Lake at Wandlitzee during five snowy days in March. There were representatives from 17 Countries among the 40+ participants. Also present were Nana Gentimi, Vice President of ISGF & Harald Kesselheim World Committee Member.

It was recognised that the same challenges were present in many NSGFs & that a major one, was that of recruiting new members. Olav Balle shared how Norway was facing the situation. The aim of their work was visibility, using the Guild Magazine, booklets, & helping in the community both at home and abroad. At Jamborees they provide a 'Hotel Service' for overnight visitors. The relevance of Education & Training and a suitable programme for members based on the ideals of Scouting and Guiding as found in the Laws was stressed. New members had a specific welcoming ceremony.

Harald reminded everyone of the structure and tasks of the World Committee & spoke about the plans for 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations to be held in Geneva. During this event it is hoped to have a link up of groups using Skype. Nana continued the Training theme talking about the new 'Training Kit' and sharing its development so far. A day was spent visiting Berlin and members of the German Guilds acted as tour guides.

Leny Doleman explained that the "business card" of an organisation was its web site & talked about the organisation & practical day to day management of the site. We were challenged in groups to produce a Home Page for a site, the amount of work required; just for a paper mock up astounded everyone. Points emphasised were the need to keep text simple & concise also the ideal size for photographs. These should be in JPEG format and 300dpi which is 640X480 pixels. It was suggested that before sending them unnecessary material should be cropped and the brightness / contrast checked using a "picture manager" programme. This practical session generated much discussion and a great deal of fun, by the end we all agreed that visibility was very important

The Austrian initiative of providing a Certificate Course for Guild Masters and Mistresses was shared by Hans Slanec. This course lasts over a period of approximately 2 years and had different modules, covering a range of topics from the history & traditions of Scouting/Guiding to management techniques.

In conclusion a very stimulating workshop with time to talk to the other participants and learn about the challenges facing their NSGFs and the high points in the past year.

### **The International Secretary has the following for Sale**

Metal, pin ISGF Badges @ £2 each

Stick on Car Badges @ 50p each

Tie Clip @ £7.50 each

These prices include postage

(Please make cheques payable to NSGF UK)

### **NSGF UK WEB SITE**

The NSGF Web site, [www.nsgf.org.uk](http://www.nsgf.org.uk) is now up and running. Please have a look and let us know what you think. We are urgently in need of material for the photo gallery, please send in the first instance to [alanbeavis@bsel.org.uk](mailto:alanbeavis@bsel.org.uk) or [alanbeavis@btinternet.com](mailto:alanbeavis@btinternet.com).

## New Secretary General

Cecile Bellet has been appointed by the World Committee as the new ISGF Secretary General. She is in the office part time for 4 days a week. A letter offering our Congratulations and wishing her well in her new post was sent by the International Secretary on behalf of all members of the NSGF UK.

### FUTURE ISGF EVENTS

#### 2013

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference, Sweden

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Gathering

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ISGF

#### 2014

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: 27<sup>th</sup> World Conference, Sydney, Australia

#### 2015

28<sup>th</sup> Nordic/Baltic Gathering, Denmark

26<sup>th</sup> Western Europe Gathering, Belgium

4<sup>th</sup> South American Gathering, Argentina

14<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Gathering, Bangalore, India

Sept 23-27 - 8<sup>th</sup> Central Europe Gathering, Austria

October - 15<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Gathering, Marrakech

**Please do not forget to let the International Secretary know when you are attending international events.**

### **International Donation Fund**

The NSGF has an International Donation Fund, funded by donations from members.

This was set up following the disaster in Haiti when ISGF put out an appeal for funds to be channelled through them to give to the Scout & Guides in Haiti to replace buildings and equipment lost in the earthquake. Members felt it would be a good idea to keep a small fund from which immediate donations could be made to International Scout & Guide projects, particularly those recommended by the ISGF World Committee. **Thank you** to those of our members who have already included a donation in with your subscription, if you did not do so this year, it is not too late or you could include a small amount in with your subscription next year.

### **Europe Region Project**

On 30<sup>th</sup> April Alan Beavis, Martine Levy, (from Paris) and I attended a very useful and comprehensive meeting at the London Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) concerning a project for Refugee Children. We hope to be able to give details of the project in the near future. During the meeting Martine reminded us of the very successful project undertaken by the French members of ISGF to provide toys for Syrian Refugee children in Turkey, there is a report on the ISGF web site.

Did you know that Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June is International Refugee Day? Why not find out more about the needs of Refugee children by visiting [http:// www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) the web site is good and useful information can be found in the News and the Resources sections.

Jane Wardropper

**Any contributions for the next edition by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 please to Sue Page: [sue.page3@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.page3@btinternet.com)**