



Annual Review 2012

Together we can change our world



Bequests

Did you think of leaving a legacy to the Irish Girl Guides?

About 350,000 women have been members of the Irish Girl Guides since 1910. If even a very few of these had bequeathed a little to us, perhaps as a 'thank you' for the benefits they received in their time in Guiding, what a difference it would make to the service we can provide for our Guides now.

Your bequest, whatever its size, will help us give our members of the future opportunities to develop as better citizens of the world through our Guiding Programme.



The Irish Girl Guides gratefully acknowledges
National Lottery Funding for the year 2012

THE MISSION OF THE IRISH GIRL GUIDES IS TO ENABLE GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TO DEVELOP TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS OF THE WORLD.

Our vision is that every member of the Irish Girl Guides has a sense of ownership in, and feels proud to belong to, a modern, growing and inclusive organisation that empowers and gives confidence to girls and young women through a fun, educational programme.

Aims and Objectives

The Irish Girl Guides provides an environment where girls and young women from all backgrounds can grow in self-confidence and develop a variety of skills in an unpressurised atmosphere. Through a variety of activities girls and young women are encouraged to:

- develop leadership skills
- develop a knowledge and understanding of spiritual values in their daily lives
- be involved in decision making
- learn practical indoor and outdoor skills
- participate in the international aspects of Guiding
- behave responsibly in upholding the laws of the country
- be aware of and care for the needs of others
- appreciate and use environmental sources responsibly



The Irish Girl Guides are part of a worldwide movement of 10 million girls and young women.

Ladybird Guides are aged from 5-7 years. They follow a programme full of fun which helps them to:

- become more independent
- learn to care and share
- discover the world around them
- learn about the family of Guiding to which they belong
- take part in activities, including songs and games

Brownie Guides are aged from 6½-11 years. They follow a programme of interest, fun and variety which:

- encourages self-development and thoughtfulness towards others
- introduces the girls to the international family of Guiding
- teaches respect for cultures and religions different from their own
- develops team work and sharing

Guides are aged from 10½-15 years. They follow a programme of challenges which equips them to:

- have fun through adventure
- offer voluntary service to Guiding and the community
- enjoy the out-of-doors
- learn practical skills
- participate in the international aspect of Guiding
- develop their own spirituality and respect other cultures and religions

Ranger Guides are aged from 14½-21 years. The programme for the girls' self development is based on:

- fun and adventure
- service to the community
- outdoor activities
- international opportunities
- spirituality
- craftwork

Flexibility with the programme is of prime importance and the girls set their own pace and syllabus within the Unit.

Young Leaders are aged from 15-18 years. Leadership skills are developed through working with Ladybird, Brownie and Guide Units, thus helping the girls to grow in self-confidence to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Adult Leaders are over 18 years of age. They have an interest and enthusiasm in working with young people and are prepared to give some time on a regular basis. Trainings are provided on:

- leadership skills/confidence building
- programme ideas
- environmental issues
- international opportunities
- psychology of the child
- values of Guiding

Leadership is voluntary, rewarding, challenging, fun and a way of making new friends

Trefoil Guild are former members of the Irish Girl Guides who have given up active Guiding but want to enjoy the fun and fellowship of the Guide Movement. Each Guild has its own programme of activities and members retain their links with international and local Guiding.

Who's Who in the Irish Girl Guides

National President	Maureen Dillon
Chief Commissioner	Emer O'Sullivan
Assistant Chief Commissioners	Finola Dunne and Pat O'Brien
National Programme & Training Commissioner	Sheila Linden/Evelyn Hayes
Assistant Programme & Training Commissioner	Mary Clooney
National Treasurer	Evelyn Hayes/Cathy Thewlis
Chairman of Finance	Margaret Dunne
International Commissioner	Theresa McCarthy
Assistant International Commissioner	Nonie Hickey
Chairman of Public Relations	Catherine Noone
Chairman Trust Corporation	Nuala Cooke
Chairman Membership	Aisling O'Halloran
Grant Secretary	Hazel Convery
Equality Diversity and Inclusion	Ruth Hughes
Chief Executive Officer	Linda Peters

Regional Commissioners

North West Region	Geraldine Kiely
North East Region	Olwyn Williamson
West and Central Midlands Region	Therese Joyce
Mid West Region	Anne Lillis
Eastern Region	Amanda O'Sullivan
South West Region	Rosemary O'Driscoll
South East Region	Celestine Fennessy

Chairmen National Committees

Ladybird Guides	Sharon Flynn
Brownie Guides	Martina Fox
Guides	Pat O'Brien
Senior Branch	Jenny Gannon
Constitution	Claire Colfer
Adult Training and Outdoors	Sylvia Richardson
National Memorial Cottage	Joan Gregg

Representatives

National Women's Council of Ireland	Kay Gallagher
National Youth Council of Ireland	vacant
Irish Trefoil Guild National Council	Hannah Keating

Greetings to Everyone

A new century of the Irish Girl Guides began in 2012, with continued growth in membership all over the country. Following the success of our Centenary we used the energy and enthusiasm to keep the momentum going into 2012.

In February we launched the GAT Pack which contains activities on the Millennium Development Goals for all age groups. April saw IGG have a special visit to Áras an Uachtaráin. Again, all age groups participated in the visit, from Ladybirds to adults. President Higgins told us that his daughter had been a member in Galway in her youth.

IGG took over Lough Key Forest Park in July 2012 for CAMP 101. What an experience that was for so many of our members. We were joined at the camp by WAGGGS members from 15 different countries, and the site I was on had the privilege of hosting a group from Sri Lanka. While the withdrawal from mobile phones was a huge shock to the Irish girls early in the week, by the end of the week it was amazing to see all the girls enjoying themselves and chatting to one another without the need for constant technology.

At our National Conference in September IGG launched it's first Strategic Plan and Leaders attended sessions to learn how what they do in their units impacts on the national



Strategic Plan. This training was also brought to each of the Regional Conferences. Our Strategic Plan sets out six Strategic Aims for us to focus on in the next three years. We can't do everything, but what we do, we always do well, so having specific things to focus on is good.

IGG launched a Tagline in 2012 – Giving Girls Confidence. Don't those three words sum up very nicely just what Guiding does for each member, both girl and adult!

Eileen O'Sullivan

Chief Commissioner

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Membership Report 2011/12

Region	Ladybird		Brownies		Guides		YL / Rangers		Adult Leaders		Trefoil Guild		Extra's	Overall Totals	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2012	2011	2012
Eastern	537	588	1414	1411	732	827	96	111	441	453	114	115	28	3334	3533
Mid West	319	339	644	625	238	279	53	62	203	195	16	16	9	1473	1525
North East	321	313	590	616	296	359	34	36	183	176	0	0	7	1424	1507
North West	124	139	258	292	107	100	15	7	85	84	10	9	6	599	637
South East	129	130	286	287	132	145	28	38	96	92	0	12	7	671	711
South West	443	487	1033	1108	540	659	84	83	284	312	29	29	11	2413	2689
WCM	189	188	532	582	319	329	25	31	167	158	10	13	4	1242	1305
TOTALS	2062	2184	4757	4921	2364	2698	335	368	1459	1470	179	194	72	11156	11907

Overview 2012

In September 2012 IGG's first Strategic Plan was launched. Events and activities carried out in 2012 can be considered under each of the six Strategic Aims.

TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS TO IGG

In 2012, IGG's **membership increased** again, thanks to successful promotion of our organisation by our active members.

A-WEAR-ness Day gives members the opportunity to wear their IGG uniforms to school or work, thereby promoting Guiding. IGG members can promote the benefits of belonging and in this way encourage some of their peers to consider joining. Similarly, adults in uniform in the workplace get the opportunity to encourage their colleagues to volunteer and get involved. Many IGG members made the most of this opportunity in 2012.

IGG's Membership Committee used Trefoil News to promote different ways of recruiting members, including the **Cara badge**, by means of which girls encourage their friends to become members of IGG. Leaders whose Units were not at full capacity were encouraged to ask the girls in their Units to bring along a friend in the hope that they would subsequently join.

TO MAINTAIN RELEVANCE TO GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN THROUGH THE PROGRAMME

Progress was made during the year on the review of the programmes for all Branches to ensure that they are age-appropriate and relevant to today's girls. In addition, a new **Global Action Theme (GAT)** was launched and sent to the Leader of each Unit. The GAT Pack contains a wide range of activities for Leaders to carry out with their girls on each of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



MDGs were the central focus of IGG's international camp, **CAMP 101** held in Lough Key Forest Park in July, the theme of which was **"Together we can change our world"**. Every activity carried out during the camp was based on this theme, as a result of which girls learned how it is possible for each of them to make a difference to the world around them.

Senior Branch members took part in the **Senior Branch Challenge** throughout the year when they were asked to complete ten challenges from a long list of activities ranging from self-defence to mental health to dealing with conflict, all of which are relevant to them.

TO IMPROVE CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION THROUGHOUT IGG AND WITH ITS STAKEHOLDERS

IGG made every effort to consult with its members during the year on a range of topics. A **weekly email** was introduced so that every Leader with an email address is guaranteed to receive information and news re opportunities on a regular basis.

Programme Review surveys were sent out so that members of all ages, as well as their parents and Leaders, could comment on what activities they liked in the current IGG programmes. It was very gratifying to read the results, especially those of the girls' parents who complimented the organisation and its Leaders. Members were also consulted on IGG's website and the results of the **website survey** will be fed into the design of a new IGG website.

Guides, Senior Branch members and Leaders were given the opportunity to evaluate the new uniforms. Results of the **uniform evaluation** were considered by the Executive Committee, as a result of which several recommendations were followed up on.



One way to help members to communicate the benefits of Guiding was the introduction of a **Tagline for IGG**. Members were asked to send in their ideas for a new Tagline, as a result of which it was agreed that **"Giving girls confidence"** summed up what IGG is all about.

TO EMPOWER FEMALE LEADERS TO GAIN RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS

IGG Leaders were given many opportunities to gain Guiding qualifications during the year. At both the **Branch Weekend** in February and the **National Conference** in September a wide variety of training topics and workshops were included. By attending such national events and networking with their counterparts from other parts of the country, Leaders are encouraged to take the next rung in the ladder to gain e.g. their Trainer Bar, camping qualifications or FETAC certificates.

Commissioner trainings were held in several parts of the country so that the District and Area Commissioners would have the knowledge and skills appropriate to their roles. A **training for Regional Commissioners** was also held, thereby ensuring that they are confident in carrying out their responsibilities.

Several trainings were held during the year to ensure that Leaders gained the appropriate outdoor qualifications. **Regional Training camps** ensured that Leaders gained the qualifications necessary to take girls camping and these were subsequently put to use at **CAMP 101**. A **Hill walking training weekend** was also held when participants learned how to take members on way-marked paths in the hills safely.

FETAC courses continued to be held so that Leaders could gain qualifications and get accreditation for the work they carry out in their local Units. Modules run in 2012 were "Guiding Module Level 5" and "Working with Young People Level 5". Leaders who had already gained FETAC certificates in "Young People in Society" and "Understanding Youth Work" through IGG were thereby able to add to their youth work qualifications.

TO RETAIN MEMBERS AND ENCOURAGE PROGRESSION WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION

IGG's Membership Committee published an article in Trefoil News giving a range of ideas of how to **recognise volunteers** in the hope that they would stay longer in the organisation if their contribution was acknowledged. IGG's local **support system for Leaders** was also promoted so that Leaders learned where to turn to for help, should they need it.

Many events were held to train, motivate and encourage Senior Branch members to stay involved in the organisation in the hope that they will become the Leaders of tomorrow. They were trained to act as **Activity Staff at CAMP 101** at which they took on leadership roles for the different activities being run for the Guides. Attendance at the national **Senior Branch weekend** and international events such as **Roverway** also encouraged the adolescent age group to progress within the organisation.

The fact that **Ladybirds and Brownies were invited to visit CAMP 101** at which some of them camped overnight, meant that these girls were given a taste of an international camp and thereby encouraged to stay involved in the organisation.

TO DEVELOP EXTERNAL PR AND TO SHOWCASE IGG AS AN ADVOCATE FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN IRELAND

IGG received press coverage for many of its events and activities during the year. Some members took part in the **Dublin City Marathon** as a result of which they raised funds to bring a group of girls from India to **CAMP 101**. The camp itself received excellent media coverage.

IGG members visited President Higgins in **Áras an Uachtaráin** on 10th April and received very good press coverage as a result. Media coverage of IGG members out and about was also obtained for e.g. A-WEAR-ness Day, Thinking Day, St. Patrick's Day and the annual trip to the Gaiety Panto, at all of which events a positive image of Guiding was promoted.

The organisation also got involved in some topical campaigns during year e.g. **Turn Off the Red Light** and the **Children's Rights Referendum** so that the public were made aware that Guiding is more than just knots and bandages. Having a **Tagline** and **Vision** for the organisation meant that members advocating for IGG had consistent messages to promote.



Branch Reports

Ladybird Guide Branch

2012 got off to an energetic start at **Branch Weekend** held at the Green Isle Hotel Dublin on 10th/12th February. Leaders from 15 Units attended trainings on "Bringing the Outdoors Inside" and Action Songs for Ladybirds. There were also trainings on our new **GAT Badge** which was officially launched by Minister Joe Costello.

On 10th April four Ladybirds and their Leaders were honoured to meet President Michael D Higgins at **Áras an Uachtaráin** – a wonderful experience and a day that will be remembered for many years to come.

CAMP 101 was the biggest event of the year and Ladybirds certainly got involved as best as they could! The CAMP 101 organising team provided a piece of bunting for every Ladybird to draw her idea of how "Together we can Change our World" – the completed bunting festooned the tower at Lough Key during the International Camp. The Ladybird colouring competition was camping based in keeping with the CAMP 101 theme. The winning entries from Cork, Kildare, Mayo, Meath and Tipperary were displayed in the Visitors Centre at Lough Key.

On 7th July 91 Ladybirds visited CAMP 101 taking part in activities from the GAT Pack and having their first look inside real tents. "Thank You" to the C.O.'s, Guides and site staff for the warm welcome.

The **Ladybird/Brownie Action Song DVD** was recorded over the summer and premiered at National Conference in September.

To celebrate the Olympics all units received a special pack (including Gold medals) to run their own **Ladybird Olympic meeting**.

The **Health Promotion Book** was updated and the **Ladybird Disability Awareness Badge** syllabus was sent to all Units in October.

Thank you to all Ladybird Leaders – always ready to go, willing to do and happy to help.

Brownie Guide Branch

2012 saw the start of another action packed Guiding year for all our Brownies and their Leaders. The year started with the presentation of the prizes for the **Scrapbook Competition** which had taken place the year before.

Branch Weekend saw many new Brownie Leaders joining in the fun and learning lots of new ideas to bring back to their Units. Some who had never attended before said they felt like a real part of the Guiding family. The weekend helped them to make new friends, meet up with old friends and left them with many happy memories.

March saw all Units receive a pack in the post on hosting a **Brownie Olympics**. This was received with glee and many Units joined together for the event or even invited local Cubs and Beavers. The specially designed Brownie Olympic badges sold out quickly and a new batch had to be reordered. These too sold out.



May 2013 saw the introduction of the **Poster and Slogan Competition**. This too was very well received with Brownies from many Units participating. The posters were inventive and colourful. The slogans were great with "Imagination and fun gets a Brownie's job done" being the eventual winner amongst those under 9 years old and "Make new friends and turn your frown upside down" being the winner for the over 9 year olds. These winners were decided during the summer and prizes were delivered by Regional Brownie Branch representatives.

During the early summer many Brownies joined the international camp (**CAMP 101**) for an overnight taste of camping and even more visited on the Saturday. The excitement and enthusiasm can still be felt in many Brownie Units.

During the summer months Ladybirds and Brownies joined together to produce an '**Action Song DVD**' which, while it was hard work, was well received and worthwhile.

Autumn brought the first round in the **National Brownie Table Quiz**. Most Units completed this first level (the Unit round) of the quiz and the Unit winners will go on to represent their Units at Area and Regional finals and maybe the National Final.

Finally, Autumn brought more of our Leaders together for training at the **National Conference** where much was learned and new ideas passed on to all Branch members.

All our Brownie Leaders are to be commended on the amount of work they do with the Brownies. So much time is given voluntarily, not only for weekly meetings and planning, but also for outings, Pack Holidays and national events. So we say to them all "Well done, well done, very well done."

Guide Branch

The year got off to a busy start with 45 Leaders attending the **Branch Weekend** for trainings and the opportunity to meet and trade stories with their fellow Leaders. Later in the year, a number of Guide Leaders also attended further training at our **National Conference**.

Guide Interest badges were revamped and the lack of sales of some of these badges were discussed at length. It was agreed that Siorghlas Badges and certificates will not be on sale but will be provided by Guide Branch committee free of charge when girls complete the challenges. We also introduced a new set of twin badges this year – the **Lord and Lady BP** interest badges that nestle together like the yin yang symbol.

62 Guides received their **Gold Award** certificates and pins in the Gresham Hotel in May. These were presented by Councillor Dermot Lacey and IGG President Maureen Dillon. There was a large attendance of Leaders, parents & family members. Well done to all the girls who received this award – the highest award you can earn as a Guide. It was agreed that, going forward, May was not suitable for the presentation of Gold Awards. Every Region was asked to discuss this and get feedback from the Guide Units. As a result the Gold Awards will be presented in September in future.

A **Rep Pack** was given to all Regional reps so that they would all have access to the same correct information to help run the Branch. This will help Regional reps to give guidance and assistance to any Leaders with questions.

All the Guides were given the opportunity to complete a **Guide Uniform survey** to evaluate the new Guide uniform and Guide Branch helped in the compilation of these results.

Guide Branch ran a **photography competition** in 2012, the winners of which were Scarlet Pimpernel Patrol, Wicklow Guide Unit & Rachel Conlon, Mullagh Guide Unit. The winners received a prize for themselves personally plus a reward for their Unit.

We had a busy year in 2012 with many Guide Units attending **CAMP 101** and we would like to say well done to all the Leaders who put time into attaining their Outdoor qualifications so that they could take the girls camping. It was a great week and the girls will have memories from it for years.

Planning is already underway for 2013/2014 and all the fun things that Guide Branch have in store. We would like to thank all the Guide Branch reps, past and present, who have worked hard on projects that benefit the Guides; we'd also like to thank NPT and the staff at National Office for their help and support.

Senior Branch

Once again Senior Branch had a jam-packed year, the highlight of which has to have been **CAMP 101** and the Pre-Camp Challenge and the outstanding role Senior Branch members played in making the camp such an overwhelming success.

Over 250 **Senior Branch activity staff** managed to keep all the Guides smiling while also having a few laughs themselves and creating lifelong friendships and memories. The **Pre-Camp Challenge** was also a resounding success with girls testing themselves in ways they never realised they could – kayaking to an island to spend the night, surviving nights of torrential rain, cooking their own food and meeting new people and making the best friendships.

2012 saw Senior Branchers visit Phoenix Park numerous times, from **visiting the President** twice over to celebrating the first **Senior Branch 18th Birthday Party** in Dublin Zoo. This event will hopefully aid the transition from child to adult in our association and we look forward to many more birthday parties in the future with our Senior Branchers that are turning 18.

A **Funday** was held in September in Dublin where the girls enjoyed reuniting with many of the friends they had made at CAMP 101. They travelled around Dublin City both on land and on water as they went on the Viking Splash Experience. This was followed by Laughter Yoga where the girls giggled, chuckled and sniggered their way to finding their inner calm, a great way to help some of them in the year ahead while preparing for exams.

The year came to a close for Senior Branch in Mount Mellary with over 100 girls and leaders attending a Salmon of Knowledge themed **Senior Branch November Weekend**. Girls were treated to a weekend of fun activities such as Indoor Rock Climbing, Zip Lining and recycled artwork. The girls displayed their creativity on Saturday night taking the disco theme of Irish Myths and Legends to heart and the outfits on display were out of this world. The weekend culminated with the awarding of the biannual **Senior Branch Challenge Cup** to a deserving Lucan team.

After such a successful 2012 we cannot wait to see what 2013 holds.



Around the Regions

●●● Eastern Region

2012 was another busy year for Eastern Region. The dedication of the volunteer Leaders at all levels in the Region made this possible. At the end of the year the Regional team said goodbye to Amanda O'Sullivan as Regional Commissioner after 6 years in this position. Anne McPartland was voted in as new Regional Commissioner and we wish her every success.

Along with regular weekly meetings, day trips, overnight events and international trips; there were also a large number of Regional, national and International events that were attended by girls and Leaders from Eastern Region e.g. Garden Party at Áras an Uachtaráin, Roverway 2012, Girls World Forum and Juliette Low seminar.

New qualifications were gained by Leaders from warrant awards to indoor and outdoor qualifications. Sylvia Richardson, Outdoor Advisor, was kept very busy coordinating and carrying out these outdoor assessments. At the start of 2012 we said goodbye and Bon Voyage to Gillian Finan, Regional Development Officer. In September Rebecca O'Halloran started as a Regional Development Officer with Eastern Region, to work alongside Mary Clarke, supporting existing and new Leaders and Units.

Many **Regional events** were planned and attended by a great number of girls and Leaders:

- Captainball day for girls and an evening for Leaders
- Brownie Fun day in Mellows Adventure Centre was held over 2 days to accommodate numbers
- Ladybird Day out to Newbridge House and Farm
- Swimming Gala
- Leader Hike
- 13+ weekend
- Dart Treasure Hunt
- Brownie Science Fun Day
- Senior Branch (ER Ducks) Halloween Fun evening
- Camp Skills Training / Refresher Day
- Spring Training
- Regional Conference
- Introduction of Pop up Trainings, with the first held in October

CAMP 101 had 6 sub-camps from Eastern Region (ER) representing 17 Guide Units. Some Brownie Units travelled to visit the camp and have a chance to experience Guide camp for a day. Eastern Region Senior Branch members at CAMP 101 were "ducked" at camp. This was the introduction of the ER duck. By wearing the duck the owner now has the ability to be recognised as an ER Senior Branch member by other ER Senior Branch members.

The revamped **Beech Cottage and campsite** which is located near Edenderry, Co. Offaly welcomed its first guests in February 2012. The official re-opening also took place the same weekend. This was a great afternoon of celebration and was attended by girls, Leaders and friends who had assisted with the project; by

members of the original cottage committee as well as Emer O'Sullivan, Chief Commissioner and Maureen Dillon, President of IGG. The ribbon to open the new extension was cut simultaneously by a Ladybird, Brownie, Guide and Ranger. The kitchen extension on the camp wet weather shelter was also launched that day, and a plaque in memory of Stella Sullivan was placed in the camp kitchen to commemorate her and the donation from the sale of 'Stella's field'. An open afternoon was held in March to allow Leaders to come and see the fantastic facilities that are now available.

Eastern Region were well represented at **Roverway** which took place in Finland and the girls gave a presentation on this at the **Regional Conference** in November. Lauren Manning and Aisling O'Boyle also made a presentation on their trip to the **Girls World Forum in Chicago**.



●●● Mid-West Region

Following an exhilarating and busy 2011 celebrating the Irish Girl Guides' centenary, most of our events in 2012 took place at District and Area levels. Girls of all ages and their Leaders were involved in weekly meetings, fun days, overnight trips and camps.

Seven lucky Leaders and Senior Branch members formed part of the IGG contingent who travelled to **Áras an Uachtaráin** to meet President Higgins on April 10th as the final part of WAGGS centenary celebrations. It was an amazing day with long lasting memories.



Hanne Naughton ran a successful **training camp for Leaders** in April and subsequently gained her O.A. qualification. Well done Hanne!

CAMP 101 was the highlight of the year with Ladybirds from the Region attending for the day, Brownies camping overnight on the Friday evening and 4 sub-camps of Guides and Leaders camping for the week. We also had many other Senior Branch members and Leaders volunteering for activity and central staff.

A special moment occurred at camp when all past and present Regional Commissioners from the Mid-West Region met for the first time. We had been trying to achieve this for some time.

A very successful **Regional Conference** took place in October with the largest turn out for many years. We were honoured with a visit from IGG President, Maureen Dillon who attended for the day and presented long service and outdoor qualification awards to many of our Leaders.

Guide Patrol Leaders gathered in Violet Hill for a weekend of training in October and are now passing on their new skills to the other Guides in their Units. A number of our Leaders actively contributed to the **IGG Strategic Planning and Programme Review committees** which have been on-going at National level.

December saw the **stepping down of Regional Commissioner**, Anne Lillis after 6 years and we welcome her replacement, Pauline Kennedy.

●●● North East Region

The year following on from our centenary celebrations has proved to be just as busy as ever. Our membership has increased and in November we had 21 Guide Units, 28 Brownie Units, 18 Ladybird Units and 3 Senior Branch Units.

CAMP 101 took up a large part of Leaders' time with the preparation involved, but what a success it was! We had five sub-camps from North East with Guides, Senior Branch and Leaders taking part. Some of our Brownies got the opportunity to camp overnight and we had Ladybirds visit and enjoy the experience.

Some of our adult Leaders were able to experience the **international side of Guiding** including travel to Vienna, Chicago and Berlin. We are delighted that one of our Young Leaders, Shauna Flynn, has been selected to represent IGG at the next **Helen Storrow seminar**. Three of our Senior Branch members also travelled to Finland with the **Roverway** contingent.

Congratulations to the seven **Gold Award Guides** we had this year, it is a great achievement.

Throughout the year Units have taken part in many varying activities including cross border links, experiencing homelessness with the Simon Community, spring cleaning with An Taisce, Outdoor Cookery competitions, Pack Holidays, hill walking and pantomimes just to name a few!

We have had **trainings** in the Region for Code of Ethics, Outdoors, Promise and Law, Arts and Crafts as well as Branch specific trainings.

Seven commissioners attended the **Commissioners Training** in National Office and we had a good representation of Leaders at the National Conference in Dublin in September.

Our **Regional Conference** took place in November in Navan and was well attended. It was great to meet many of the new Leaders and get time to renew friendships.

Thanks to all who help maintain our two premises. There were more improvements carried out on **Orchard Cottage** in 2012 and it has been well utilised throughout the year with bookings.

Finally keep up the good work, IGG in North East is continuing to grow and that is all thanks to our Leaders on the ground.

●●● North West Region

2012 was another busy year for the North West Region.

In April, a number of our girls and Leaders had the opportunity to join an IGG delegation on a visit to meet President Michael D Higgins at **Áras an Uachtaráin**. There were two Tireragh Ladybirds, two Belleek Brownies with their Leader Hilary Murphy and two Raphoe Guides with their Leader, Doris Magee. Two Senior Branchers and Geraldine Kiely, Regional Commissioner also attended.





A number of our Leaders (Leona Finan, Susan Garvin, Connie McKeon, Breege O'Hora and Grainne Gallagher) completed the **FETAC Guiding Level 5 Module**. Claire Davenport and Linda Dowling did an excellent job as trainers.

2012 was a great year for camping. **CAMP 101** was a huge success and all Units that camped or attended for the day had a brilliant time.

As well as these National events, lots of local Units celebrated special events and held exciting Area and District level events. **Convoy Brownies** celebrated their 50th Birthday. Mayo Units held an **Area Thinking Day Ceremony** at the Den in Ballina. **Belleek, Moy and Ardagh Brownies** had a joint sleepover. Later in the year **Belleek Brownies** won free train tickets (from the Mooney Goes Wild radio programme) and went to Dublin for the day with **Moy Brownies**. **Ardagh Guides** enjoyed their camp at Mote Park in Roscommon.

A number of new Units started in the North West Region. Early in the year **Claremorris Brownie Unit** was opened. In October, **Sligo Brownie Unit** began at Carraroe after a Taster Day was held. In November, **Castles Ladybird and Brownie Units** were established in Castleconor. All new Leaders have done an excellent job in getting these Units up and running.

The North West **Regional Conference** was held in October, where some of our Leaders received a Leader of the Year award in recognition of all the work they do for Guiding. They were Jackie Lavelle, Siobhan MacHale, Doris Magee, Hilary Murphy, Jennifer Quinn. Our Young Leader of the Year was Sarafina Brogan, Claremorris Brownies.

Finally, Geraldine Kiely was re-elected for her **second term as North West Regional Commissioner** and will continue to represent North West nationally and help support the great work of all in the North West Region.

●● South East Region

In February **World Thinking Day** Ceremonies were held by Districts and Areas with Units gathering together to celebrate the day with members from all Branches.

In April the South East Region was represented at **Áras an Uachtaráin** among the 50 members - Ladybirds, Brownies, Guides, Senior Branch and Leaders - selected from around the country. It was a great honour to meet President Higgins and we were made feel so welcome.

Guides from Carlow travelled to Dublin to receive their **Gold Awards** from the President of the Irish Girl Guides, Maureen Dillon. Castle Guides from Kilkenny attended the County Camp and F.I.A. Challenge which enriched the Guiding experience for all the girls.

Three Guide Units and members of Senior Branch from Carlow, their Leaders and a Leader from Kilkenny travelled to **Switzerland** with Jeka, and gained some invaluable International Guiding experience.



Mount Melleray Scout Centre was the venue used by the Region for several events during 2012, including Pack Holidays by Brownies from Clonmel, **Regional Guide Camp** which Guides from Kilkenny and Clonmel attended and the **National Senior Branch Weekend** was also held there.

CAMP 101 was the main event this year, three Guide Units from Carlow camped for the week in Lough Key Park and Leaders and members of Senior Branch volunteered as Activity Staff for the camp. Margaret Patterson, South East O.A., organised the Overnight Survival event.

Commissioner Trainings were held in September in National Office and the **Regional Conference** was held in Clonmel in November with Branch trainings, air and share sessions, games and craft ideas for all attendees.

The year ended with Ice Skating, Pantos, Sleepovers and Parties for all to celebrate a great Guiding Year. Thanks to all in the Region for all your help and efforts during the year. Without you, Guiding would not be what it is in the South East.

●●● South West Region

South West Region had another busy year in 2012. The Region is delighted to announce the opening of the following **new Units**: Panda Paws Brownies in Cobh, Midleton Ladybirds and Kinsale Senior Branch.

During the year members attended such events as a Founder's Day celebration in Cork, Hey Jinks and Squelch in Farran Woods, Cork. Leaders attended a range of trainings including pre-warrant sessions, child protection, first aid refresher courses. A travelling "roadshow" training visiting Carrigaline, Tralee and Dungarvan saw Brownie Leaders doing many activities for the Science Investigator badge.

An **adult training camp** took place in Kilcully where many Leaders and Senior Branch members took part in training activities to improve their outdoor skills to enable them to work towards their qualifications to bring Brownies and Guides away on overnight events. The Region is delighted to welcome Eithne Downey as a new Outdoor Advisor for the Region.

In May, sixteen Guides from the Region received the great honour of achieving their **Gold Award**. In July about 250 people from the Region got to experience the great magic of **CAMP 101** where they made the hill area of the great tower their home for a week and made many new friends both within the Region and beyond !

The **Regional Conference** was held in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Cork in November. The conference was a great success and it was great to see 101 Leaders attending and being involved so actively in new programme ideas. There was a great buzz in the hotel during the day as Leaders learnt many new activities, games and crafts to share with their Units. Brownie Leaders had great fun dressing in Indian saris; while Guide Leaders learned about the new Baden Powell badges; Ladybird Leaders learned songs from the new Ladybird DVD and Senior Branch had trainings on the role of both Rangers and Young Leaders within IGG .

In December many Ladybirds, Brownies, Guides and Leaders had a great time at the Red Riding Hood panto in Cork and Cinderella panto in Waterford.

●●● West & Central Midlands Region

The highlight of 2012 must be the fantastic **CAMP 101**. We were thrilled it was held west of the Shannon in our Region. Boyle did us proud and the welcome the town gave to the Irish Girl Guides was second to none. The contribution of our Senior Branch girls as Activity Staff and the use of social media and new technologies showed how we continue to progress as a movement.

The eight sub camps from WCM all hosted international visitors and Guides from all over the world saw what we do really well and many new friendships were made. It was also a joy to have Brownies and Ladybirds be part of the experience.

Brownies had their own special day in April when they got in the mood of the summer with their **Brownie Olympics**. 160 Brownies from Galway Area joined together in fabulous sunshine in Renville Park.

Also in April some of our lucky girls were among those chosen to visit **Áras an Uachtaráin**. An Uachtarán himself, Michael D Higgins, was very insistent on being specially photographed with the Galway girls.

Mote Park Cottage got a lovely new web page and is used by 3 Branches for their local weekly meetings.

Congratulations to Denise Mannion and her 6 girls who were the first Clondra Guides to receive **Gold Awards**. They joined Barna and Banagher Guides in the Gresham Hotel in May for the presentation. Clondra also introduced us to the new activity of *geocaching* which is going to become more popular in the future. Ardagh Guides also gave it a go in the summer.

Well done too to **Nicole Coyne**, one of our Young Leaders, who had a wonderful time as a three month volunteer in Our Chalet.

This is only a small snippet of all the activities that took place around the Region. There were also numerous Pack holidays, Ladybird Fun Days, Senior Branch outings, charity fundraisers, etc. It is only with the good will and hard work of our wonderful Leaders that so many girls benefited from all these activities. A great big milliún buíochas libh go léir.



Camp 101

CAMP 101 International Guide Camp was hosted by the Irish Girl Guides from 4th-11th July 2012 in Lough Key Forest Park, Co Roscommon. 1,588 Guides and Leaders from 15 different countries attended this week full of activities, ceremonies and a programme celebrating the theme of "Together we can change our world".

The name CAMP 101 represented the start of a new century of Guiding in Ireland; our 101st year of existence. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Global Action Theme (GAT) is: girls worldwide say "together we can change our world", which focuses on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). IGG adopted this theme as the central theme for CAMP 101 and encouraged members of all ages to make a personal commitment to change the world around them

At the weekend, 1588 campers were joined by 585 Brownies and Ladybirds and on Sunday the CAMP 101 Visitors Day entertained 1,875 visitors with a variety of workshops, activities and entertainment.



CAMP 101 had the following aims (all of which were achieved):

- To provide a fun, once in a life time opportunity for girls to explore their potential to influence the world around them, by integrating the global action theme "Together we can change OUR world" into all aspects of the international camp.
- To showcase the Irish Girl Guides, Lough Key, and the Boyle/Roscommon area to Ireland and the world. The PR achieved by CAMP 101 was excellent with 2FM joining the campers on Sunday 8th July, the Irish Independent and 26,234 visitors to the facebook page during the week. Over 7,000 viewers watched the CAMP 101 ceremonies live on the web during the week.
- To raise awareness about the MDGs and sustainable development with as many members of WAGGGS as possible so that they will have a good understanding of the MDGs and will use this understanding and knowledge to the betterment of their lives and others in their community. The awareness began before CAMP 101 with a pre-camp challenge. All members of IGG took part in the challenge, and contributed to the camp through the provision of coloured bunting from recycled sheets which hung from the Moylurg tower and around the camp village.
- CAMP 101 also gave an opportunity to all those who attended the visitors' day at the camp to learn about the MDGs through practical workshops

The activities during CAMP 101 were based on the theme "Together we can change our world" and were divided accordingly.

- The 'Together' activities were team based activities including Backwoods cooking, Boda Borg, Photo Scavenger Hunt, Survival 101, Together Surprise and Trangia Cooking.
- The 'We Can' activities highlighted the girls' ability to succeed when faced with new challenges and strange situations. Activities included Drama 101, Fun on Water, Night Survival, Pamper Session and Zipit.
- The 'Change' activities gave girls the chance to get off site as well as complete activities in and around the campsite. They focused on the change that the girls could make in their communities and beyond, and in particular on advocacy.
- The 'Our World' activities looked at our 5 WAGGGS regions, Western Hemisphere, Asia Pacific, Arab, Africa and Europe and gave the girls the chance to learn a little about each of them.

There were several ceremonies throughout the week of CAMP 101. The Opening Ceremony got the week off to a great start. Songs and pictures worked together to create the scene that brought them to camp. All the campers were welcomed to camp by the Mayor of Roscommon, Tom Crosby and the Chief Commissioner of the Irish Girl Guides, Emer O' Sullivan. A Guides Own was held on Sunday. This is an opportunity for Guides and Leaders to take time out and reflect on the spiritual dimension of Guiding. The theme was that making a difference only takes one person and that each of us can make an amazing contribution towards making this world a better place. The Closing Ceremony showcased some highlights from the week, and was followed by a closing campfire and a spectacular fireworks display.

Guiding empowers our girls and young women and provides opportunities for them to learn grow and develop. IGG's mission is to enable girls and young women to discover their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. CAMP 101 fulfilled this aim through the activities, the programme, the ambience, the friendships, the things learnt and the togetherness that were seen throughout the week. We believe that each and every participant at CAMP 101 went home empowered to make positive change in her community and beyond, and educated about world citizenship and how "together we can change our world".

CAMP 101 was organised by the IGG who worked in partnership with many others including Coillte, Roscommon County Council, Moylurg Rockingham, Unabhan Tourism Cooperative, Boyle TM, the people and communities of Boyle and surrounding Lough Key. CAMP 101 was a huge success and a testament to people working together for a common goal.

CAMP 101 would not have been possible without the support of our funders including Roscommon Integrated Development Company Ltd, Irish Aid, Trócaire, and many other sponsors.



CAMP101 would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to making it a huge success and especially to their families and friends for their support and encouragement in the three years leading up to it.



Committee Reports

A.T.O.C.

Adult Training and Outdoors Committee started the year off with our **Trainer Bar weekend** in Portlaoise. This was very well attended with 13 trainees plus experienced trainers in attendance to help and advise. We held it as an overnight so the trainees could have a chance to do a training in front of an audience.

We compiled **the Outdoor section of our Warrant** – it includes safety in the outdoors, basic first aid, Leave no Trace and outdoor activities. We also reviewed our new **Trainee Trainer and Mentoring Book**.

Two of our Leaders attended **Mountaineering Ireland's event 'Women with Altitude'** this year. We hope more will attend this annual event next year. This has come about due to our newly formed links with Mountaineering Ireland.

We congratulate **our two new Outdoor Advisors (O.A.s)** Hanne Naughton from Mid West Region and Eithne Downey from South West Region.

We now have 2 new **Leave No Trace Trainers** – Sinead NicGhiolla Phadraig and Emma Crowe, both from Eastern Region.

Numbers were low at our **Trainers' Conference** in October but we had a very good session on **"Public Speaking with Confidence"**. All participants had a chance to stand up in front of an audience and be given constructive criticism to help improve their skills in the future.

In September we had our **Safety in the Hills training** – given by Mountaineering Ireland. We had 16 participants from all over the country. This was an excellent week-end which included two hill walks from our hostel in Donard, Co. Wicklow.



C.I.G.A.

The C.I.G.A committee met on three occasions during the year. It's membership consists of five members of I.G.G. and five members of C.G.I with two representatives of C.G.I. Northern Ireland as observers and two from Girl Guiding Ulster as visitors. The two year term of office for Chairman passes to C.G.I for 2013 and the Secretary from C.G.I., along with the Treasurer from I.G.G., will continue to serve along with the Deputy Chair from I.G.G., thus ensuring continuity for both associations.

C.I.G.A. was represented internationally on 13 occasions in 2012 with our respective International Commissioners working closely together.

Following the Annual General Meeting in November, two Senior Branch members from C.G.I gave a presentation on their Roverway visit and the Senior Branch girls from I.G.G. described their Girls World Forum experience. All four members gave an entertaining and informative presentation leaving their audience in no doubt that the future of Guiding is in safe hands and also giving a very convincing case for the value of international involvement. It is gratifying to see how well the two organisations work together under the C.I.G.A. "umbrella" as members of W.A.G.G.S.

Trefoil Guild

The main event of 2012 for the Trefoil Guilds was **Cois Laoi**. This International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF) West European Gathering took place in Cork. The ISGF provides opportunities for members worldwide to meet others with similar interest and values, as well as cooperating with them with various projects and activities. Elaine O'Connell, organising Committee Chairperson, welcomed all the visitors and Joan Shalvey, IGG Area Commissioner in South West Region also welcomed participants.

The delegates attending the conference experienced Irish culture and heritage with céilí musicians and dancers and took tours to Blarney Castle, Fota House, Cobh Heritage centre, and Cork city itself. They also had a number of key speakers, one of whom was from Cork city charity Share – a charity that helps the elderly living in terrible conditions. A discussion followed on the things ISGF groups did or are doing to show caring and sharing – the theme of the gathering.



Cois Laoi was a great success and was enjoyed by all. Congratulations must be expressed to Elaine O'Connell and to her committee on organising an exemplary event.

Trefoil Guilds also held their regular local events in their own Areas such as table quizzes, talks and charity auctions.

Programme Review

The Programme Review Steering Group had an extremely active 2012. The Programme Review has the ambitious aim to completely renew the programme for all Branches of the Irish Girl Guides.

We started the year by **examining the programmes** of other Guiding and Scouting organizations, both nationally and internationally. We then decided to **survey our members** and a very big THANK YOU to the over 2000 people who responded. The responses came from: Ladybirds 269; Brownies 573; Guides 394; Senior Branch 75; Leaders 342 and Parents 480.

In addition, we held 47 **focus groups** at CAMP 101. Further focus groups were undertaken in the autumn. The results of the surveys and focus groups will ensure that we are responsive to the needs of members when devising the new programme.

'They love it. It is probably the only activity they really want to go to every week without fail' - Quote from a parent

We ran 4 **sessions at the National Conference** in September and participated in the Town Hall event there. Two members of the Steering Group attended the Senior Branch weekend in December and found the feedback from the working groups very informative.

A very successful weekend was held in Avon Rí, Blessington in November to establish the **Task and Finish Groups**. The 8 members of the Steering Group were delighted to be joined by 36 volunteers for the weekend. It was energising to see so many leaders willing to 'roll up their sleeves' to help us develop the new programme. Together we can do it!

P.R.

It was a great year of coverage for the Irish Girl Guides again, both locally and nationally.

In February, Minister Joe Costello launched the new Irish Girl Guides GAT Resource to over 150 IGG Leaders from around the country at Branch Weekend. The photos of the launch were featured in the media.

In April, 50 members of Irish Girl Guides visited Áras An Uachtaráin and presented President Higgins with a centenary Rose and a copy of our history book to commemorate the 100 years of Guiding. It was a fitting end to our centenary celebrations. President Higgins spoke about his daughter who was a member of IGG and he said that through his daughter's experience with the organisation he saw firsthand how Irish Girl Guides are involved in caring for and protecting the environment. Photographs from the day were featured in The Irish Times and The Irish Independent and many local papers.

On May 31st 2012, members of IGG gathered in Bray where they presented a cheque for €9,600 to the C.E.O. of Barnardos, Fergus Finlay. The money was raised by members nationwide throughout our centenary year (2011). This event was featured in many local and regional papers.

The main PR event for IGG in 2012 was CAMP 101. During the week we hosted the 2FM Roadcaster, Irish Independent reporters, local press photographers and CAMP 101 PR went digital with many events from camp being live streamed to audiences worldwide.



On October 11th, we celebrated the first ever International Day of the Girl. The International Day of the Girl creates a foundation to advocate and recognise girls' rights globally. We also supported Plan Ireland by asking each Unit to take and send in a photo of their members putting their "hands up for girls" education. To celebrate the first ever International Day of the Girl, the IGG took on a much younger CEO, Kate Taylor from Christchurch Ladybirds – the photos of Kate's day as C.E.O. featured in regional newspapers.

The Public Relations committee also had a busy training schedule for 2012 with PR sessions at the Branch Day in February and PR training on the techniques for writing a press release at the National Conference in September. In addition to that, the PR committee launched their "2 minutes to be in it" form on IGG's website to help make sending stories into local press a much easier exercise for all.

As usual, IGG had lots of great coverage in **local papers** during the year. Papers covered enrolment ceremonies, Fun Days, World Thinking Day, Gold Awards, Gaisce Awards, A-Wear-Ness Day, National Spring Clean, St. Patrick's Day, Official opening of Beech Cottage, skipathons, cake sales, international trips abroad, new Units, service projects, charity fundraisers and much more. We know Leaders are doing great work and it is nice to let the local community know too.

E.D.I.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee promotes and encourages inclusion in IGG of girls and adults from all walks of life and raises awareness of the difficulties and challenges faced by some members of our wider communities.

At Branch Day in February 2012 the EDI committee ran trainings on Development Education; adapting activities for girls with disabilities and broadening the cultural reach of our programme.

E.D.I. Committee was responsible for running the Human Library activity at CAMP 101. We would like to thank the Trefoil Guild for taking part in this activity. The Guides interviewed 5 human books for 10 minutes in groups of 5/6 and wrote their comments on their library card.

For some groups it seemed difficult at first, however when we explained there was no right or wrong to this activity the Guides started using their imagination. They even returned to some human books again and again, just to hear the Guiding stories.



Membership

2012 was a special year for the Membership Committee, as we celebrated our first birthday ever! We're definitely a young committee, and 2012 was mostly spent trying to find our feet, and look at ways that we can help IGG with recruitment and retention.

Our biggest work in 2012 was trying to **promote IGG's fantastic STARR Booklet** (*Support and Training for Active Recruitment and Retention* – also available on the IGG website) by breaking down different ideas, advice and information in the booklet into smaller chunks and articles for the Trefoil News.

We've been working hard to make sure that Leaders are aware of the **support structure in IGG** (from Area to District, Regional to National) so that they have the help and support they might need as Leaders and volunteers.

At the different **Regional Conferences**, our committee members gave trainings and talks on different ways we can recruit and retain young girls and adult Leaders. Trainings varied, depending on the trainer and time allowed, but the key aspects were to highlight to IGG's Leaders different ways to approach recruiting new members and Leaders into the organisation, and discuss how we can make sure we keep the members we already have.

At the Senior Branch weekend in Mount Mellary, the committee held trainings for all the Senior Branchers on similar topics. We looked at how important it is for Senior Branch members to stay involved wherever they can, and how they can remain with IGG, and promote the fun and friendship the organisation offers.

International Report

As CAMP 101 was the justifiable highlight of the IGG calendar for 2012, a smaller number of groups travelled abroad to camps and World Centres this year. Instead we invited the world to us and were joined by Guides from far and wide. Countries in attendance included Mexico, Sri Lanka, India, Canada, America, Australia and many more.

Groups that did travel abroad enjoyed positive experiences in the UK, Northern Ireland and Switzerland.

Roverway - A contingent of Senior Branch represented IGG at Roverway in Finland. As with past groups, the participants were very pleased with the event reporting a wonderful experience and a great adventure. Contingent leaders were Aisling O'Halloran & Christine Cronin.

Girls World Forum - Girl Scouts USA & WAGGGS held this event from 12th -16th July in Chicago USA. This was the third and final event in a series of forums that were part of the WAGGGS centenary celebrations. Discussions at the forum focused on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Aisling O'Boyle, Aisling Claffey, Lauren Manning attended with chaperone Emer Keogh.



Overtures - Overture network meetings continue to assist Guiding and Scouting Associations in working with diversity and disability inclusion. Sinead Crilly and Christine Cronin attended Overtures in Malta in May.

The International Committee ran two **International Permit Training Days** in March and October.

Go Global took place in the Writers Museum introducing Guides from all over the country to the International aspect of our organisation.

We look forward to 2013 and hope we can assist our members in attending International events, camps, seminars and conferences.

IGG at International Camps and Events 2012

Unit	Leader	Location	Dates	Region	No. of Pax
St Peters Guides	Theresa McCarthy	Pax Lodge, London, UK	Feb 16th - 18th	SW	17
Blackrock Guides	Susanne King	Clink Youth Hostel, London	April 12th - 15th	E	14
St Augustine Guide Company	Jenny Power	Lorne, Belfast	June 29th - July 2nd	SW	26
Raphoe Royal School Guide Co.	Jennifer Quinn	Share Centre, Co. Fermanagh	July 13th - 15th	NW	
Roverway Contingent	Aisling O'Halloran	Finland	July 19th - 30th	National	20
South East Group	Adele Mealey	Adelboden, Switzerland	August 4th - 11th	SE	12
Kilcrea and Kinsale Rangers	Eithne Downey	Pax Lodge, London, UK	Dec 31st - January 3rd	SW	7
Dun Laoghaire Senior Branch	Emma Harvey	Lorne, Belfast	Oct 27th - 29th	E	12
Ballybrack Guides	Lynda Harvey	Lorne, Belfast	Oct 27th - 29th	E	18

IGG Individuals at seminars 2012

Name	Event	Venue	Dates
Máire McInerney	WLDP Greener Future	Sangam, India	March 11th - 21st
Sarah Condren	Helen Storrow Seminar	Our Chalet	March 12th - 20th
Fiona Cantwell	Jump Growth Event	Copenhagen	April 26th - 29th
Christine Cronin	Overtures	Malta	May 3rd - 6th
Sinead Crilly	Overtures	Malta	May 3rd - 6th
Ellen Keady	Euro. Forum on Ed. Methods	Romania	May 28th - June 3rd
Katherine Moore	Euro. Forum on Ed. Methods	Romania	May 28th - June 3rd
Aisling O'Boyle	Girls' World Forum	USA	July 11th - 17th
Lauren Manning	Girls' World Forum	USA	July 11th - 17th
Aisling Claffey	Girls' World Forum	USA	July 11th - 17th
Emer Keogh	Girls' World Forum	USA	July 11th - 17th
Jemma Lee	The Academy	Switzerland	October 25th - 30th
Jenna Goodwin	Juliette Low Seminar	Mexico	November 12th - 17th
Meriel Huggard	ICT Roundtable	Herentals, Belgium	November 22nd-25th
Theresa McCarthy	IC Forum	Athens, Greece	Dec 6th - 9th

Strategic Planning

The Irish Girl Guides has been empowering girls and young women and supporting them to gain new found confidence since 1911. Our organisation has changed often over the years and our programmes and activities have been adapted to ensure that developing our members to their fullest potential has remained a priority.

Our Strategic Plan 2012-2015 will help us to focus on clear objectives, to make the best decisions and to ensure that the Irish Girl Guides continues to move in the right direction. IGG's Strategic Plan was launched at the National Conference in September 2012. In the plan, six Strategic Aims for the organisation are outlined. These are; Recruitment, Programme, Communication/Consultation, Empowerment, Retention/Progression, P.R. & Advocacy.

We need to focus our attention on these six aims, at all levels, Unit, District, Area, Regional and National. We are a growing organisation and in order to continue to be as strong and relevant as we can, we have to plan for our future.

A Tagline and a Vision were also launched at the Conference. The words of the Tagline were decided following consultation with members and parents in which the over-riding view of IGG is that we give girls confidence. Therefore the words of our Tagline are "Giving Girls Confidence".

Our Vision over-arches the Strategic Plan and is "Every member of the Irish Girl Guides has a sense of ownership in, and feels proud to belong to, a modern, growing and inclusive organisation that empowers and gives confidence to girls and young women through a fun, educational programme." The Tagline, Vision and Mission Statement work together to define the organisation.



Recruit new members to IGG

Our aim is to welcome even more members, particularly from a wider range of cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. We want to give more girls and young women the unique experience of being a member of IGG.

Maintain relevance to girls and young women through programme

For over a hundred years IGG has adapted and moved with the times to remain relevant to each new generation of girls. Now as we start into our second century we are developing a dynamic, new, informal learning programme that is relevant to the girl of today and tomorrow.

Improve consultation and communication throughout IGG and with its stakeholders

All members have an important part to play in the development and shaping of the organisation and their opinion is valued. Using a variety of media we will endeavour to improve two-way communication with our members.

Empower female Leaders to gain relevant qualifications through training

Without our Leaders we wouldn't have the girls. As a result we strive to train our Leaders to the highest possible standard. We offer training in practical skills, such as event management and first aid, while helping to develop leadership and team building skills.

Retain members and encourage progression within the organisation

With this aim, continuous personal development of Leaders and girls is encouraged and the future needs of the organisation are met, thus ensuring a growing active membership.

Develop external PR and showcase IGG as an advocate for girls and young women in Ireland

By promoting IGG both locally and nationally we raise our profile as a modern, vibrant organisation. We give girls and young women a voice to enable them to speak out and take action on issues that are important to them.



CAMP 101

Irish Girl Guides

Together
we can change our world
Lough Key 2012



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