



## ***Girl Guide Connections***

*This month's news:*

*November 2020*

- [Online and outdoor meetings, litter picks, LEGO robotics, dance sessions, Camp At Home and so much more!](#)
- [187 Guides achieve their National Guide Award](#)
- [Our Space badge has lift off!](#)
- [IGG girls demonstrate their love of STEM on RTE](#)
- [Diversity In Tech Award acknowledges our work promoting STEM](#)
- [Two vacancies on our National Office team - Operations Manager and Programme Officer](#)
- [Let's continue to support our young people!](#)
- [Join our 'Harnessing Young People's Power' event](#)

Dear |FNAME|

This autumn has proved as busy as any other for Irish Girl Guides (IGG) members around the country.

**Online and outdoor meetings** are continuing with many of our volunteers also dropping off **activity packs** to girls.

**Community service** also continues as can be seen in this picture of St Peter's Guides, Bandon, cleaning their local beach.



Many of our usual autumn events have gone ahead, albeit in different ways from previous years. Trainings and regional conferences have gone online as has the **LEGO robotics** camp with Dublin City University's LEGO Education Innovation Studio.



Some exciting new events have also taken place, including online **dance** sessions and a **Halloween Camp At Home**. We were impressed with how creative our members were when it came to making their own costumes and carving their pumpkins.



Over 180 girls are this month receiving their **Trailblazer Award**, despite their Guiding year being limited last term with lockdown. The award ceremony this year is slightly different in appearance with all our members celebrating with their Regions online. Normally, each girl would be travelling to Croke Park to celebrate together but this year that was not to be.



Our **Ambassador Shirley McCay**'s hectic hockey schedule means it is impossible for her to join all the Regions' award ceremonies but the words of congratulation she shared with South West Region are relevant to all **187 Guides** who achieved their **National Guide Award** this year. She reminisced on her time as a Brownie and Guide and assured the awardees that the learnings and the **confidence** they had gained working towards their Award would stand them in good stead for the future.

The Award is made in recognition of the successful completion of a series of challenges, including **teamwork** activities, **outdoor survival** skills, **community service**, **global awareness** and working with younger members of Irish Girl Guides to help them develop confidence, independence and essential life-skills. Achieving the Award means a Guide has demonstrated exemplary **active citizenship** and has worked to her full potential.

**187 is the highest number of Irish Girl Guides EVER  
to achieve their National Guide Award!**

We were thrilled to launch our **Space badge** on International Day of the Girl!

Thank you to all who joined us and, if you missed it, don't worry as you can [watch the launch on our YouTube channel](#).



We were delighted that **Dr Kate Isaak**, a Project Scientist with the **European Space Agency** and a former Girl Guide, was able to join us for the launch.



It was fascinating to hear her relate her work as an astrophysicist to the skills she gained from being a Guide. She said the **curiosity, determination** and **perseverance** that Guiding nurtured in her as a girl had been essential in her work.



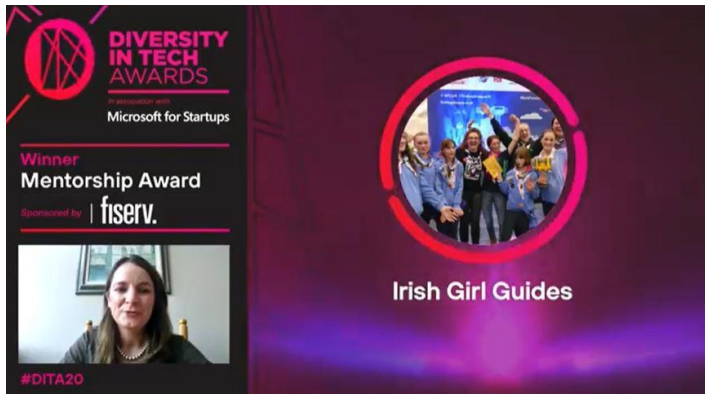
Also, of course, the encouragement to undertake **new projects, challenges** and **adventures**.

The **Space badge** is already proving a hit with our youth members! We've been hearing about girls stargazing, building rockets and undertaking other Space-themed activities.

In fact, many girls chose to work on their **Space, Science Investigator** or **STEM** badge last week to mark **Science Week**.

Some even featured on **RTE's After School Hub** demonstrating their love for all things Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). See if you can spot 10 IGG members in [this episode!](#)





Introducing girls to STEM in an informal way is hugely important to us and we were honoured to win the **Mentorship Award** at the recent **Diversity In Tech Awards** in recognition of our ongoing efforts to promote **Girls In STEM** and **Women in Tech**.

We work with wonderful **partners in STEM** who add depth and further expertise to the work we do. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for all their support. Namely, **Aer Lingus, Engineers Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland, Dr Niamh Shaw, Prof Deirdre Butler** of **Dublin City University, LearnIt Ireland**, the **European Space Education Resource Office Ireland** and **Blackrock Castle Observatory**.

It is also wonderful to see the Diversity in Tech Awards and Fiserv, the award sponsors, recognise the importance of mentorship. Take a minute to [watch this video](#) which gives an insight into our ongoing work in relation to STEM.

---

## Job opportunities!

Two exciting **vacancies** have arisen in our National Office team! One is for a full-time **Operations Manager**, the other for a part-time **Programme Officer**.



The **Operations Manager** works closely with the CEO, staff and volunteers to ensure all regulatory and statutory obligations are met. The role includes responsibility for implementing the strategic plan and activities of the organisation and representing Irish Girl

Guides at meetings and events. It also involves the management of staff as well as supporting volunteers.

The **Programme Officer** supports the development, implementation and evaluation of activities in line with our Journey Programme and feeds into the operational plan. The role also involves working with volunteer committees to develop evaluation and impact measurement strategies.

For further information, see the [Vacancies section of our website](#).

To apply for either position, please email a letter of application and your curriculum vitae to [ceo@irishgirlguides.ie](mailto:ceo@irishgirlguides.ie) by 3 December 2020.

---

Previously, we shared with you how we were actively supporting the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)'s **Youth Work Changes Lives campaign** lobbying for an additional €4.8m for youth investment in Budget 2021. Needless to say, we were delighted that the Government committed to €5m additional funding for youth services.



This is brilliant news for the youth sector as it means that organisations like ourselves can continue to support young people. We have said it before and we'll say it again - young people have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and they need our **support and engagement** now more than ever.



## Sponsor a LEGO block!

One very practical step you can take to support our work encouraging and empowering young people is to sponsor a LEGO block in our new **National Training Centre**.



**€50** will secure you a block and you can even choose your colour and what you would like printed on it - your name, your company logo or, perhaps, you might like to sponsor a block in memory of a loved one.

## We reckon a LEGO block would make a great Christmas present too!

And finally ,,,, We are delighted to be co-hosting a **'Harnessing Young People's Power'** event with NYCI this Wednesday 25 November at 4pm as part of the **One World Week** celebrations. And we'd love you to join us! We will be showcasing how **giving space and opportunity to young people is an important strategy to empowerment.**



We have a fantastic line-up of speakers, including Senior Branch members **Teagan Stanley** and **Patricia Gutteridge** who will be speaking about how a trip to India last year led to the development of our **Responsible Consumerism** badge.

Our international Commissioner, **Jenna Goodwin**, will share her experience representing the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts at the **United Nations** while IGG Leaders **Beth Moody** and **Emily Yule** will talk about taking part this time last year in the international **Juliette Low Seminar**. Not forgetting former IGG member, **Mary Fitzgerald**, now a foreign correspondent in Libya, who will be speaking about how the skills she developed in Guiding have helped her in her career.

We hope you will be able to join us! [Book your place now](#) to make sure you don't miss out!

Kind regards,

*Fiona Murdoch*

Communications Officer  
Irish Girl Guides

**What we do ....** The **Irish Girl Guides** began in 1911 and continues today, as a registered charity, to offer girls and young women a safe space to develop life skills while exploring our inter-connected world and learning to become responsible global citizens. Learn more [here](#).