



## ***Girl Guide Connections***

*This month's news:*

*June 2021*

[FIRST LEGO League is building girls' coding, robotics and teamwork skills](#)

[IGG on Newstalk's Lunchtime Live leads to boost in membership enquiries](#)

[We always welcome new volunteers and youth members!](#)

[National Good Turn Week boosts community spirit across the country](#)

[Special Girl Edition of our magazine proves a real hit ... again!](#)

[Globetrotters' Challenge keeps the international Guiding spirit alive](#)

[Over 1,000 girls booked into Octagon - our first ever online international camp!](#)

[Join us in a Sleep Out To End Homelessness!](#)

Dear

We were thrilled to see 27 of our Guides and Senior Branch members take part in the **FIRST LEGO League Virtual Showcase** last month. Five Irish Girl Guides (IGG) teams competed in the first ever virtual FIRST LEGO League Challenge Season Regional Final.

The girls worked together in their teams to create and design innovative solutions to this year's **RePlay Challenge** – to find ways to get people more active through play - and to compete in the Robot Games.

A special shout out to the Step Sisters and Clonmel Cyclones who will now advance to the **UK/Ireland FIRST LEGO League Final** on 2 July.



The five teams were joined at the showcase by 34 Guides, Brownies and Ladybirds who completed the **Explore and Discover Season Challenges** for younger innovators.

In this video Rivervalley Ladybirds in Swords demonstrate what they learned about cogs and much, much more!



The FIRST LEGO League gives children and young people an opportunity to learn basic **coding** and **robotics skills** and to work together in small teams while having lots of fun!

You can see lots more **photos** and **videos** of our members' FIRST LEGO League action on our [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Katie Keogh, who heads up IGG's FIRST LEGO League involvement, and her daughter Monica, a member of the Step Sisters' team, spoke on **Newstalk's Lunchtime Live** about the competition. Monica also talked about how IGG has not only given her **STEM opportunities**, but also the chance to **travel** to England and Germany and to develop **teamwork** and **leadership skills**.



Katie talked about the many opportunities she has enjoyed as a result of **volunteering with IGG** and how IGG offers a well-rounded programme, which is fun for all ages.

They were also joined on air by Sarah Canavan, an IGG Leader based in Galway, who talked about the many ways **IGG has adapted its activities since the arrival of the pandemic**, including online meetings, activity packs and Camps At Home.

The three did such a super interview that within 30 minutes of the programme airing we received **five membership enquiries!**

You can listen back to the interview [here](#).

We welcome new members - girls and young women from age five to 30 and volunteer Leaders from age 18+.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join IGG, email [info@irishgirlguides.ie](mailto:info@irishgirlguides.ie) or tel: 01 6683898.

Our **National Good Turn Week** boosted the spirits of communities around Ireland when members of Irish Girl Guides shared their Good Turns online with the hashtag **#GoodTurns** and encouraged members of the public to do the same. As well as helping with chores at home, girls did good deeds for their neighbours too.

A special shout out to Éadoin, a Cork Brownie, who raised a phenomenal €3,000 for Fota Wildlife Park by doing **a marathon over 12 days** (quite an achievement for an eight-year-old)!

Also, to Beth (pictured right) from Howth Guides who raised over €500 for Leinster Horse and Pony Rescue by **selling home-made goodies** (and horse treats)!



Well done too to Ennis Brownies who have been out regularly helping their local Tidy Towns committee with **litter picks**.



When a girl joins IGG, she promises to do a **Good Turn** every day. This is usually done without drawing attention to oneself, but once a year we like to highlight our Good Turns in order to raise our profile and help create a wave of goodwill and kindness across the country.



Following the popularity of last year's inaugural **Special Girl Edition of our magazine Trefoil News**, we decided to produce another one! This year's magazine is packed full of activities and ideas for girls and young women. You can [see a copy on our website](#).

The activities are suitable for all children (not just members of IGG) so **feel free to share the link with any children or young people you know!**

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Our **International Committee** has been finding many creative ways to keep the international Guiding spirit alive during the pandemic. Usually, they are kept busy organising overseas opportunities for IGG members but, since these have had to be put on hold for the time being, the committee has come up with other ideas, including a recent **Globetrotters' Challenge**.

This saw Guides selecting a country and then creating a **costume**, making a **craft** and cooking a **recipe** from that country as well as making a **poster** with interesting facts about their chosen country.

The standard of entries was very high and shows that, while we may not be able to travel to other countries at present, that doesn't stop us learning about **other cultures** and **other countries' traditions**.



We are thrilled that **over 1,000 Guides** from seven countries have signed up to take part in our first ever [international online camp](#), **Octagon**, which will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend. As well as our own members across the country, we have had girls book in from the **UK, France, Switzerland, USA, Canada** and **India**.

Participants will take part in a wide range of activities on the theme of **adaptability** and on the Saturday night we will have a **big birthday bash** to **celebrate 110 years of IGG empowering girls and women!**

You will be able to watch the birthday bash live on [our YouTube channel!](#)

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And finally ... you might like to join us in a **Sleep Out To End Homelessness** on **Friday 25 June.**

We will be doing this in conjunction with [Depaul's 2021 Sleep Out.](#)

It's up to you whether you sleep out under the stars, or in a tent.

We are busy compiling an activity pack for children and young people on the theme of **home** and **homelessness**, which will be full of activities to keep children engaged and busy during the Sleep Out.



Keep an eye on the [news section of our website](#) where we will post it very soon!

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](#).

