

Message from the County Commissioner

Happy new year!! Let 2024 be full of activity and adventure.

It's that time of year again when Census is just around the corner. It should not come as surprise as UK provided its figures last year, Wales and County in the autumn. Currently, membership stands at 1613 young members. It is so disappointing to see the numbers dip from just over 1700. Each month I request that units keep their records up to date so please continue to check and update your waiting lists as it helps the organisation move forward.

It is fantastic to see that so many units are participating in events and activities both in and out of the unit, and that our members are achieving awards. I have enjoyed attending the celebrations with some of our members.

Thank you to Emily Jo for her support in collating the Newsletter I am sure you will agree it's been a fantastic resource. Emily Jo is now going to concentrate on PR resources for the divisions with reference to Growth and Development as well as PR materials – posters and letter headings etc. If you would like to get in contact with Emily Jo her email is pr.girlguidingcgc@gmail.com. I would also like to thank Nia Evans for stepping forward to take on the role of Newsletter Editor. If you have any news you want to share, please contact her on newsletter.girlguidingcgc@gmail.com.

Please take time to read the newsletter and the opportunities available.

Julie

Julie.girlguidingcgc@gmail.com

County information

Important announcements

Girlguiding Subscriptions
Key dates for 2024

23 January 2024
Trial invoices are ready to download

6 February 2024
Email reminder if you haven't downloaded your trial invoice

19 February 2024
No more changes can be made to trial invoices after 7pm

20 February 2024
Official and final payable invoices will be available to download and pay.

14 March 2024
Main contacts will receive a reminder email for any unpaid invoices

28 March 2024
All subscription payments must be received in full by this date.

Girlguiding Cymru

Dates for your diary

13th July 2024 – Rainbow and Brownie fun day at Gorwelion.
This may be able to be used as an element of the Queen's Guide Award

18th–20th October 2024 – County weekend (Northern Ireland)



Coming up in the newsletters

Celebrating our members

We would love to celebrate all of our amazing members in Central Glamorgan! Please send in photos or short messages of members you would like to celebrate to

newsletter.girlguidingcg@gmail.com.

Send us your news

We want to hear what you have been up to no matter how big or small! Please send any news that you would like to share with the county to Nia Evans at newsletter.girlguidingcg@gmail.com by the 15th of each month. Please make sure that you have photo permissions for everyone in photos before sending them.

What do you want to see in the newsletter?

We would love to hear what you think about the GGCG newsletter and any suggestions for what you would like to be included going forward.

Fill in the anonymous Google form to let us know:
<https://forms.gle/iS4zZqRDqGrxrQzs5>

Or email newsletter.girlguidingcg@gmail.com



Upcoming opportunities

Guides trip to London



Guiding Trip to London

This is a trip for Guides to visit Pax Lodge, based in London. An exciting opportunity to join in the Guiding experience by staying in one of Girlguiding's five world centres and the chance to explore London along the way.



Dates: Friday 16th to Saturday 17th February 2024

If over subscribe potential date late on in year .
Leader girl ratio will apply for all units as limited leader spaces

Cost: £120 full amount by 15th January 2023

Deposit: £40 due by 3rd October 2023

Please note, this is a trip for Guides only.

This trip is for Guides in Central Glamorgan - an exciting opportunity to visit Pax Lodge our World Centre in London plus do some sightseeing. Cost includes travel, evening meal, Bed and Breakfast, packed lunch next day, entrance to attractions.

2 spaces left



Opportunities for young members

Queen's Guide and Gold DofE residential



An amazing opportunity to meet new Girlguiding friends from not just Ulster, but from all over the UK. Take part in volunteering opportunities, be challenged to visit Belfast for Free, take part in outdoor activities and so much more! Based at Lorne, the cost is £200 for the week. Who is it for? Any Girlguiding member who is undertaking the amazing challenges of the Queen's Guide Award and the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

For more information contact: Felicity at lornevolunteering@girlguidingulster.org.uk

To register go to:

<https://girlguidingulster.org.uk/events/residential-for-gold-dofe-and-queens-guide-award>

Gold DofE residential

This summer the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) are trialling a new National Park DofE Gold Residential based in conservation.

Who: 16-25 and 18-25 Gold DofE participants
Cost: £40 (travel expenses up to £75 covered)

More info: <https://groups.yha.org.uk/groups/duke-of-edinburgh-award>

Opportunities for young members

International travel

Soon, Girlguiding Cymru will be asking if the county has any participants who would like to be considered for an international trip. There is a selection process involved both at a county and Welsh level. If you wish to know more about this opportunity, please contact our International Adviser: Sharon Rees-Williams sreeswilliams@hotmail.com



Girlguiding Cymru International Team

We're part of a truly global movement!



Young leader qualification

We as a county have a fantastic number of young people who support our units aged 14-18 years. Did you know there is an qualification that they could be working towards? Our new Young Leader Qualification adviser is Elli Bufton. If you have young members that are interested in the award get in contact and Elli can explain more about the award and how to register.

Elli Bufton

YLadviser.cynonvalley@outlook.com



Young leader recruitment poster

Girlguiding is the UK's leading charity for girls and young women.
Join our team of 100,000 volunteers in the UK.

Volunteer with us

Inspire girls in your area
by just being you!

You could
volunteer with
Brownies
Age 7+

You could
volunteer with
Rainbows
Age 4+



Our events,
adventures
and meetings
empower girls to
be their best
and become
confident.

 [facebook.com/girlguidinguk](https://www.facebook.com/girlguidinguk)

 @Girlguiding

 @Girlguiding



You could
volunteer with
Rangers
Age 14+

Your local Young Leader contact is
Elli Bufton
YLadviser.cynonvalley@outlook.com

Guiding is totally
flexible. Every
commitment
counts, there is
no level of commitment
too small.
You have the power
to change the
lives of girls and
young women.
You don't need any
Guiding experience.

You could
volunteer with
Guides
Age 10+



You could
support Guiding
on a local
level

To find out more visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested



Try something new

Journey through The Gambia



As part of her Queen's Guide Award Gwenllian from Cynon Valley Division has created a pack to raise funds to support the Mansa Maru school in the Gambia which she has visited and will be returning to in February. The pack is ideal for world Thinking Day, pack holidays, camp or even completing within weekly unit meeting and is linked to the programme for all sections.

Badges are £1.20 each plus postage. For more info please email: Hirwaunbrownies@hotmail.com

Girlguiding Cymru challenge badges



Are you ready to encourage girls to unlock new skills, make memories that last a lifetime? Then step into 2024 with a Girlguiding Cymru challenge badge in your sights! There are several packs to choose from: the ICE civil engineering challenge, The Street dance challenge, The Castell cariad challenge and the Moonwalk challenge along with many more!

Find out more: <https://girlguidingcymru.org.uk/challenges>.



Try something new

Let's Build – Adeliadu Amdani



Have you seen our County resource pack? It's well worth a look! There are 5 sections looking at teams, construction, Guiding, wellbeing and friendship – these activities for all sections. Why not start this new term with this activity pack and build your unit, plus you will be supporting the County and Gorwelion.

The funds raised from this badge go to Gorwelion for us as a county to Build on what we have and make exciting changes for our future generations. Badges cost £1.00 each plus post and packaging.

Contact Julie.girlguidingcg@gmail.com for a copy of this pack.

Gorwelion

Bookings for 2024

Gorwelion bookings for 2024 are coming in fast which is fantastic. If you would like to find out more or book spaces at Gorwelion please contact Sharon Lima on: bookings.gorwelion22@gmail.com.

Work at Gorwelion

Thank you to those who gave up their time to support the January working weekends. You worked hard and long hours which is much appreciated.

What have we achieved?

- Flat: repainted and windowsills tiled.
- Kitchen: New floor laid, tiles cleaned, ceiling painted, new tables, fridge and storage.
- Main room: repainted
- Leaders room: repainted
- Ongoing maintenance to ensure we care for Gorwelion's future.

What needs doing next?

- Little site shelter: needs another coat of paint outside (materials are there).
- House: back end of house needs painting (materials are there).
- Trees that have been chopped: wood needs chopping further and be moved to the wood shed.
- Ferns that have been cut back need to be burnt and the area cleaned.
- Gutters and drains of house need cleaning.
- Camp fire circle to be constructed.
- Outdoor shelter has a floor but needs sealing.
- Area around garage to be cleared and concreted so a retaining wall can be built.
- Woodland walk project to be developed.

Work at Gorwelion will always be ongoing but we have received positive feedback from those using the facility and we are grateful for any support offered by volunteers.



Gorwelion

Give a Gift to Gorwelion appeal 2024



We are launching this appeal with the aim of raising £5000 in order to continue to improve the facilities at Gorwelion, our wonderful home by the sea. We are looking at making both campsites more accessible for all to be able to enjoy. We would love as much support as possible to achieve this, so that generations of young people and adults can continue to enjoy Gorwelion and all it has to offer too.

Please share with your units/leaders/parents, and also with friends and family too!!

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/give-a-gift-to-gorwelion-2024>



Supporting units and volunteers

First response training

All units must have a first aider. It is the responsibility of the leadership team to ensure compliance. Training dates for 2024 are as follows:

20th April at Abercynon Community centre

14th July at Ynysmaerdy Community Centre

17th November at Porthcawl Guide hall

You will need to complete the online learning before attending the course.

To book onto this course and more information please contact Beth Williams -bethAN316@btinternet.com.

Safe space training

All members are responsible for ensuring that they are compliant with safe space. Please look at your record on Go - this will inform you when you need to renew. You will also receive at least 2 emails from CHQ which are automatically generated reminding you at 6 months and 3 months.

If your safe space is it is not completed, then CHQ will take you off Go and you will not be able to rejoin Guiding for up to 3 years. Please advise either myself or inform CHQ once you have received your email if there are any exceptional circumstances.

Any member who is a leader or assistant leader will be required to do safe space level 3 in 2024 so please book ahead and carry out the training - there will be a significant demand next year. This is available online through the learning portal. You can participate in the webinar training from any country and region.



Supporting units and volunteers

Training

There are a number of e-learnings and webinars on the learning portal for you to attend. If you wish to join a webinar it does not need to be one that is being run by Wales, it can be anywhere in the UK. This is the beauty of the Internet. Why not have a look?

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-volunteers/learning-and-development/>

Girlguiding Cymru Cost of living grant



A Cost of Living grant is now available for units to apply for. The grant can be used to help cover subscription fees, the cost of hall rent and subsidising uniforms. There is a limited pot for this grant and the maximum grant available per application is £200. For more details on how to apply please click on the link below -

<https://girlguidingcymru.org.uk/cost-of-living-grant>

Supporting units and volunteers

County weekend



Central Glamorgan
County Training Weekend

Fun!
Games!
Friendship!



Lorne - Northern Ireland
October 18th - 20th 2024

Adventure! **Explore!**

Cost: £160 to include food and accommodation
Travel is separate. Easyjet fly to Belfast City airport
from Bristol daily. Please book your own flights.
Too early to book flights yet but cost of flights
at the moment are about £70 return.

Places are limited and will be allocated
on a first come first served basis.

In order for us to place a booking with Lorne
Please pay £50 deposit payable ASAP

Don't delay and book today!!

For more information contact:
Annette Stoneham on annettestoneham@yahoo.com



It's not too late! Come and join us at Lorne for a county weekend training. Flights are now available to be booked.

Leaving a legacy

It has been brought to our attention that people wish to leave a legacy to Girlguiding. However, when the estate has been sorted, the legacy has not gone to the correct place within the organisation. For this to happen you need to be very specific as to your wishes e.g. Your unit (1st Abercynon Guides), Gorwelion, for a specific purpose – International Travel. For further information please get in contact with the county team.

Contact us

ALQ coordinators – Bethan Hicks, Jayne Rodgers
bethalq.girlguidingcg@gmail.com
divcom.garthmaelwg@gmail.com

Booking secretary Gorwelion – Sharon Lima
bookings.gorwelion22@gmail.com

Brownie Adviser – Stephanie Horsley
steph.horsley@outlook.com

County badge secretary – Dian Jones
Dianjones80@gmail.com

First response coordinator – Beth Williams
Firstaid.girlguidingcg@gmail.com

International advisor – Sharon Rees-Williams
sreeswilliams@hotmail.com

Newsletter – Nia Evans
Newsletter.girlguidingcg@gmail.com

Outdoor Qualification Verifier – Jen Denham
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PR adviser – Emily-Jo Davey
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Queen's Guide Adviser – Sarah Phillips
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Young leaders' adviser – Elli Bufton
YLadviser.cynonvalley@outlook.com

