



# SPRING NEWSLETTER

## March 2020



### Message from the Chairman

My thoughts are with all members who have been affected by the storms and resultant floods., though Shrewsbury has been flooded twice every one is working hard to clear up and get the town back to normal.

With this newsletter you will find two documents :the application form for renewal of membership and information about the AGM on 16 May in Chester when it is hoped that you will able to attend though you come from far and wide in the UK.

I am pleased to say that Margaret, our membership secretary, is now home after along stay in hospital and is on the mend and catching up on back mail.

There will be a small team from SAGF going to the World Conference in Madrid in August, have you thought about coming? The Conference gives an opportunity to meet members from many different countries and establish friendships.

I hope to see you in Chester and please bring a friend to introduce them to SAGF remembering my 2020 vision of increasing membership

Muriel

**Please note the AGM is postponed due to Corona Virus, members will be notified when suitable alternative arrangements can be made**

### How much Help do we Give to Scouting and Guiding?

It would be very helpful if members could let the editor have accounts of help that they give to scouting and guiding as there are many times in the year when help is given. It may be as an individual or as a group member e.g. you may be a member of Trefoil Guild and you with other guild members helped at a Thinking Day event, or if your background is Scouting help might have been given at a Founder's Day parade please let the editor know what you have done. A picture would be an added extra, please remember to get permission to publish it.

Last week the SAGF chairman, Muriel plus two other members of SAGF were seen at a Brownie Pack meeting helping with various activities. The theme of the Meeting was Back in Time. So instead of collecting items for recycling the Brownies learnt about how Guides and Brownies collected Salvage during the second world war.

### Uganda Update

At the end of the SAGF visit to Uganda money was left for a rabbit project at the Imvepi Refugee Camp. The rabbit hutch has now been built and an order has been placed for the rabbits. When the rabbits are old enough they will be brought from the breeder to the camp a journey of over 6 hours.

A comment from our Treasurer Peter “ *The rabbits look just like the ones I kept as a child*”

Good news the final amount of money required to complete the ISGF hut building project has now been raised and the huts should soon be completed, there should be pictures on the ISGF web site sometime soon.



Completed Rabbit Hutch



A Rabbit at the Breeders

### **The Guide International Service (GIS) by Jane**

On 8<sup>th</sup> May we will be commemorating the seventy fifth anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) and I have **recently been** reading a book “All Things Uncertain” by Phyllis Stewart Brown which tells of a relief effort undertaken by adult members of the Girl Guides Association from the United Kingdom and some of the Commonwealth Countries plus a handful of Scouter volunteers.

From 1942 a scheme was developed to enable volunteers after suitable training to be formed into teams to work in various countries with that had been occupied during the war. The early preparations included raising money and training volunteers plus all the dealings with government departments.

In 1943 a fund was set up to enable the Association to fund its relief work with a target of £100,000, in fact by the time the fund closed a total of £120,20 had been raised. In January 1945 the first team, of members of the Guide International Service, was sent to Greece to work running hostels for returning hostages. The buildings used were often badly damaged and had to be repaired before being occupied. Later the teams provided food and clothing for people in mountain villages devastated by fighting.

The next country that teams helped in was the Netherlands where a mobile hospital was taken plus a bacteriological laboratory all staffed by guiding members. Where they worked in recently liberated areas and soon other GIS teams were working in the country feeding and working with displaced persons

After VE Day the teams moved into Germany and one of the places they were sent was Belsen where they worked with other relief teams with displaced persons. Their work with displaced persons continued until the last team returned to the UK in 1952.

In addition to working in Europe a team worked in Malaysia at the end of the Japanese occupation, here their work was mainly vaccination of village people against smallpox and the immunisation of children plus treating the many ailments of people who had been starved during the occupation.

In addition to the relief work undertaken the team members also helped the re-introduction of guiding in countries where it had been suppressed during the war often running trainings for guiders.

Among the names of the team members is one that is familiar to many people – Sue Ryder who later married Lenard Cheshire.

Please keep up to-date with World Happenings by looking at the ISGF Website [www.isgf.org](http://www.isgf.org)