Girlguiding
Sir Morgannwg Ganol
Central Glamorgan county

February Newsletter 2024

Message from the County Commissioner

Happy World Thinking Day – It was lovely to see what was happening in units and the celebrations that took place.

As you are all aware Subscriptions are now due. As a County we have 1535 young members this is a significant drop and disappointing to see our numbers dip from just over 1700 in October 2023. Subscriptions 2023 we had 1509 young members which is a growth of 26 young people, hopefully throughout 2024/2025 we can grow in numbers again. Unit leaders please can you keep you unit records up to date it helps the organisation move forward.

Accounts should have been verified by now and your commissioner should have a copy of the sheet they sent you to fill in. As a charity it is important that this is done and is part of compliance. Thanks to all that have done this so far.

It has been great to start the year with so much going on and our members joining in. Thank you to all the leaders, you have helped to make it happen!!

If you have any information, events or some activity you wish to share please email to newsletter.girlguidingcg@gmail.com. Please take time to read the newsletter and the opportunities available.

Julie

Julie.girlguidingcg@gmail.com

County information

Annual Girlguiding subscriptions

Yes, it's that time of year again. By now every division, district, unit will have had their invoice for annual Girlguiding subscriptions - please have a look. It would be fantastic if you could be prompt in paying, this would be much appreciated and would save commissioners chasing you. Remember we are all volunteers. Thank you in anticipation!!

Can you help us out?

Do you have a skill that would help? Are you doing an award that getting involved would cover an element? Are you able to help Central Glamorgan provide even more opportunities for our members? Help is required for the following:-

Rainbow and Brownie Funday; Guide Festival- sleepover; Afternoon cream tea

Please contact julie.girlguidingcg@gmail.com

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

Celebrating our members

Chloe

Chloe from Ynysmaerdy Rangers received her Young Leader's Qualification and is really enjoying volunteering with 1st Llanharan Brownies.

Dian

Dian Jones who runs Ydderwyn trading depot for many years felt it was time for this role to be passed on. To thank Dian a celebration meal was organised by Ydderwyn and a lovely evening had by all. Thank you Dian for your support in Ydderwyn . Dian is still the county Badge Secretary so if you require awards for our young members please continue to contact her.

Alys Megan and Ffion Heledd

Its Twins! - Congratulations Jayne – Our Assistant County Commissioner. Born 22nd January. Alys Megan and Ffion Heledd. All are doing well (hope you have registered them for Rainbows!)

Gold and Silver awards at 1st Kenfig Hill

Gold and Silver awards at 7th Aberdare Guides

What have our members been up to?

Girlguiding Cymru ICE extravaganza

Members from across Central Glamorgan had a great time learning to ice skate with the help of Cardiff Comets and then watching the Cardiff Devils home game!!

A big thank you to Sarah-Jane Burns for organising this event with Girlguiding Cymru!

What have our members been up to?

Central Glamorgan takes on Pax Lodge

On Feb 16th 50 members from Central Glamorgan went to London for two busy days of sight-seeing and staying at our World Centre - Pax Lodge.

On the first day they visited the Tower area where they climbed Tower Bridge and caught a boat down to Greenwich. Sightseeing around Greenwich included the Cutty Sark, Greenwich Market, National Maritime Museum, Royal Observatory, Meridian Line then off to Pax Lodge. The evening meal was Dominies – 3 motorbikes were used to deliver their order!

On the second day at Pax Lodge a Pinning Ceremony took place plus some members made their promise and awards were given out. They then visited Girlguiding HQ, Buckingham Palace, St James Park, Trafalgar Square, Horse Guards Parade, the Cenotaph, Downing Street and finally Westminster Abbey to see the commemorative stone for Lord and Lady Baden Powell, Parliament Square, Parliament and the London eye before heading home.

What have our members been up to?

Central Glamorgan explores London

Thank you to the leaders who organised and supported this trip. The Guides were a fantastic group and a pleasure to be with. Looking forward to more adventures.

What have our members been up to?

2nd Pencoed Guides ICE civil engineering challenge

2nd Pencoed Guides really enjoyed completing the ICE civil engineering challenge. We were supported by Jess, a STEM ambassador and drainage engineer who led two of the challenges. The girls were so engrossed we ended up spending an extra evening on the challenge activities we had chosen!! The best comment overheard from the guides was: "Engineers need more credit!"

The badges and packs are available on the Girlguiding Cymru website, and the badges are free!
https://girlguidingcymru.org.uk/ice-civil-engineering-challenge

International opportunities

International 2025

With two of our members from Central Glamorgan busy preparing for their international adventure to Sangam this Summer it's time to think about **international selection for 2025**.

Girlguiding Cymru are considering the following opportunities :

16-18 year olds to Our Cabana, Mexico
14 plus to Netherlands
11- 13 year olds an ICE experience possibly Brownsea.

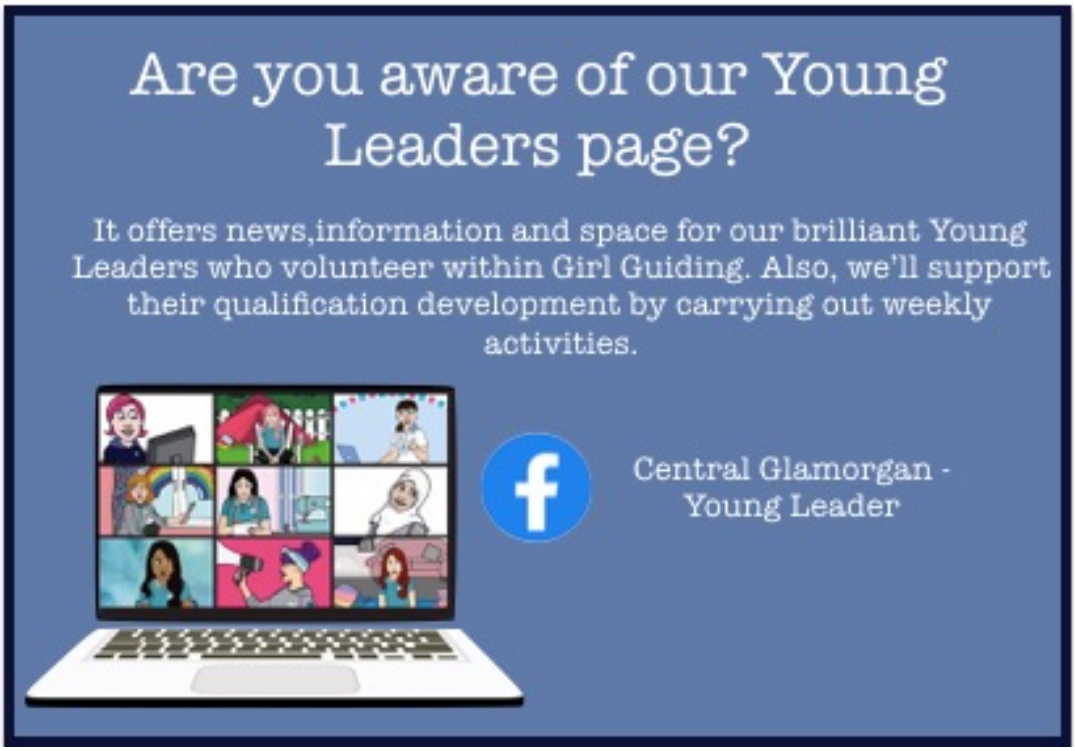
None of the trips have been confirmed yet but this is an ideal time to start speaking to your members and finding out who would be interested. Participants will have to fill in the County application form and a selection day will take place. This will be in May/June depending on the number of applicants. Successful individuals will then be asked to attend a **Welsh selection weekend 19th to 21st July, in Chirk bunkhouse**. As we would only be able to send one candidate for each age group, we ask that you only put forward one name for each age group from your unit. We will share more information about the opportunities as soon as we have confirmation and more information.

Please email hirwaunguides@hotmail.com for an application form and return it by 28th April 2024.

Opportunities for young leaders

Young leader qualification

Young leader's private Facebook group



Opportunities for young leaders

Young leader's safe space training

Safe Space 14-17

"Safeguarding and knowing what to do when someone tells you something worrying. We recommend that you complete the 14-17 learning for volunteering at your unit meeting." - Girl Guiding 2023

Rangers and Young Leaders who are Volunteering with a unit are required to complete 'Safe Space 14-17'. This module can be found on the learning platform.

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 residentials

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

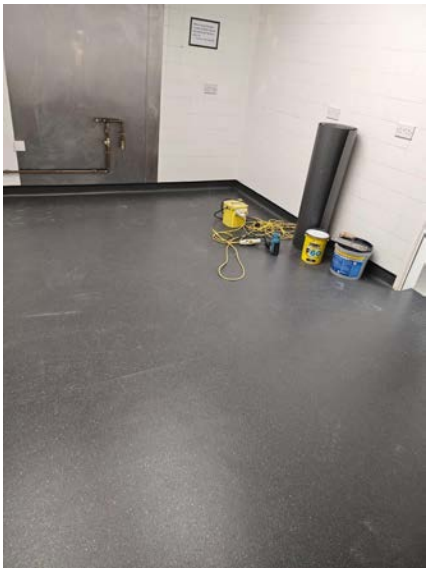
Gorwelion

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

January was busy preparing Gorwelion for the season and carrying out upgrades and maintenance. A massive thank you to all who supported we really appreciate the long hours spent. Here are some pictures of the fabulous work that was done!



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

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.

Easter activities

Some links to help you plan your Easter activities in your unit

35 Adorable Free Printable Easter Crafts And Activities - In The Playroom

Easter Activities for Kids (FREE Printable) | Little Bins for Little Hands

20 FREE Printable Easter Games, Coloring Pages & Activities (kcedventures.com)

Free Printable Easter Activity Sheets and Placemats (thesavvysparrow.com)

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:

21st April at Abercynon Community centre (change of date)

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.

GO individual records

Have you checked and updated your GO record recently? Is it up to date e.g. telephone numbers, address? Do you have the right qualifications on your record? With more information being accessed electronically this is important. Please contact Julie Thomas if you need qualifications uploading – you will be asked to provide an appropriate form of evidence for all qualifications.

Supporting units and volunteers

County weekend

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

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Booking secretary Gorwelion – Sharon Lima
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Young leaders' adviser – Elli Bufton
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