



SAGF UK. Newsletter. Winter 2019.

The Chairman writes...

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in this new role as chairman – one in which I feel overwhelmed with information and responsibility.

Several of our members were involved in the organisation of the Western European



Muriel with WEG members from abroad.

Gathering in Eastbourne. A report of this event appears later in this newsletter but it was a pleasure to see the SAGF members who attended at our small reception. It was obvious from comments made that members would welcome projects that they could work on and support in their local areas.

We have had a slight increase in membership numbers this past year despite the reluctance of our separate organisations to promote ISGF. Unfortunately it is one of the few links we adults have with the international dimension of scouting and guiding. It was encouraging to hear that some guilds are embracing the idea of twinning – a great way of keeping these links alive. The SAGF membership is scantily spread across the British Isles; it is my hope that this year we can grow pockets of members so that they can support each other

This newsletter highlights projects we have been involved in at home and abroad and they show what difference members' donations can make. The committee would love to hear of projects you may wish us to consider for the coming years. These could be small and local or more ambitious and international but whatever they are I know you will continue to support the fellowship in their fundraising.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting in Bristol

Yours in fellowship
Muriel
Chairman SAGF-UK

Looking backwards and forwards.....

SAGF members have had a busy and enjoyable 2018 at home and abroad and more events are planned for this year! You will have read about some of them in the Newsletters and fact sheets that Margaret (our membership secretary) distributes regularly by email, but this postal mailing will provide you with more information, the ever important membership subscription form, application form for our SAGF Annual Gathering in Bristol, nomination form for new Committee members/Trustees and details of the European Regional Gathering in Bremen.

SAGF is managed by a small group of elected and co-opted **committee members/trustees** and this year we have one vacancy to fill. (The existing officers are happy to help in a 'mentoring' role if needed). Enclosed is a **Nomination form** for you to volunteer, or phone a friend, to help out. The first event to note is our **SAGF Annual Gathering** which this year is being held in **Bristol** from **Friday 26th April until Sunday 29th April 2019**. Apart from socialising, eating, having a good time and exploring the area, our annual meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon, **27th April 2019**. Our thanks go to Alan Beavis for arranging the venue and recommending suitable hotels.

(If you are unable to come to Bristol but would still like to help the Committee in their work for international Guiding and Scouting please get in touch with our Chairman, Muriel Rayner.)

Our AGM held in Halifax in May 2018, as reported in our Autumn Newsletter, was most enjoyable and productive ... and blessed with really nice weather. The arrangements, hotel and activities all worked smoothly.

The highlight of the year however was the Western European Gathering held in Eastbourne organised by the National Scout and Guide Fellowship UK (a joint Committee of SAGF and the BP Guild of GB) in which the SAGF UK Team played a full part in the organisation and running of the Gathering. The Chairman was Allan Page and the Organiser Sue Page, both members of the BP Guild.

At the conference Hotel attendees were welcomed at reception on arrival by Liz Aveston, Muriel Rayner, Jane Wardropper and Margaret McColm. Muriel led morning reflection on the event theme 'Flowering of Friendship' aided by appropriate PowerPoint slides in English and French. Diane Haigh and friends looked after Crafts whilst Jennifer Roberts did badges and Peter Short ran Stampbank. Activity proceeds, plus open collections organised by Liz and Jane all went to the Uganda Shelter Appeal....thanks to everyone who contributed whom I have failed to mention by name. Our appeal for the Refugee Shelter Project closes at the AGM in Bristol so do let us try to add to the €1,000 that we have so far sent to the appeal by **International Scout and Guide Fellowship**.

A pre-dinner 'get to know you' drinks reception was hosted by Muriel for SAGF members and members exchanged ideas on growing and developing ideas for the future of SAGF. David Mowbray outlined ideas for an expedition to Uganda in Autumn 2019.(see item below) however, and a few people have already expressed interest in joining. If you now would like to consider going please see the full item below and contact David direct by eMail.

Membership Renewal. We are pleased that we maintained membership numbers in 2018 and look forward to your continued support in 2019. We have maintained our basic subscription at £5.00 p.a. And are extremely grateful to those who can afford to pay a little more for their additional donations. We try to just 'break-even' but extra funds would help us to develop our organisation further. Why not help by getting your friends to join?

SAGF at home.

Members continue to support their local and wider Scout or Guide organisations by volunteering, assisting with administration and organisation, fundraising, assisting at events as non-uniformed helpers. Some of course serve as uniformed leaders.

Twining. During last year the UK National Scout and Guide Fellowship (**NSGF**) became twinned with the Spain NSGF. We have also facilitated the twinning of Newburn Trefoil Guild, Newcastle upon Tyne with Lower Hunter Trefoil Guild, Maitland, NSW, Australia. We have lost track of earlier Twinning so please let us know if your Guild or Unit has an active twinning and update on your activities

Badge appeal.

If you have any surplus badges suitable for sale or exchange in a 'badge corner' please consider letting us have them for fund raising in Bristol. Our last appeal was fruitful and we had a good selection on sale at Eastbourne which contributed to the Uganda fundraising. Just bring them with you or send them to a committee member.



Group photograph Western European Gathering held in Eastbourne October 2018

Eastbourne: Report by members of the Irish contingent reprinted from the ISGF.org website

Eastbourne Trip We started our trip with some flying from Cork and some from Dublin including myself. Everything was in full swing when we arrived as it was a bit later than expected. I was greeted by my friend Jane whom I had met at my first FIGS trip to Slovakia. Throughout the first few days I was constantly surprised by friends I had made on that trip. Our hotel was the Claremont looking directly out on the sea and the pier of Eastbourne. The staff couldn't be nicer, they were lovely and helpful. The food was also in plentiful supply, so much so that some had to request smaller portions. Overall the whole week was very well-structured time wise. We had our opening ceremony on Monday night with a very interesting talk about Eastbourne and the surrounding area. On Tuesday we started with presentations and then had free time after 12 to explore. As we had gotten the itinerary before the trip I had booked a train trip to Hastings which was just down the coast. In the end I didn't get to see the ruins on the hill that I wanted to because of time constraints but I did get to see the old town which was beautiful. And I found an old Girl Guide pin in an antiques store which made my day. The official outing of the week was on Wednesday. I picked the Battle Abbey tour because again I wanted to see old buildings and battle grounds. We had great weather for most of the week which was perfect for tours like the Abbey as it was mainly outside. As we all got an audio guide in the language of our choice for the trip around the abbey grounds and Hastings battle-ground we could all do it at our own pace, also allowing time to explore Battle town, which was a lovely collection of little tearooms and shops. Thursday was another morning of presentations. This time on the different organisations of the countries attending. It was fascinating to hear the different ways they conduct their Fellowships. After this we had more free time which myself and a few others decided to use to explore the Redoubt Fortress down the promenade. Even though most of the place was run by volunteers we had a brilliant tour and lunch beforehand in the café. It was a building well worth seeing just from an architectural point of view, but the tour really made it come to life. The Closing ceremony was held at the end of Thursday to allow people to travel whenever needed the next day. This included Morris dancers which really brought a great end to the whole gathering.

SAGF Abroad.....

SAGF members also attended a number of European Gatherings and Workshops during the year. Jane Wardropper attended the Nordic Baltic Gathering in Gothenburg, Sweden.....and a small group enjoyed their stay in Athens as the report below shows.

16th Mediterranean Gathering and the 5th Southern Europe Gathering

The 16th Mediterranean Gathering and the 5th Southern Europe Gathering were held from 19-24 October 2018 in Athens, at the Titania Hotel. After that, many participants took a trip to the Peloponnese, based on the city of Kalamata (24-27 October 2018).

Five members of the SAGF UK plus one member of the BP Guild attended this Gathering. There were a total of 297 participants from 17 countries. The hotel was in the middle of Athens and well equipped for this event.



Pictured above: Under event motto "Mediterranean, a Sea Odyssey," on Saturday, October 20 we began our imaginary voyage on the sea that unites us, following a journey of Mediterranean cultures through time and the profound ties between them all. We were informed of the serious pollution problem afflicting our sea and heard about small everyday life ways that each one of us may follow in a common effort to stop, or at least diminish, the perils threatening the Mediterranean with a complete destruction.

Sunday October 21, we were taken 42.195 kilometers from the center of Athens to the Starting Point of the Classical Marathon Run, where many tasted the experience of a mini marathon and were awarded laurel and olive leaves for their participation! (Katharine was our Champion). We ended up at the Training and Camping Center of the Greek Guiding Association, 'Konakia'. This is a true 'back to nature campsite' with primitive facilities. We enjoyed a traditional Greek meal, we sang and we danced. And in the end, we symbolically planted an olive tree, the symbol of "Peace and Friendship", and we sent a message of hope in life, as Konakia is very close to the area devastated by the tremendous fires of July 23rd 2018.

The last morning was dedicated to a monument that for many people was a lifetime dream to visit: the Acropolis and its Museum. An impressive building mimicking the footprint of the Parthenon.

Every evening there was music and dancing - traditional Greek dances from Megara, songs from the Mediterranean by the *Apogeo* Music Ensemble and an international night with many of the participants wearing their traditional national costumes.

The Gathering ended on the evening of October 23 with a party, where live music, singing and dancing prevailed, with everyone merrily taking part with a cheerful mood.

The following day 189 of the participants set off for an unforgettable four-day tour of the Peloponnese with stops in Olympia, Pylos, the Byzantine castle-city of Mystras, Sparta, Ancient Messini and certainly Kalamata, which was our base for the tour. "Fellowship Day" was celebrated in the evening of October 25th, on the gorgeous Kalamata beach, with a full moon. Our last stop before farewell was in the beautiful city of Tripoli, the heart of the Peloponnese.

A truly memorable experience and great to renew friendships made at other gathering.

Margaret McColm

SCOUT AND GUIDE FELLOWSHIP UK - ANNUAL GATHERING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BRISTOL -
26/29 April 2019

The 2019 Annual Gathering incorporating the Annual General Meeting is to take place in the historic City and County of Bristol.

The Annual Meeting is to be held on 27 April 2019 at 11.00.a.m. A buffet lunch will be provided.

The venue for the Meeting is to be John Wesley's Chapel, 'The New Room', Bristol Shopping Quarter, 36 The Horsefair, Bristol BS1 3JE. It was built in 1739 by John Wesley and is the oldest Methodist chapel in the world.

The New Room' itself is located in the heart of Bristol's shopping quarter with pedestrian entrances from both Broadmead and the Horsefair. It is easily accessible using public transport links with local bus services, three Park and Ride services and the Bristol Bus and Coach Station within a three-minute walk of the New Room. Bristol Temple Meads railway station is approximately a 30-minute walk and there is a taxi rank just along from the Horsefair entrance. Although there is no on-site parking at the New Room, there are over 5000 car parking spaces available within a five-minute walk.

After the meeting and on Sunday you will have an opportunity of visiting the many local attractions and explore the area during the weekend.

Bristol is a city with many attractions, some of which are listed below:

- 1 Bristol Harbour.
- 2 St. Mary Redcliffe Church
- 3 Bristol Cathedral
- 4 Brunel's SS Great Britain
- 5 Llandoger Trow
- 6 Clifton Suspension Bridge
- 7 Bristol Old City
- 8 Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.
9. Banksy walking tour
10. Cabot Tower.....And many more!

Accommodation

Suitable accommodation located within 5 minutes' walk of the New Room are:

- Premier Inn -Lewins Mead
- Holiday Inn – Bristol City Centre
- Holiday Inn Express - Bristol City Centre

Full Programme and Booking form will be circularised later but please register your interest with the Event Administration - e mail: enquiries@sagf.org.uk.

Other Forthcoming events. Remember that all members are welcome to attend any ISGF gatherings and workshops, and details are on the ISGF website (just google isgf.org). Both the ISGF website and our own SAGF site (sagf.org.uk) are very user friendly and easily accessible, do please use them and send us your news for the SAGF website and 'facebook' page!

2019 is the year of ISGF Regional gatherings, the date for the 10th European Conference in 2019 in Bremen, Germany, 21 – 25th August 2019. please note the application form on the ISGF.ORG Website has been updated.

UGANDA EXPEDITION

David has proposed an expedition in autumn 2019 (Nov) to Uganda and has proposed an exciting itinerary. However his main problem is that he has been unable to get any definite prices for the flights, the safari or transport because of 'brexit' uncertainty and the value of the dollar going up and down like a yo-yo until some settlement emerges, one way or the other.

He has estimated on the high side (hopefully) and quoted in Pounds Sterling. As a regular visitor to that country he has a good idea of local prices and is estimating between £ 2000 -- £2500. for the proposed schedule shown below. It is flexible to give the best value for money and he has not overlooked the possibility of non-UK participants of making and paying for their own travel arrangements to Uganda and only paying for the Uganda programme.

Uganda Programme Proposal and Preliminary Costing

Day 1

Flight £700

Transport to Airport to Kampala £30

Speke Hotel £100 for first night as arriving near midnight and needing accomodation

Day2 Speke Hotel £100

Day 3 Speke Hotel £100 Possible visit to Kasubi Tombs which is quite near hotel

Day4 Travel north £500

Accomodation £30

Day 5 Onward to Refugee Camp and return £30

Day 6 Return to Kampala Speke Hotel £100

Day 7 Travel to QE Park and commence Safari £300

Day 8 Safari £300

Day 9 Safari and return to Speke Hotel £100

Day 10 Kampala Souvenir Shopping £100

Day 11 Trip to Source of the Nile £10

Speke Hotel £100

Day 12 Return to Entebbe £30

- Invitation to visit Bright Kids Uganda
- Orphanage on route to Airport. This is
- run by Victoria Nalunga ex Chief Comm
- Scouts and now President ISGF Uganda

In addition food at £20/day for 12 days

Please register your interest with me and as soon as I get more accurate figures I will contact you. Dave

Please contact Dave direct by eMail: (davemowbray80@btinternet.com)