



NEWS from DENMARK

Action Plan

At our National Assembly in September, 2011 four major issues were selected:

- Participation in the Scout Jamboree 2012 – www.2012.spejderne.dk
- Participation in local projects, which make us visible
- Developing new forms and offers of personal development
- How to get new members

In January 2012 our 23 District Leaders were assembled for a weekend meeting. Here it was the aim to form three working groups, who will look into the three last items. We had a session of brainstorming and the various ideas were collected and the three groups are now debating how to take the next steps until June, when we will look into the results from the group.

The results from the working groups will form the basis for the session for the guild masters to be held in September.

New Registration of members

Last year a new system was introduced for registration of members. It is an online system, which is managed by each local guild. Their local secretaries are responsible for collecting data and for managing their files. So far the system has not generated any problems and the introduction has been a smooth process.

We are now 188 guilds with a total of 5.015 members.



www-sct-georgs-gilderne.dk

Peace Light from Bethlehem

At the end of November our Peace Light ceremony took place in Roskilde. After the torchlight procession a short ceremony was held at Sct. Jørgens Church.

This year we had adopted the Swedish model of issuing a Peace Message, which was very well received. This will form the basis for a new tradition in Denmark.

Subsequently, the guilds in Roskilde treated great many of us and we counted participation from 23 guilds.

The following day the light was transported around the country by train to various places,

where a recorded number of peace celebrations took place in at least 40 guilds.

The light was also brought to Helsingborg, Sweden from where it was taken by car way as far North as Haparanda.

Also this year the Peach Light safely reached both Sisimiut and Nuuk, Greenland.

Anne Haastrup-Nielsen,

InternationalSecretary
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NEWS from FINLAND



From the 60 year celebration

Here in Finland we are still working with the final completion of our new constitution. We called our members to an annual meeting according to the new constitution and intended to elect a new board of 8 members and take other needed decisions. But the mills of the authorities are grinding a lot slower than what we accounted for. We have not yet got the constitution approved by the authorities and therefore the annual meeting for 2012 had to continue along the lines of the old rules. This meant that the new board got elected for one year only and with the same amount of members as before (6). The Guild

Master Pirjo Rintamäki continues in the job and so does the International Secretary. The meeting was held in Kuopio in eastern Finland on March 17-18th and guild members from all over Finland attended.

The local guilds have really got together this winter and spring and arranged joint ventures. In February, the guilds in the Turku area (South Western Finland) arranged a Fellowship Café at the former Tournala manor, now a part of the University of Turku, mostly teaching agricultural topics. Tournala has also for decades been the astronomical center of the Turku University and includes the famous Vasala center where they grind and polish the world's biggest astronomical mirrors. The mirrors for the Hubble telescope were made here. Around 50 guild members from all over Southern Finland participated and visited the planetarium and had a guided tour of Tournala.

The guilds in Lahti and Orimattila had common Thinking Day celebration in February.

In October last year the guilds from Tampere, Forssa and Rauma had an "outdoor" day with a lot of different activities.

In November the Meri-Pori Guild (West Coast of Finland) took the challenge and arranged a pop-up restaurant according to the now so popular concept all over Europe. The place was a local scout cabin and on the menu were different soups. The "restaurant" was a big success and the money collected was donated to the international Women's Bank.

Around 20 guild members from Finland will attend the meeting in Lithuania in June and

most of them travel together by boat and bus. First the ferry to Tallinn and from there on by bus through Estonia to Riga in Latvia where they spend the night (in a hotel, not in tents) and continue the next day to Birstonas. The return journey will be by air.

Liv Aure Olli

International Secretary

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NEWS from NORWAY



New life for old principles

The national board has appointed a committee to produce a study programme for use in the local guilds. The committee is working with the books "Footsteps of the Founder - the Baden-Powell Quotations Book" and



BP's "Playing the Game". (Amzon.com)

The work is progressing well and the group will present the result at the meeting for District Guild Masters in the autumn.

New chairman of the International Ambassadors' Guild



The fund has been transferred from Switzerland to Belgium, and BjørgWalstad has been elected as the new chairman. A meeting for the ambassadors is being arranged in Lithuania, and information will be given to all who attend.

Trond Walstad

International Secretary tr-wals@online.no

NEWS from ICELAND

Being a scout in Iceland in 2012 is very exciting since we are celebrating this year that the scouting movement has been active in the country for 100 years.

The celebration year started on February 22nd when a stone column was unveiled by the scout center in Reykjavík. This is the third stone column that scouts have raised in the last few years.



The first one was unveiled in 2007 in honor of

100 years of scouting world wide. At the same time the Icelandic Scouting Association decided to support scouts from Albania to attend Jamoboree in England that same year, but at the time the scouting movement in Albania was the smallest member of WOSM in Europe.



The second stone column was raised in 2010 in memory of 100 years of girl guiding. A gift was also given at this event, this time to Armenia, one of the youngest and smallest member of WAGGS. The gift was a financial contribution to support outdoor activities of girl guides in the country.

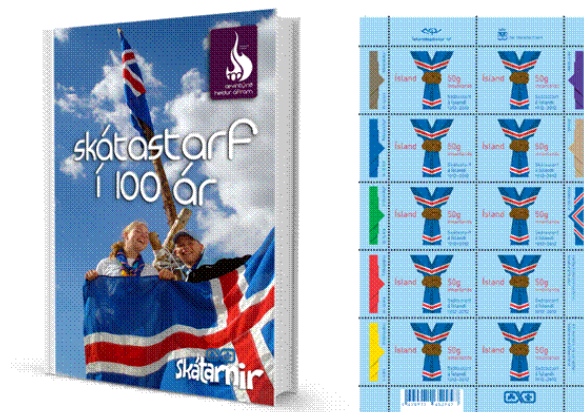


In february this year, when the third stone column was celebrated, the Icelandic chief scout received new publications of guidebooks for scouts in different age groups. Some time ago an old scout showed me his

first guidebooks. They were all handwritten by his group leader. Times have truly changed

The National Guild held a work shop on March 10th 2012 where we discussed the future policy of the guilds. Many good ideas were discussed. Most participants agreed that the guilds needed to be more visible and their work brought to the attention of media.

This spring a new book will be published where 100 years of scouting are discussed. The members of the guilds will, without doubt, find some stories that they can relate to from their many years of scouting. The book will be published electronically and can be downloaded from the internet. An on May 1st, the Icelandic postal service will issue a new scouting stamp.



One of the traditions of Icelandic scouts is to parade to church on the first day of summer. This year the first day of summer will be on April 19th and we plan on encouraging old scouts to join. The reason the first day of summer is so early is that in the old days the settlers of Iceland divided the year into two parts, summer and winter. Months were not used to divide time until much later. The first day of summer was then the first day of a new year, and a time of great celebration. Giving

gifts on the first day of summer is an older tradition in Iceland than Christmas presents.

The Day of St. George will be organized in Keflavík (on the south coast) on April 21st. The fellows there will invite us to a museum called „Geimsteinn“ where collections of the pop culture of Keflavík are on display. A studio and a publication company are also located in the same house as the museum. In the 50s and 60s many famous pop groups were operating in Keflavík, some who were under influence from the Beatles. After the visit to the museum we will gather in the scout home in the town.

Eleven fellows from the Icelandic guilds will travel to Lithuania this summer. We are all looking forward to meet older scouts from the Nordic countries and Lithuania. Since the meeting will end on June 17th, which is the Icelandic national day, we hope we can do something symbolic with reference to the national day.

Enjoy the summer

Hrefna Hjálmarsdóttir NP Iceland

NEWS from LITHUANIA



From Kaunas

No news received, but many of us are looking forward to see you at then Nordic Baltic Gathering Birstonas Lithuania 13/6-17/6 2012

NEWS from SWEDEN

Just now we are looking forward to spring, summer, warm weather with excursions and camps! Winter is partly over, still just yesterday (14/4) we had some snow outside of Stockholm. All our guilds have had their annual meetings, have looked back and also planned for the year to come. Some guilds are small, some medium size with 20-25 members, some bigger. The small ones and the big ones are managing well, the medium size guilds have some problems with ageing membership, no growth and frustration over their situation. The national board is now contacting our guilds, “taking the temperature”, and hopefully we can support our guilds with some new energy.

Yes, we are looking forward to different activities! In May we are all invited to a thank-you-weekend in Kopparbo in Dalarna. Many guild scouts have supported the activities in Kopparbo, have helped to arrange successful camps and meetings and now the board is expressing their thanks in this way. The NBSR meeting in Lithuania in June with at least 100 participants already registered is next on the list. What a wonderful opportunity to meet friends from the whole subregion in a country perhaps not well known to many of us. The NBR committee will meet one day in advance and plan future events.

Together with local people the guild in Kristianstad will arrange a hike for handicapped children! Really a good turn

opportunity that hopefully will come back every year. Many guild scouts are taking part in scout camps this summer. In August we will have our own walking-tour with more than 40 participants on the west coast.

Please note the dates of the next biennial meeting! It will take place in Luleå on the 25-26th of May. You are welcome!

The planning of the next European Conference has already started. It will be the main task for our countries in September 2013. More details will come soon.

We are looking to see you in different places, some of you soon!

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The very latest news!

Write in your time-table:
8th European Conference
Stockholm – Helsinki
5 – 8 September 2013



Theme "Crossing Borders"



From the planning of the Conferece taken on the ship m/s Mariella



News Letter

Editor and Layout: Trond Walstad

Support your local Scout museum!

