



NEWS LETTER

December 2014



**The peacelight have reached European northernmost point,
Nordkapp**

NEWS from ICELAND

Icelandic National Jamboree at Hamrar, Akureyri

Guild scouts contributed significantly to this Jamboree.

Several guild scouts served as troop leaders, two guilds served in the staff cafeteria, guild members set up an exhibit of scout artifacts, and the newest guild, Skýjaborgir (“sky castles”), led the family subcamp, which was very popular among old scouts and others.

Icelandic guild scouts usually work closely with the scout groups, which benefits both sides. The Scout Sweater There is a lot of interest in knitting

in Iceland, which makes sense because we often need warm sweaters. In recent years, the so-called scout sweater, which is knitted from wool, has become very popular.

The pattern for the sweater includes both the fleur-de-lis and the trefoil. People can adjust the pattern in various ways, using their imagination and taste.



Gilwell Training

Leader training in Iceland has been reorganized during the last few years. The new training courses have been quite popular. It has been enjoyable to see how many guild scouts have attended, either to complete their Gilwell training or to renew their knowledge of scouting.



Scouting Artifacts Exhibit

Guild scouts in Akureyri organized an exhibit of old scout artifacts and documents in the local library, in connection with the National Jamboree. One part of the Jamboree program was to visit local points of interest and many of the young scouts visited the exhibit, where guild scouts acted



from scouts from various countries in these old objects.

The Danish scouts, for instance, were very pleased to hear that it was a Dane by the name of Viggo Hansen (later Viggo Öfjord) who started the Akureyri Scout Group in 1917.



Here is the web site from the library:

www.flickr.com/photos/amtsbokasafn/sets/72157645053650439/

Hrefna Hjálmarsdóttir
NP Iceland



NEWS from DENMARK

Nordic Baltic Gathering 2015

It is Denmark's turn to be host in 2015. The Nordic-Baltic Gathering will take place at Bygholm, Horsens, Denmark.

The theme for the gathering is:

In Keeping with Tradition or Loyal to Tradition

Maybe it is interesting to know that the formal founding of ISGF (at that time it became the name IFOFSAG-International Fellowship Of Former Scouts And Guides) took place in the days from the 24th-25th October 1953 in Geneva and the first annual general meeting took place at Bygholm in Horsens in 1955.

The temporary program is as follows, but there may come changes.

Day 1:

Arrival, welcome and opening of the conference.

Day 2:

Two speeches in relation to the theme.

Hike to the former prison of Horsens (now a museum).

“Skothelle-kastning”(old Nordic game) - Competition between the participating countries.

Campfire with entertainment.



Day 3:

Excursion to the famous rune stones of Jelling, "Denmark's birth certificate"(Viking-time).
The church of Jelling,

Eating somewhere.

Workshop in the evening.

Day 4

Sailing on the Silkeborg Lakes with the boat "Mågen" (Seagull). Arrival at the "mountain" Himmelbjerget.

Guild-Hall at Bygholm.

Banquet



Day 5

Departure.

We are developing the programm now, and very soon we'll send the invitations.

We hope that a lot of you will join the gathering, and we look forward to seeing you.

Guild-Master Gathering in Horsens

The Guild-Master Gathering at Hotel Bygholm in Horsens held in September, 2014 was characterized by one theme and that was how the guild-members in Denmark can manage the fatal loss of members and turn the process into an ascending way.

As expressed by Helmut Werth, our National President, we can only do it, if we work together. We have to cooperate in a positive spirit and look forward instead of focusing on limits. Peter Skræ , our National Guild Education Secretary, submitted our newly edited Handbook for Guild-Members, where the contents of the Motto "Scouting for Adults" in particular is being dealt with. There was a long, but positive discussion about this subject.

The established working-group "Futura" presented the result of its work to find new ways to get an increase of members. This theme was also discussed thoroughly. After the discussions there were fine presentations of several guilds' actions in Denmark. The Outdoor Council of Denmark, "Friluftsrådet", told about their fantastic work and provided insight into the great opportunities of cooperation between "Friluftsrådet" and the Saint George's Guilds in Denmark.

Our International Secretary of the National Guild-Association, Anne-Haastrup-Nielsen, reported among others about a toy-collection to Romanian orphanage children, about the European Conference in Stockholm and about the coming Nordic Gathering in June 2015.

The National Guild-Cashier, Paula Mikkelsen, showcased the accounts in a clear and understandable way.

It was a very exciting Guild-Master Gathering, where the participants felt that they had been inspired in an extra-ordinarily good way.

Anne Haastrup-Nielsen, IS, Denmark

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NEWS from FINLAND

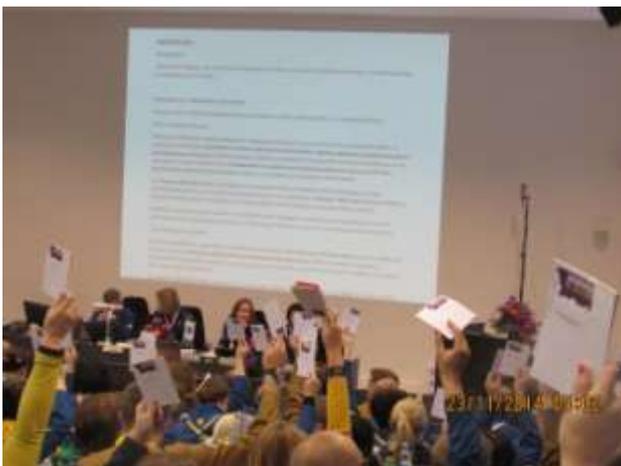
Fellowship of Scouts and Guides of Finland is a B member of the Guides and Scouts of Finland. This means that we do not have a voting right but may attend the meetings of the Guides and Scouts. Every second year the Guides and Scouts have a membership meeting, where the delegates of the Districts attend and elect chair and vice chair and decide on strategy and other important issues. This year the meeting was attended by a member of WAGGGS World Committee Haifa Ouririn from Tunisia and the secretary general Scott Tearen from WOSM, both gave interesting speeches at the opening of the meeting on Saturday 14.11.2014. They also had the experience of Finish winter because it snowed.

Flags arriving to the meeting S:t Michel in the middle of Finland, where a chorus of young guides and scouts charmed all by singing some children's songs



The meeting was quite active and voted several times.

The candidates for chair and vice chair as well as for other positions on the Board were cross examined. Here some voting takes place



In the evening we were the guests of S:t Michel town and a reception was held at the Museum of Marshall Mannerheim, which was his headquarter during the Second World War. It was very interesting to visit the museum.

C. G. R. Mannerheim became the first Honorary Scout in Finland in 1919. At the meeting, two new Honorary Scouts were appointed Christoffer Taxell and Johannes Koroma. So at the moment there are three living Honorary Guides and Scouts.

On Sunday we went to Church and the Bishop told how the town got its name S:t Michel already in the Medieval time, when Archangel St. Michel had been seen there. After the Church we walked back in the snow to the Polytechnic School and the Fellowship was allowed to make a presentation.



Here we are introducing our scarf and asking what it means and what Fellowship Scouts and Guides do?



The Fellowship is not very well known by younger Guides and Scouts so we had a kind a quiz.

We ended our presentation by talking about the stamp bank and gave a box to every Scout/Guide office in Finland. There are 18 offices and we urged them to start collecting stamps. The local Guild will come an empty the boxes and sort the stamps and send them to be sold. The money goes to ISGF who supports Guiding and Scouting in developing countries through WOSM and WAGGGS.

Our Fellowship is trying to recruit new members and in order to achieve that we have to become better known, especially among the Guides and Scouts in Finland. Local guilds support local troops in many different ways. And former Guides and Scouts are the most potential to recruit because once a scout always a scout.



The Swedish speaking scouts and guides of Finland arranged their traditional national jamboree near the town of Hangö in Southern Finland July 26th – August 2nd 2014. The Scout and Guide Fellowship of Finland participated for one day, Visitor's Day. There we had an information stand, presenting our organization and activities to the visitors during the day and in the evening at the leaders' "den". Our intention and hope was to attract new members, as most of the visitors would be relatives of the scouts attending the camp, or former scouts.

The board members also visited several smaller district camps during the summer. The Finnish Guide and Scout Union arranged a great meet for all the scouts and guides in Finland in Kouvola, in eastern Finland. There thousands of members got together for a week end in early June for a lot of activities. The Finnish Fellowship also participated and we had our own stand in the "Scout Village" where we presented our activities. On Saturday night there was a big campfire. Sunday's highlight was a big parade through the town of Kouvola. The ISGF flag was of course also present in the parade. The Fellowship members finalized their week end with a lunch and a sharing of thoughts and ideas.



Norske Grossarlere-members from Norway, Sweden and Finland had their traditional fall-gathering in Finland this year. It was already the fourth time they gathered together in Finland and this time in Tampere. On the program was among other happenings a bus trip to Mänttä, visiting the



newly re-opened Gösta Serlachius art center. A festive dinner was held in the circular restaurant on top of the Näsinneula-tower where the participants enjoyed fellowship-togetherness and good food combined with with an exceptional view over the Tampere area and an exceptional beautiful sunset.

We celebrated our common Fellowship Day with a Fellowship Day Dinner, just like previous years. This year it was arranged in Tampere at the museum center Vapriikki, situated in a former industrial quarter in the center of town. The Guild in Tampere, Gillet-Näsi-Kilta was responsible for the arrangement. The day started with a lunch in the restaurant, where the delicious food was accompanied by stories both humorous and serious about the people who worked in the buildings in the beginning of the 1900. The celebration continued in the auditorium where the traditional Fellowship candles were lighted. Pirjo Rintamäki, our former Guild Master, was presented with the Silver Cross of Merit from the Scout Union of Finland. The main speaker told about the cooperation in Finland between the Church and the scouts and guides organizations. After a varied and interesting program the participants continued the Fellowship Day celebration with a visit to the scout museum in Tampere and later in the evening to Tampere Theatre.

One of our guilds, the small St Nicholas Guild from Ingå, partakes every year in a scout meeting with participants from all their Nordic Friendship counties. Every autumn, during the last weekend in October scouts, guides and guild members



come together from Friday evening till Sunday afternoon for outdoor games, competitions, hikes and other scouting activities and just enjoying each other's company. The "campfire" on Saturday with program from all the participating groups, singsong and games are not the least important aspect. There is also a more official meeting on Sunday with discussion about scouting and plans for the coming year. This arrangement, which is wholly informal and based only on cooperation between the local groups, has been continuing for almost 30 years! The eldest participants are more than 70 years old and the youngest are 15. This year's meeting was held in Finland, in Ingå and on the program was among other a boat trip to the island Stora Fagerö where they arranged a hike in the forest and a campfire on the beach. Next meeting will be in Håbo in Sweden. The other participants come from Nittedal in Norway and Fredensborg in Denmark. To ensure that all the memories are kept for future generations, they keep a log book with pictures, program and participants' list. Perhaps this could be a possible form of connection for your Guild? Check out which your Friendship Counties are and contact the local Guilds/Scout groups!

Liv Aure Olli

IS, Finland

NEWS from LITHUANIA

No news this time.



NEWS from SWEDEN

Wandering

Our big event this autumn has been our Wandering. The time was the last week in August

and the place was in south of Sweden just south of lake Vänern near Trollhättan-Vänernborg. There you find two hills about 150 meters high with steep sides. The nature is very special and most of the woods have grown without influence of people for 50 – 100 years. We were 32 scouts, who went in and the arranging Guild were 8. All from Sweden except two from Denmark. Every day after breakfast they took their maps and went away. There were groups of different sizes; from two till six-seven. Everybody had made a lunch pack in the morning which they had somewhere in the woods. At night there was a common dinner with homemade food by the arranging guild which also had made all bread. After dinner there were different programs. One night all went away on a short outing halfway up to the top of one of the hills. There is a cave where they had taken out minerals and lime a hundred years ago. Now it was a perfect place to light candles and have a ceremony. Everybody also were given a badge to remember the Wandering. Last night we had a traditional camp fire along the lake and sang many old songs.



Peace-light

We get out Peace light from Roskilde in Denmark and it "lands" in Helsingborg. From there we send it through Sweden. We also send the light to Norway and Finland. Hopefully it will come as far as Jukkasjärvi in the north of Sweden where you can find the Ice Hotel. Every year some scouts deliver the light to the royal Family in Stockholm. On the 24th of December the Royal Family celebrate together with allemployees and Swedish Television show a Christmas prayer from the Royal Church. There you can see the scouts lightening candles with the Peace-light.

Hälsningar

Mariana



NEWS from NORWAY



The tent hotel Hotelt has become a regular feature of national jamborees during the past years. In 2014 it was the turn of the YWCA/YMCA scouts to hold their jamboree in Asker, near Oslo, in August. The hotel was in place to provide simple over-night hospitality for visitors to the camp. On average 9,7 tents were occupied each night, and there were 119 guests in all.

The hotel was staffed by ten members of a guild troop with the motto Blå på leir, Blue in camp, from the characteristic blue guild shirts and jackets.



When they weren't busy with the hotel, they had time to visit groups at their camp sites and tell them about guild activities. Hotel director was Dag Espolin Johnson, YWCA/YMCA representative on the guilds' board. Troop leader was Inger-Lise Echoldt, district guild master in Østfold.



You can get Lego scouts from www.speider-sport.no

The Norwegian Guide and Scout Association (NSF) will be arranging the next national jamboree in 2017 in Bodø, and the tent hotel will also be in place there.



In September, the traditional bi-annual Guild Master Meeting was held at Gran, north of Oslo. A new element in the programme was workshops. Participants could discuss safety on tours, learn to make simple publications on a computer, sew with the group "BP's Blue Threads" or simply walk and talk. Or listen... The keynote address was by philosopher Håkon Gaukstad, with dialogue as his subject, including the importance of listening to one another.

Dag Espolin Johnson is a member of the committee that made a proposal for a new Scout Law. At the Guild Master Meeting, he presented the results of a hearing that was concluded earlier in the year. The proposal will be discussed by the two federations, before their joint body, Speidernes fellesorganisasjon, makes the final decision. So far, the General Assembly (Speiderting) of the Norwegian Guide and Scout Association (NSF) has rejected all but a proposed new §1.



From Lillesand

As Advent draws near, the Peace Light from Bethlehem is spread throughout the country by car, train and boat. The Coastal Steamers, Hurtigruta, carry the light northwards and southwards along the coast. This year the Light was taken all the way to the final harbour, Vadsø. Crew and passengers on the MS Nordlyset took the Peace Light on an excursion to the North Cape, Norway's northernmost point.



The Peace Light is used to light candles at services in many churches on the first Sunday in Advent, and several guilds take the Light to nursing homes and other institutions.

The humble flame, that can easily be blown out, but is spread throughout much of Europe and other parts of the world, is an appropriate symbol for the dreams and hope of peace on earth that is central to the message of Christmas.



From Hamardomen

At WWW.fredslyset.no you see pictures where the peaelight is in Norway (text in Norwegian only - sorry)

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Support your local Scout museum!



We wish you all



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