



# INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS GUILD NEWSLETTER No 5.

May 2020

**Welcome to our newsletter No. 5.**

***“It’s a small world after all! “\****

*Do you remember this song we used to sing when we were young scouts and guides? From the first days of the epidemic Covid-19 this song came into my mind. Indeed, our world is very small and we realised it with the rapid spread of Covid-19 around the world, something that negatively affected the lives of all of us.*

*It was a natural consequence that the International Ambassadors Guild ( I.A.G. ) General Assembly and the annual meeting of I.A.G. members scheduled for the weekend 21/22 March 2020, were postponed until further notice. The 29<sup>th</sup> ISGF World Conference in Madrid (17-22 August 2020) was postponed as well. The ISGF World Conference would have been a great opportunity to make an overall presentation of I.A.G., to present our actions taken, the projects funded, to meet members and friends participating in this great ISGF event from all over the World. The Conference will take place next year and we are looking forward to meeting you there. At this time our thoughts and sympathy are with the organisers from Spain who are working hard to ensure that the conference is a success.*

*It is our great pleasure to include in this newsletter among others, the reports of I.A.G. Board members from their participation in the 2019 ISGF events and activities. So you will get a comprehensive update of I.A.G. activities in 2019.*

*Until our next meeting, let us stay safe, follow the instructions of those in charge in our countries and when the conditions allow, we will meet again and restart our activities.*

**\*It’s a small world after all**

It’s a small world after all

It’s a world of laughter

It’s a small world after all

A world of tears

It’s a small world after all

It’s a world of hopes

It’s a small , small world

And a world of fears

There’s so much that we share

That it’s time we’re aware

It’s a small world after all

## MESSAGE OF I.A.G. CHAIRMAN

Dear Ambassadors,

Looking backwards over the last few years I think there has been a change in the way of work within the International Ambassadors Guild. Members do not only pay their contribution they also meet more often.

We invite people to ambassador meetings at conferences and gatherings but for some years we also have arranged special weekends connected to the General Assembly. In February 2016 some members made a tour to Kenya to take part in the celebration of Founders Day/Thinking Day in Nyeri. One of the highlights was the visit to the BP-memorial for a special ceremony. In the memorial garden there is a museum and people are encouraged to bring items for the collection. IAG members brought items from their scout-groups as a gift to the museum .

During the stay we had the opportunity to visit on of the projects we had supported, Pigeon Park, a center for scout and guide activities near Nyeri. The training center needed facilities for indoor activities. During the lunch stay there we saw the frame of the new building and met many happy scouts and guides.

In Nairobi we were invited to visit a group of scouts and guides living in the slum in Kinyago. They invited us to take part in one of their meetings. They seemed to be happy and proud to be a part of the group and wear the scout uniform. The training program encouraged them to learn more, help themselves and take care of others. It was amazing to see what they could do with small means. The group was quite isolated from the other scout and guide groups. We were happy to join them singing to good old songs we all know.

Their dream was to be able to have some activities in a green and clean place outside the slum for the younger one and maybe a leader training for some days in Pigeon Park for the older one. IAG decided to support their projects and the reports we have from them tells a lot about the impact the training had for the group. They stayed in the camp together with other groups and learned a lot, and they also felt they could contribute with their experiences to the others. What we take for granted, a meal per, day, fresh fruit and drinking water was like a dream for them. Thanks to the financial support from IAG more units from the group have had the possibility to have trainings together in Pigeon Park. What they have learned about how to take care of nature they try to put into practice the village. They have started a clean-up project in the slum with very good results. The group is growing and just now they have got a new unit of 40 active rover and rangers. They are responsible for running the Clean Up project. IAG decided to follow up the support to this very important project and to give the group financial means to run two trainings in Pigeon Park during this year. The first training should be in April. Because of the corona virus the first training had to be postponed. When the corona virus reached the slum, there was a

lack of fresh water and soap. The rovers and rangers help in the distribution to the families. Today they are, together with their leaders, trying to support families in need with food.

What this group of guide and scouts are doing is important for the welfare in their village.

Each year when the annual general Meeting is held members are encouraged to spend the weekend in Brussels and on one day join an excursion to a town near to Brussels, these visits have taken members to Bruges, Ghent and other places learning about the local history and enjoying local food.

Sadly this year the annual assembly and meeting of the IAG members has had to be postponed due to Covid -19. Further information will be available later in the year.

Björg

## INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS GUILD BADGE



The IAG badge is a success, sold at all ISGF events .

Fund raising item 5€ a piece.

For orders, contact Björg Walstad [tr-wals@online.no](mailto:tr-wals@online.no) or

Midá Rodrigues [rodriguesmida@hotmail.com](mailto:rodriguesmida@hotmail.com)

5€ each plus postage.

## IAG at the 2nd Western Hemisphere Conference (By Mida Rodrigues)

The National Fellowships and Central Branch members of the Western Hemisphere Region: Aruba, Curaçao, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay, Haiti, USA , Mexico, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, participated in the 2nd WH Conference in New York, 16-20 September 2019.

I was given time to make a power point presentation of IAG- International Ambassadors Guild, during the very full program.

The ISGF members present were very interested in becoming members and also in doing environmental projects together with the young Guides and Scouts in their countries.

Though I maintain contact with the members interested in the above, the World Conference 2020 , now 2021, would be the time to renew friendships and encourage applications for support.

Participants appreciated very much the IAG badges and many were sold.



## Power Point Presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> ISGF Europe Conference in Bremen , Germany



I.A.G. PRESENTATION



10th European Conference  
21 – 25 August 2019  
in Bremen



## UGANDA (By Jane Wardropper)

In November 2019 a group from the UK visited Uganda. For the first three nights in Uganda we were based in Kampala, during this time we met Mathius Lukwago, member of the World Committee, and several members of the Ugandan Fellowship. There was an opportunity to visit some of the tourist sites in the city and most importantly to change money. One afternoon was spent sorting the toys which had been donated for the refugee camp.



This was in preparation for the next day when we set off for Arua en-route for the Imvepi Refugee Camp.

Our journey north took six hours and included several stops for light refreshments (local snacks of fruit and cooked items) sold at the road side.



Next morning we set out for a four hour drive to the Camp, for the majority of the journey we travelled on dirt roads which had been eroded by the rains and heavy traffic. Our route took us through one camp, Rhino Camp, and eventually we reached our destination Imvepi Camp. A camp resident acted as our guide and directed the bus we travelled in, to the site of one of the houses built with ISGF money. Whilst at the site we also saw trees planted as a source of firewood. And were greeted by a group of children



An "ISGF House"

We then returned to the centre of the camp to one of the "Safe Areas for children" This was a campus with slides swings etc plus a building for educational activities and a smaller building where counselling took place.

Here some of the children and staff had gathered for the official hand over of the toys we had brought.



Next day, Tuesday we travelled back to Kampala and on Thursday evening met with members of the Fellowship at their meeting place. Here we were told about a planned project, with some of the youths of the camp, to breed rabbits. And after careful consideration at the end of the visit we left a donation for one hutch of breeding rabbits. (The hutch is built and now houses one male and 5 female rabbits). Before returning home we spent two nights at the Queen Elizabeth National Park and on the last day visited an orphanage in Entebbe and met the National President Victoria Namusisi

**The Eclaireuses Laïques de Côte d'Ivoire**

The Eclaireuses Laïques de Côte d'Ivoire (ELAICI) manage their training centre for young street girls and accommodation for girls. A new Guide group of 25 girls, the Zéphyr group has been formed. The group's launching ceremony in February 2020 ended, symbolically, with a first operation to clean up the neighbourhood around the centre.

The mission of WAGGGS is to make its members citizens conscious of their responsibilities; in these times of major plastic pollution, environmental protection is fundamental and the Zéphyr group therefore wishes to participate, depending of the possibilities of its members. This small local operation which is, in their mind, the start of a larger action, is fully within this mission of WAGGGS.



Eclaireuses et Eclaireurs de France in Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)  
Martine and Jean-François Levy's mission in January and February 2020  
by Martine Levy

The Eclaireuses et Eclaireurs de France from Boulogne-Billancourt (EEDF-BB) started a partnership in 1986 with the Eclaireuses Laïques de Côte d'Ivoire (ELAICI) as part of the French-speaking cooperation of lay scouting associations.

From 1986 to 2018, 7 cooperation projects took place and each year, I go to Côte d'Ivoire to follow up on these projects, but also and above all, to meet friends of so long standing, throughout the territory.

Jean-François sometimes, went with me; this was the case in 2020.

### PLACES

**Zanasso**, a small village in the north of the Côte d'Ivoire, 850 kilometers from Abidjan, on the border with Mali, was our first destination. There are around 1,500 inhabitants.

In 1989, EEDF-BB / ELAICI built a health house for primary care which quickly became a dispensary.

*In 2020, 31 years later*, it still remains the only vaccination center within a radius of 150 kilometers covering both the north of Côte d'Ivoire and the south of Mali; thanks to the solar energy that we put in 1993. A new dispensary with integrated maternity is under construction (the villagers for the walls and the specialized services of medicine for the interior).

As the male nurse, whose house was built by villagers in 1996, said, "deliveries will be easier especially since the electricity will arrive in the village in a few days." (It is there today).

*But the important thing will be to convince women to give birth at the dispensary; training will be required; the male nurse is optimistic for young women.*

The village has two classrooms of about 30 students each.

The actions carried out by the villagers themselves show how motivated they were by the initial construction and by the permanent interest shown from the start, which in a way served as a catalyst.

Actual dispensary built in 1989



Ground plan of the future dispensary





## Korhogo :

Houphouët-Boigny High School; high school of excellence; the Headmaster showed us around the school and I was able to speak to third class and final class students in front of the inscription on the wall of the school: *"All mobilized against pregnancy in the school environment"*: you are the decision-makers of tomorrow and learn about the plight of girls who are raped, abused, made pregnant and drop out of school, so you can stamp out it when you are in business.

Visit of the Gbon Coulibaly Museum. Waraniene village of weavers.

### With students of Lycée Houphouët-Boigny



## Lopou :

Lopou is another village, located in the south of Côte d'Ivoire, about 40 kilometers west of Abidjan.

In 2007, the EEDF-BB / ELAICI built a building for the village dispensary to be used to house those accompanying the sick persons.

**In 2020**, thanks to its existence, and for 10 years, a doctor installed his office there, which is, of course, fundamental for patients.

### 2 leaders from Ivory Coast and Martine



### The building built in 2007



**Agboville** is a town 60 kilometers north of Abidjan.

Since 1992 and until today, the Kimou N'Guessan Faustin Center (CKNF) remains the most daring and the most beautiful partnership action of EEDF-BB and ELAICI, 2 small organizations without great means but with great perseverance over the years. It was originally a training centre for street girls and accommodation centre for schoolgirls.

Children of the kindergarten



ELAICI's Zephyr group



**Today, in 2020, 28 years later**, the CKNF has 103 children in kindergarten (created in 2015), 40 students (around 500 have been trained since the opening in 1995), and a dozen young girls who study in town.

And also, a brand new ELAICI group of 25 girls with whom we have launched a large waste collection operation, which is going to grow, thanks to the generosity of the ISGF International Ambassadors Guild.

And *the chicken coop* in the village of Attobrou, near Agboville! the 18-month-old hens are still laying, and their eggs delight the villagers who never had fresh eggs ... and CKNF by the money brought in!!

**August 2021:** If everything goes as we want (enough funding), the CKNF should be finished with a final work camp; it will accommodate 70 schoolgirls allowing them to attend school safely, without risk of early pregnancy.

Recall that, if part of the funding was provided by EEDF-BB and ELAICI, nothing would have been possible without the external support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Guides of Canada, of Great Britain, the ISGF International Ambassadors Guild, and many private, personal donations.

**But above all, and we must insist on it: nothing would have been possible without very great mutual trust.**

We thought you would like to read something different

## The Guide International Service (GIS) (By Jane Wardropper)

On 8<sup>th</sup> May we commemorated 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.

From 1942 a scheme was developed to enable volunteers after suitable training to be formed into teams to work in various countries which 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. 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 worked was Belsen where they worked with other relief teams with displaced persons. Their work with displaced persons continued and the last team returned to the UK in 1952.

In addition to working in Europe a team with members from Australia and New Zealand 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.

### Contact us

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