



NEWS from DENMARK

These pictures take us way up North to Greenland so what's the connection?



Sisimiut

More than 10 years ago in Hillerød, Denmark some guild members had a great idea together with guild members from Sisimiut.

In connection with the study of technologies for future buildings in the arctic climate, they wanted to build a college to house the engineers doing the studies. The heating of the college is environmentally friendly with solar panels. So apart from being a place to live, the Greenland engineering college – Apisseq – will also be a living laboratory.

For the latest five years the low-energy house of Sisimiut has been housing the experimental

workshop that is testing the various technologies.

The Hillerød guild members have been seeking funds in order to raise money for the construction.



A group of guild members from Hillerød, Denmark went to the Sisimiut to be part of the official opening in August, 2010 together with officials from the funds, the leader of the construction school, and also the Mayor and officials from the local government.

The travelling group was divided into two parties, the Northern one and Southern one.

Unfortunately, because of bad weather the Northern party did not arrive on time, but the college was opened all the same.

PS: Does anyone know: did Shep make it back from Greenland???

Peace Light 2010

Again this year the Peace Light ceremony took place in Roskilde and was subsequently taken around the whole country by train. It was even travelling by boat to Greenland and was then received in Nuuk as well as in Sisimiut.

From Elsinore the Peace Light was also travelling by ferry to Helsingborg, Sweden, where a ceremony was held and further the route led to the very North of Sweden.

Anne Haastrup-Nielsen

International Secretary

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NEWS from FINLAND

New members

We welcomed a new guild into the fellowship in 2009 and this has led to several new members. Some of the old guilds have also had an increase in members, especially in Turku where they are trying to revive the old guild. So we sincerely hope that by the end of this year we will have an increased number of members, not a decrease.

Our theme for 2010 is: "Let the Guilds be Visible". Several of the guilds have reported increased cooperation with local scout-groups, helping out in different ways and even joining suitable activities.

Activities

In the middle of May we had our traditional spring outing. This time our members were invited to visit Inkoo, some 60 km west from Helsinki on the coast. The members of St. Nicholas Guild had arranged a weekend program which included among other things a visit to the local medieval church, a boat trip through the beautiful archipelago and a traditional campfire on a small island. The weather was beautiful and the around 30 participants, aged from 40 to 93 from all over Finland enjoyed each other's company and could bring new memories and new stories back to their guilds.



And talking about stories – our project "Tarinat talteen" (Collecting our stories) has been going on the whole year. We have got a lot of wonderful stories and memories from our members and hope to be able to publish them one way or another. The stories will of course be published in our magazine "Pyhä Yrjänä" (St. Georg), but we will try to get a booklet printed in due time.

Finland's Scout Union arranged the KILKE 2010 – VI FINNJAMBOREE this summer. The camp was situated at the new permanent site for larger camps which Finland's State Forests are constructing together with the scouts. The campsite is situated in Southern Finland and will have permanent roads/paths, water pipes, sanitation etc. But it will still be as much as possible a traditional, natural Finnish forest. The camp this summer had more than 10 000 participants, including a lot of scouts from abroad – with the Scandinavian countries well represented. Finland's Guilds had a café – "Leiri-mummola" (Grandma's Campsite) – a resting place for leaders and older scouts, a place to chat or be silent, a place to charge your batteries (also the batteries of your mobile). It was a completely new project for us and we were a bit unsure about how well it would "hit" the participants. But it was a howling success! The "grandma's and grandpa's" baked waffles and made coffee as fast as they could all day long for almost the whole week, and we were

frequently asked if this could be a tradition at later camps! So we are passing on the idea – a simple tent-café without technical noise (no background music), serving only fresh waffles, coffee, tea and juice, where you can have a rest from all the “goings on” at a big camp. And we got several new members!



Liv Aure Olli
International Secretary

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NEWS from NORWAY

A new profile

The St George’s guilds in Norway are midway in an ambitious long-term plan for growth. As part of the effort to reach the goals for the plan, the national executive and the PR committee have engaged a graphic designer and a commercial photographer who is also qualified as a communications consultant to help to design a new profile. Both of them have a background in the scout movement and have designed a profile for one of our associations. The result was presented at the guild masters’ meeting in September.

What do scouts and scout leaders know about us?

As part of their groundwork, they carried out a survey among scouts, guides and leaders in

both associations. This revealed that what most of those interviewed associate with the guilds is the blue jumper we wear. It also revealed that they regard us as good-humored and friendly, but have little idea of what we do.

The magazine comes first!

The survey also revealed that our most important PR-medium is our magazine, St Georg. It came as a surprise to us that the magazine was considered more important than our website. In addition, many in the target group prefer to receive news by e-mail. This means that the website can be more “stationary” and contain information that does not require to be updated continuously. News can be conveyed by e-mail.

At the guild masters’ meeting we were also encouraged to take better photos, especially close-ups of members in action and enjoying themselves. We are now giving the magazine a make-over, and we hope that it can be so informative that it can replace various brochures we have used in the past. The graphic profile uses blue as its main colour, and we promote ourselves with the slogan “Supporting scouting together”. As a means of making contact with younger potential members we now have our own Facebook group.

We must show them who we are

It is obvious that we must do our best to show that we support scouting and that we have interesting activities that help us to continue to live in accordance with scouting values. We are also an arena where members can maintain and develop friendship with people they have met in connection with scouting.

We wrote previously about “Hotent”, the accommodation that the guilds have provided at national jamborees. We are now cooperating with the Norwegian associations to provide Home Hospitality for participants in the jamboree in Sweden in 2011. We hope that this

will lead to better contact with local districts and groups and make it easier for scouts and guides eventually to become guild members. Members of our international committee are the organizing committee, while the district guild masters organize local committees that can contact districts and leaders in the scout groups. This kind of cooperation emphasizes that when we work together, we strengthen scouting!

The most important things that we do are still at the local level, but it is also useful to have formal cooperation at a national level, so that considering joint projects will come naturally.

Spreading the Peace Light is a project with a national foundation and a local implementation.

New guilds

At the guild masters' meeting in September we were able to welcome the masters of two new guilds. One of them has members around 30 years old. The other consists of present and past scout and guide leaders from the Salvation Army Scout Corps. The latter has the same structure as the Methodist Scout Corps St George Guild (which in the course of six years has grown to be Norway's largest guild) and has members spread throughout the country. At a time when travel is easy, such nationwide networks can be a supplement to the local guilds. We like to believe that the growth we now see, both in the membership of existing guilds and in the establishment of new guilds, is a result of long-term, deliberate efforts to promote expansion, and we hope that they are the beginning of a development in the right direction!

Karin R. Thompson

International Secretary

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NEWS from ICELAND

Last spring we had a pleasant visit from á guild in Greenland's capital Nuuk. There were 10 guild members and 3 of the Icelandic guilds had offered to take them for 2 days on trips around the south- west of Iceland. They visited Reykjanes with the Blue Lagoon and took a trip to Tingvellir, Úlfjótsvatn (the scout's paradise in Iceland) and Hveragerdi where they among other things bathed in the mud of the hot geysers. When they left SHEP the bear left with them.



In April 2010 the oldest guild in Iceland „Reykjavíkurgildið“ left us as the members are getting very old and do not have the energy to participate with us anymore. This was really a sad decision but one must accept their wish.

We are not having much success in getting more members.

Right now we are preparing a new website: <http://www.stgildi.is/>. This website will probably be operative in the beginning of December. You can look at it as it is now, but when finished it will have some links in English.



The friendship day was celebrated as usual and many members enjoyed being together, singing the old songs and some new and having a good time.

On 2nd November there will be a conference where we will remember 100 years of women's scouting. The guilds are working on this with the scout association.

NP – Elín Richards

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NEWS from LITHUANIA



On 5th June we had a weekend with people from Scouting who are interested in ISGF. We feel that they need us :). We had some discussions about our common future and how to work together.



On 21st August the annual gathering of scout leaders was organized, we had the ISGF site. We are really happy that Rigmor Lauridsen, despite being so busy, sent us some really valuable material which was a great help to us. We managed to successfully present the ISGF activities and make some PR for our fellowship. We also had some discussions about our common future and Nordic- Baltic gathering 2012.



On 14th November Kaunas district scout flag was consecrated and the new spiritual leader was introduced. After the solemn ceremony the group of Lithuanian SGF representatives had a meeting and was talking about the preparations for the annual Scout Song Contest, which is going to be held on 22nd January.

Dalia Urzaite, International Secretary

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NEWS from SWEDEN

This summer 31 guild scouts from all over Sweden met outside Jönköping at Store Mosse. Every second year SGSS invites all its members to a place where they can walk and experience nature and friendship. Store Mosse is a National Park with interesting birds and fascinating nature. Long walks or shorter ones were there to choose from. In the evenings the whole group met, had dinner together and told about impressions of the day. The weather changed, bright sunshine, rain and hard winds.



Some 20 guild scouts went to DUST, a scout camp near to Karlsborg. They worked in the kitchen, in the kiosk or in the group that presented the story of King Ramunder and the Chief of the robbers Ura Kaipa. The support of the guild scouts is very much appreciated by the leaders and participants of the camp.



A revised Handbook for guilds has been sent out to all guilds.

You are welcome to join us at our annual meeting in Falun 28-29th May!

Many of you have noticed that Sweden is hosting the World Jamboree 27th July-7th August 2011. If you want to be involved, you must register before the 31st December 2010. You can come as an IST, International Service Team. If you are a member of a scout organization in your home country, you register through them. ISGF needs some people for its information tent. If you are interested in working there you can contact me by e-mail, telling me your name, address, e-mail address and if you prefer sleeping in a tent or not. We have found a place not too far from the camp with not too luxurious accommodation. It costs 4500 SEK to participate as IST in the Jamboree, indoor accommodation is extra. It is expected that you take part in the whole Jamboree plus two days before and one after.

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The very latest news!

NBSR is hosting the next European Conference in 2013. According to tradition within the European Region the next 8th Conference will take place in one of the countries in the NordicBaltic Region. The participants from the

countries except Iceland and Lithuania met in Cyprus and decided:” Let us arrange the next conference together and make something quite special”. So, now we are all involved, let us be really creative and come up with bright ideas. The NBSR Committee, consisting of National President and International Secretary from each country will meet in Copenhagen 15-16th January 2011. Wherever you meet, in board meetings guilds or just over a cup of coffee, be creative and tell your committee representatives about your thoughts. Think of a place where about 300 people can hold a conference, sleep, eat and visit interesting sites. Maybe we can involve more than one country? Post conference tours are popular. Where can they take place?

We will come back to you and ask for your cooperation.

New chair in the European Regional Committee. He will be well known to many of us, his name is Olav Balle, NP of Norway. Congratulations!

As mentioned above there will be a meeting with the NBSR committee in Copenhagen in January. This will be a preparatory meeting for the World Conference in Como in September-October 2011. As Rigmor Lauridsen is leaving the World Committee we would very much like to have a new NBSR representative there. Sweden has found a woman 40+ and will ask for support for their candidate. We will also decide on time and place for the next NBSR meeting in 2012. It will take place in Lithuania! The invitation will come to you soon.

Gunilla Engvall

NP of Sweden

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News Letter

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First Aid demonstration Oslo 1918