



NORDIC BALTIC SUB REGION
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2025



Denmark

Reach Out



The Danish NGSF (National Guild) project Reach Out so far concentrates on two main geographic areas: Sri Lanka and the WAGGGS world centre in India, Sangam.

Although for the time being there isn't an ongoing Community Service Program covering our specific interest, which is teaching young girls the importance of staying in school for as long as possible and going to school every day, Sangam wanted a shipment of 200 packages of reusable hygienic pads. These packages will be handed out to local girls when it fits into Sangam's current programs.

In addition, preliminary work is being done to make two Danish girl guides go to Sangam at the beginning of 2026. The plan is that they will primarily work on visiting schools, teaching girls about hygiene, and handing out packages of hygienic pads supplied by Reach Out. The picture below is from last year, when two Danish Girl Guides did service at Sangam.

Money for the supplies to India and Sri Lanka are earned by selling handmade products, primarily made of used and donated materials, at public markets and gatherings like the one in Tønsberg in Norway. Furthermore, private members of LGSFs (Local Guilds) and also LGSFs have been very generous.



Two Twinning's

We have two Twinning's in Denmark, although one of them is not officially a Twinning. But both have been active the last months:

Denmark - Germany

In 1992 the Danish Guild Hærvejen and the German Guild Störtebecker formed a twinning project and have been visiting each other every year since then!

This year, they met for the 32th(!) time, in September, in Oldenburg, Germany.



Gathering with Guild scouts from Sweden in Korsoer, Denmark

Last year, in 2024, the GIM-group (the Guilds International "Members") in the West Zealand district contacted the ALE guild in Southern Sweden. We arranged a visit on the first Saturday in October 24, where we had a successful gathering at the Johanna Museum between Malmö and Ystad. On the spot we decided to meet again. This year it was our turn to be the hosts. And again, on the first Saturday in October, October 4.

We were representatives from 3 guilds, Soroe, Korsoer and Slagelse, in the planning group and we agreed that the gathering should be in Korsoer. An invitation was sent to Sweden and they replied that 12 Guild Scouts would come. We were 22 Guildmembers from Denmark.

On October 4, we were also visited by the storm Amy with hurricane force winds and a lot of rain. But that certainly didn't keep the Swedes at home. They had announced, that if the Oresund Bridge would close, then they would take the ferry Helsingborg-Helsingør. Scouts don't give up

We met at a place under the Great Belt Bridge at 11 a.m., where we served hot coffee and Danish pastries inside at the Ice Boat Museum. Here Ole Skude from 4. Slagelse talked about transport across the Great Belt before and now. Afterwards there was a windy walk to the Great Belt Bridge, where we could enjoy the view from below and alongside the large building and where we could "pat the bridge on the belly".



Next, we went to the Guild House Oasen in Korsøer, where a traditional Danish lunch was served with selected cold and warm dishes with beer/soda and snaps. We mixed Swedes and Danes around the tables. We had a good time, we could hear Swedish, Danish and "Swanish" - and everyone enjoyed the lunch.

Afterwards there was a little sightseeing round the house, before we had a Danish Guild Hall. Last year we were told, that our Swedish friends did not use the Guild Hall that much in their Guild life. It was a very interesting and exciting experience, some of the Swedes later expressed. Never have so many photos been taken during a Guild Hall.

We ended with coffee and some Danish cakes. Here the ALE Guild Master Kjell-Åke Nordstrøm thanked us for the event and invited us to come back to Sweden in 2026. He gave us a fine porcelain figurine of Nils Holgersen on the goose and a book with the fairytale by Selma Lagerlöf, since Nils Holgersen was 'born' in their District. Our DIS (District International Secretary) Annie Knudsen then thanked the Guild scouts for their visit and the gift. She wished the Swedes a safe trip home and said that we would look forward to meeting again. Nils Holgersen was then presented to the Korsør Guild, partly as a memory of a wonderful day and thanks for using their house for this gathering.

It is a fantastic experience to meet Guild members across national borders. Already at our first meeting we felt the scout spirit and togetherness. It is possible to be together for 5 hours and with approximately 2 hours of transportation to and from the gathering.

We can only recommend contacting other guilds - internationally or nationally.

Inger Juul, 4. Slagelse, Sct. Georgs Guild

Fotos: Henning Bach, Korsøer and Soeren Juul Nerenst 4. Slagelse



Invitation to participate in the Danish Scout Jamboree 2026



At the Scout Jamboree, you will find the Danish Guild project “Hotelt” for the 3rd time, and you are invited too!

“Hotelt” concept is invented by the Norwegian Fellowships:

The local guilds buy a tent and donate it to a local scout troop. The tent will be set up at the camp and rented out as “hotel rooms” to the volunteers on the camp. When the camp is over, the tent is handed over to the scout group.

Not only that! During the camp there will be activities for the youngest scouts, and in the evenings, we offer some workshops for leaders and volunteers. At this camp we will be placed very central, on the camps main square.

It is a win-win-win situation: we solve a problem for many volunteers, we help the local scout groups, and we get a lot of attention

You are hereby invited to participate too! The language on the camp is Danish, but most of us could use a lesson in “Scandinavian”.

If you want more information, send a mail to iu-udvalg@sct-georg.dk or directly to Hotelt@sct-georg.dk





Finland

Ulla Topi traineeship in inclusive policymaking

Ulla Topi has been a member of Turku scout guild for many years. She is slightly disabled but as a persistent person has not given up, but always worked for disabled or handicapped persons in many organizations, promoting for them. Inclusion Europe will now thank her for her active role as an advocacy:

In honor of Ulla Topi's pioneering contribution to the self-advocacy movement and European policymaking, young professionals coming to Inclusion Europe to learn about policy or communication will be taking part in what is now called the Ulla Topi traineeship in inclusive policymaking. This 6-months placement offers the opportunity to learn about inclusive policymaking and the rights of people with disabilities.



You can read more

<https://www.inclusion.eu/ulla-topi-traineeship-in-inclusive-policy-making>

District Jamborees

There were several big district jamborees during this summer. The Scouts and Guides of Lapland with their own Jamboree Pulahdus 2025 and 3000 participants in Heinuvaara, Rovaniemi, The Scouts and Guides of Pohjanmaa (mid-Northern Finland) Orbis 2025 with 2200 participants and The Sea Scout Jamboree Satahanka XIV in Nauvo, Archipelago of Turku with 1400 scouts and guides, among them about 100 foreigners were all targets for our Fellowship members. Our guild members made huge input in all kinds of jobs with their helping hands, with their presence, listening ear and even their narratives about the Fellowship activity.



Johtajatulet/Ledareldar/Leader Campfire Summit 29.-31.8.2025 Evo, Hämeenlinna



The event is the biggest wood seminar about leadership, experience and self-development of the Scouts and Guides of Finland. Its cooperation partners this year are Metsä (wood) Group and The Finnish Defence Forces.

The theme of the summit was: I trust the future i.e. We believe in the possibilities of the future. We trust each other and dare to lead by example. In the forest of Evo, around the fires, trust is sought from four perspectives: Doing Good, Taking Action, Community, and Well-being.



That weekend our national fellowship had their own tent by the main “camp street” presenting the fellowship and its activities, telling about the many possibilities of continuing one’s scouting path as a guild member.

We also told about the peace light. There were many who heard about it the first time but also pleasing many had been distributing it. We had also a map to show where the Peace light was distributed last year.

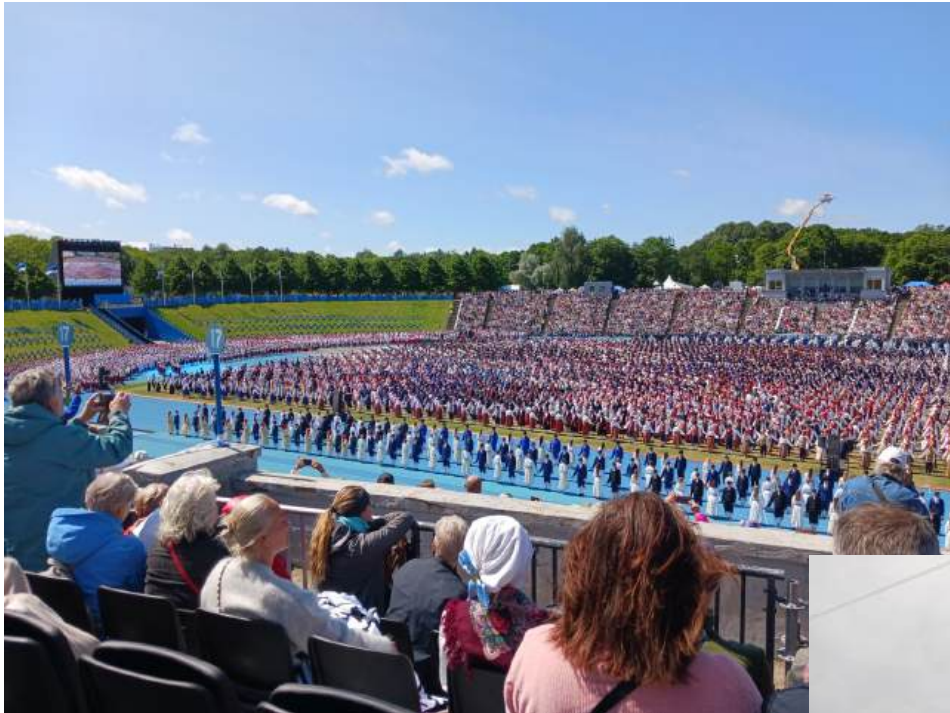
The local guilds have further been encouraged to write about their activities in the magazine Pyhä Yrjänä / S:t Göran and some have answered this request. The local guilds have participated in scout contests, often taking care of one task point. Many trips have been made during the year.

Some local guilds like **Kärppäkilta** in Seinäjoki have visited the **Scout Museum** in Turku during the year. The Fellowship movement has a booth there, presenting some of our activities.



In May **Kärppäkilta** had raised a real tent camp in the middle of the Seinäjoki city in the church park. It was the nationwide church forum which took place there. 120 scouts and guides participated in the camp. The guild helped them in several ways. So, the event was really successful.

Kokkakilta has received their own badge. It was a result of a competition organized for students in Middle Uusimaa university of applied sciences.



In July, **Kolmiapilakilta/Treklövergillet** from Helsinki made a trip to Tallinn visiting the famous Estonian song and dance festival. This festival takes place every 5th year and was now celebrating its 150-year anniversary with 11000 dancers and both 31000 singers and performers.

Everyone everywhere was dressed in national costumes.

Imagine all the beautiful colors!



The young **Koskelo** guild in Suonenjoki organized for example a photo orientation for their near scout troop in April and introduced the Fellowship guild during the wellness and hobby fair of the city. They even got some new members!

Coming events

The **Fellowship day** and the **autumn meeting** will take place in Tampere in the Häme Scout district's office on November 22nd 2025. The theme of the day is "Social preparing" while the world situation is not easy and every citizen should learn to be prepared for everyday life in crisis situations. Also the stamp bank funds will be discussed further, especially how we want the money to be used.

Fellowship Day: **Espoon Yrjänäkilta**, according to their tradition, have invited other guilds to participate in their Fellowship Day gathering in a cozy cottage in Espoo. The evening follows the tradition with songs, good serving and company.

The Finnish National Fellowship celebrates its 75 year Anniversary during 2026

We have started to plan a jubilee trip to London, Pax Lodge and Gilwell Park near London in the first weekend in September 2026. It will be time for the 100th Gilwell Reunion.

Other festivities will take place, too.



Iceland

Is there life after serving ISGF World



7 years of hard work as member and Chairman of ISGF WCom with all sorts of challenges and a great relief when the chain could be handed over to someone else to take the responsibility.

And then what ?

As an adult scout and a Guild member there are always some new tasks on the road. In the early spring 2024 it was decided to make an upgrade at the Scout Museum in Iceland. There was need for many hands able to work.

The Museum is situated in very old houses (over 80 years old) at Úlfjótstvatn where Icelandic scouts have their accommodation for various

things like jamborees, gatherings, Gilwell school etc. The houses needed renewal. Some roofs were leaking, electricity and heating were getting dangerous, the toilets were out of date and so on.

Decision was taken to remove everything, all collectibles from the houses and bring it to Reykjavik where a large sports hall was borrowed for the summer. Every piece was packed and moved. Many people (mostly ladies) spent days and weeks unpacking everything, put in categories and go through every piece including papers and photos. Everything was registered and photographed.

Meanwhile a large number of people men and women were working in Úlfjótstvatn to make the houses ready to fulfill modern standards and be ready for new exhibitions. There was build and things changed, new electrical appliances, new heat systems, new toilets, new roof just to mention few things. It was painted, cleaned and polished.

Decisions were made as how it would be. Collectibles were chosen to go back to the museum and what to put in storage. There were moments when the work seemed overwhelming but we very extremely happy when we could open the Scout Museum again during a National Jamboree in July.

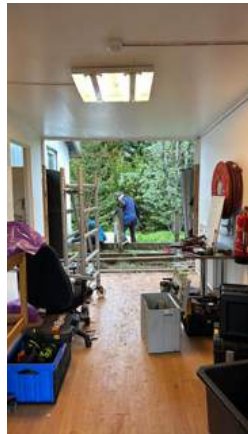


In scouting is power and knowledge.

Elin Richards



The process in pictures



St. Georg guild Kvistur Akureyri

Members are 31 in total. Every last Tuesday each month the group meets where different members have prepared a schedule. Beginning of each year is in September when the members meet and go on a fall trip. This year they travelled to Skagafjordur where they reviewed interesting places ending with dinner in Hjalteyri in Eyjafjordur.

Various projects are on the guilds agenda including sorting through documents in the regional museum in Akureyri, assisting with various tasks on events scheduled by Klakkur the scout association in Akureyri. Outside regular meeting some members meet up every month at one of Akureyri's coffeehouse's. The crafty members of the guild have their own union in a craft club meeting regularly during the winter months.

In July 2026 the national jamboree will be held at Hamrar outdoor scout center in Akureyri, the guild members have been busy with various projects associated with preparation for that.

Members have also been planting trees at Hamrar.



Above and right tree planting in Hamrar



Members at a craft show



Various jobs at Hamrar scout center



St. Georg's guild Hafnarfjörður

Fall trip

On a gorgeous fall day the 20th of September, 35 members of the guild in Hafnarfjörður embarked upon a bus trip to Akranes, west Iceland. Our travel committee: Asa Maria Valdimarsdóttir, native to Akranes, Thorunn Reykdal and Thorey Valgeirsdóttir had planned a busy day for us.



First stop was in Akranesvíti, lighthouse where Hilmar Sigvaldason told us about the lighthouse, its story and surroundings, led by our guitarist Hreidar Sigurjonsson we sang couple of songs, before enjoying an art exhibition just opening at the lighthouse. Some of the group climbed the stairs of the lighthouse to the top where they enjoyed a spectacular view. As a thank you for the hospitality Gudni Gislason played a trumpet-less trumpet playing as only he can.

After the visit at the lighthouse we took a bus trip around the town where Asa Maria educated us on everything worth seeing as only a native can. Next stop was the forestry Gardalundur where members embarked upon boot throwing, game of frisbee, walkabout or a quiet sit down all to its own, before heading to Gardur where we were allowed access to a house called Gutto for a picnic break. The picnic was wonderful homemade by Thorey living up to the scout rule; A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property. After the picnic we headed for a sightseeing at the local museum, a wonderful place and a great pride to the town. Next stop was Langisandur, Akranes's Tenerife, stopping at Gudlaug a beautiful hot pool by the ocean popular all year round by locals as well as tourists. When Asa Maria took a break from tour guiding the group, Thorunn Reykdal jumped right in and shared both knowledge and entertainment stories, all guilds should be required to have such a travel committee as it is more fun and a lot cheaper than hiring a tour guide.

Next stop in line was Innri Holmur a church site where we were met by power woman and deacon Ragnheidur Gudmundsdóttir who told us about the church and its parish's work from beginning to our days. Followed by our own Kristjana Asgeirsdóttir settling behind the organ and sweeping us away with her in song.

After coming through Hvalfjardargöng we discovered that the weather was just as wonderful on that side so we took the opportunity to drive along side Hafravatn and neighborhood absorbing the beautiful fall colors before the weather changes sweeping it all away.

Last stop on our journey was Kriunes a hotel and restaurant by Ellidavatn, where we were served a glorious fishmeal followed by a chocolate cake and coffee.

A glorious sunset closed a wonderful day, as the group agreed, closing the trip with a scout shout as usual.

Skatalundur—scout hut in Hafnarfjordur

Almost every Sunday this summer between 10 and 20 members of the guild have gathered in Skatalundur by Hvaleyrarvatn for necessary maintenance and renovation. Including forest clearing, cleaning, gathering firewood, campfires, bench building as well as all sorts of maintenance, not forgetting a necessary small talk and laughter over coffee and cake.

One weekend we came for the whole weekend, as we hired a big tree curler working hard both days in gathering enough material to lay over all the walkways around the scout hut in order to diminish the mud that comes with rain. The hut has been very popular for rent not coming to a end in the near future as it is a wonderful place to be.

Everyone seeking projects and company are welcome to come and help as many hands make work easy.



Campfire by Skatalundur

On Thursday 21st of August the guild in Hafnarfjordur held its third campfire for everyone who wanted to attend.

A great group of singers and instrumentalists controlled the event offering lots of fun and song.

After the campfire everyone was invited to hot cocoa and biscuits before going home.





Norway

News from Norway Autumn 2025

2025 is three quarters done and a lot has happened so far. However, there are still some months of activity left.

In **February** 20 guild members went on a weeklong trip to Kenya. Our friend Peter Kimita arranged the trip that took us to see several animal sanctuaries, a home for babies, a workshop where injured or exposed women were provided work, a coffee farm, and of course Pigeon Park and Lord and Lady Baden Powells gravesite. We also participated in a magnificent Thinking Day parade with several thousand scouts of all ages.

In **July** the two Norwegian scout associations arranged their national jamboree with 10400 participants. The guilds were actively represented. Our Hotelt ("Hotent") had a good staff of guild members in blue shirts (and blue aprons) We provide a camping bed in a tent with 2 or more tents and breakfast in the morning.

The big assembly tent was also a meeting place where leaders came in for a chat and some coffee and waffle. A lot of scout-leaders visited us and learned about the guilds.



One day we had a big meeting where all guild members in Norway were invited. The program was a talk from Peter Kimita who visited Norway with his wife Nancy this summer. Peter and Nancy are directors of the Pigeon Park campsite in Kenya. This campsite provides scout experiences to scouts from the slums in Nairobi. Pigeon Park has had support from the Norwegian guilds in many years

This year we will start a new action to collect funds to Pigeon Park to help them finish building some new cabins that will enable them to earn more money and perhaps become self-sufficient.

The guild members also helped the arranging committee wherever the need arose. We served in the staff canteen, were substitute "employees" in the scout shop, and worked in the camp church and the scout museum. Some also supported the leaders in their own scout-groups.



In August all guilds were invited to visit our campsite Kvernmoen.

A lot had happened since last year. The toilet/shower building is finished, and the fields are dried out and upgraded. All done by guild volunteers and supported by local banks and the local community.



In September we had our National Congress, and a new board was elected. That is, the only “new” member is the National president Britt Ørbech, the rest of us accepted to serve another period and were re-elected.



The congress was held on an island south of Oslo, Oscarsborg, the island is also a fortress. From this fortress the first defence shots were fired when Nazi Germany attacked on April 9th 1945. This gave us a very interesting possibility for an interesting tour and history knowledge between the meetings.

2025 is **The year of Outdoor Life** in Norway and also in the guilds this is a theme. A lot of guilds have regular walking trips and excursions. This gives members an opportunity for good exercise in good company. Not all guilds have members that are up for long walks, consequently they also arrange outdoor activities like a good meal around the fire, trips to a cabin (scout cabin) and so on.



The theme for next year will be “We support the scouts” and some are already planning activities to fit into this theme.

This year we have seen the upstart of two new guilds and also a revitalizing of a sleeping guild. They now have 24 members. The last weekend in September our former Nations President Harald B.P. invested 9 new members that come from around Norway and will meet at least twice a year to socialize and do some volunteer work.

Kristin Øilo

IS Norway.



Sweden

SWEDISH NATIONAL BOARD (SNB)

This autumn and coming spring, the SNB is working on the assignments we received at the SNB in Arvika. This includes how we can best create a web-based magazine, and a work group of four has been formed.

The Gille scouting project – scouting for adults – is now halfway through. It still requires time, a lot of work and commitment from all the guilds. To facilitate recruitment, we are updating our brochure, including new photos. We now (October 2025) have 12 guilds and 362 members.

Our collaboration with the scouts continues to improve, and we have been invited to help out at the scouts' jamboree outside Kristianstad in the summer of 2026.

REGIONAL MEETINGS



Region South: Kristianstad, Kulla och Ale guilds.

On an early, beautiful autumn day, Region South, with the Kristianstad, Kulla and Ale guilds, held its regional meeting in the

form of a hike at the Fjälkinge scout camp.

After being divided into patrols, the participants had to pass a number of different tasks involving questions and



Region South: Kristianstad, Kulla and Ale

practical exercises such as: society, knowledge of wood, nature, lifeline and boiling water on a storm cooker in a set time. Cecilia and Gustav from the camp management of the 2026 Scout Jamboree in Norra Åsum outside Kristianstad were also invited. They

talked about how we Gille scouts can help at the jamboree. More information will follow later. Everyone thought it was an exciting and educational day.



Region Västra Götaland: Apelhult, Carl Johan and Fallfåran guilds

Region Västra Götaland: The Apelhult, Carl Johan and Fallfåran groups held their regional meeting in the Botanical Gardens in Gothenburg. They were given a very interesting tour, during which the guide told them about the 100-year history of the gardens, which contain 20,000 different plants from 120 countries.

COLLABORATION WITH THE SCOUTS

Several guilds helped out with hikes, camps and daytime activities. Here are a couple of examples:

- The Kulla Scout Guild acted as supervisors for a day at the Norr Västra Skåne Scout Camp. It was a wonderful day with



Ale Scoutgillet at Hörrs Nygård Scoutcamp

254 patrols passing through.

- The Ale Scout Group was at the Hörrs Nygård scout camp outside Sjöbo in Skåne.



Kulla Scout Guild, Skåne at North Västra Skåne Scoutcamp

GUILD WALKS

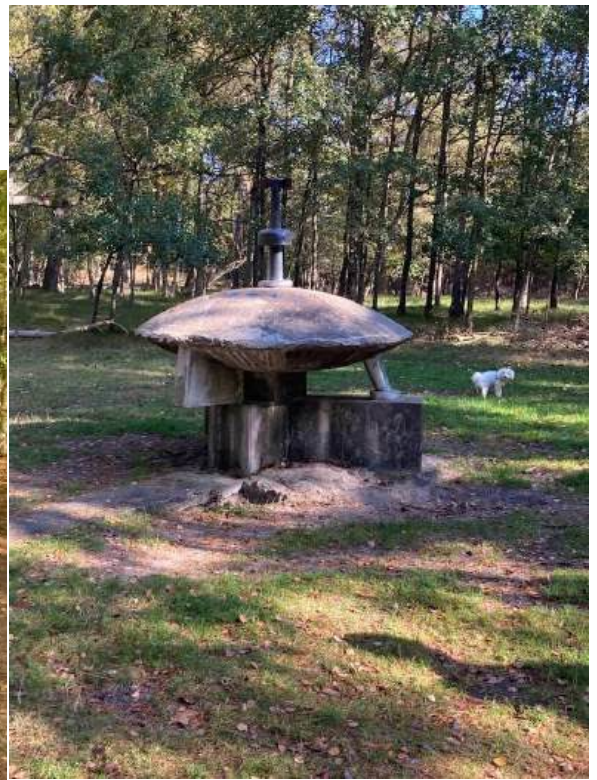
This spring, summer and autumn, most guilds have had many walks, often with elements of checkpoints, quizzes or guided tours:

- Ale Scout Guild, Skåne, took a trip to the Sjøröd campsite in Österlen with the team primitive cooking.



- Kristianstad Guild, Skåne, walked around Lake Vinslöv in glorious sunshine with lots of tricky questions about birds. It all ended with coffee and cake.

- Kullagillet, Skåne, went hiking by the sea and in the forest. Here there was a monument to a UFO, which is said to have landed there.



- The last outdoor activities of the year for Creutz Lave Scoutgille, Dalarna, ended with walks, grilled sausages and coffee and cake.



- On a sunny day in September, ten members of Tuna Scout Group walked between Uvbergsviken and Torsång and back. The walk passed through the forest and along the shore of Lake Ösjön. Once in Torsång, they enjoyed coffee and cake at Torsångs café.

Kristina Lindqvist

NEW SCOUT GUILD

In September, the Evvika Scout Guild in Norrbotten was finally inaugurated. This marked a turning point in the history of ISGF Sweden – namely, the first new guild in 10 years.

Evvika consists of active/former scout leaders or adults otherwise connected to the Hortlax Scout Troop. As they themselves say: 'We find it a little difficult to separate being a scout leader from being a guild scout – it kind of blends into each other... but we have realized that we have to, so now we have decided that a Scout leader/Rover Scout will be part of our guild council and a guild scout will be part of the Scout troop board meetings. - SOMETHING WE SHOULD ALL TAKE NOTE OF.

Three of us from the Tre Renar Scout Guild in Västerbotten initiated 10 of Evvika's 14 members.

The evening began with one of Norrland's national dishes, 'surströmming'. After a cozy dinner with conversation and introductions, the inauguration began. With all the lanterns and many candles, a solemn and peaceful atmosphere quickly spread, culminating in a quiet light trail down to a small lake, while questions about guild scouting were discussed. Small talk by the fire on a cold but lovely starry autumn evening.

VISIT TO DENMARK

In early October, the Ale Scout Guild travelled across Oresund to Korsør in Denmark to visit their new guild friends. After a two-hour journey in rain and strong winds, they arrived at the Great Belt Bridge.

There they were warmly welcomed by several Zealand guilds, with the Korsør Guild acting as host. They had a wonderful time in the ice-breaker museum with coffee and delicious Danish pastries. Afterwards, they drove to the Oasen guild hut for a Danish breakfast and a pleasant get-together with 'Gillehal', followed by more delicious coffee and pastries before heading back to Skåne.



PREPAREDNESS

With the theme of what do I, you and we do in a crisis situation, as well as the initiating of two new guild scout members, Kullagillet held a guild meeting. They cooked food on a Trangia stove and received information/tips on what can be good to have at home in various crises. The discussions ended with a quiz, coffee and homemade coffee treats.

The evening concluded with the initiation of two new Guild Scout members. Due to rainy weather, the bonfire was cancelled, but lanterns ensured that it was a pleasant and atmospheric initiation.

FELLOWSHIP AND PEACE LIGHT

Now all the guilds are looking forward to celebrating Fellowship Day and, a few weeks into November, sending the Peace Light throughout Sweden together with the Scouts – this usually takes 4-5 weeks.

Photos: Various guilds and Regitze Krenchel

Text compiled by Regitze Krenchel, IS, Sweden