

WORLD CENTRES NEWS

Issue No. 6

Winter/Spring 2005

Memories from Our Cabaña

Our Cabaña has launched a new photo gallery on its website so you can share in the fun and excitement of the centre from your home computer.

The page www.english.ourcabana.org/galleries allows you to take a pictorial tour of the centre and its grounds and to see what the programmes and sessions at Our Cabaña are really like.

For those who have recently visited Our Cabaña, the gallery also helps you to remember some of the best moments of your session. **"We can not remember every instance that we live in our life, but images of those moments could say a lot more,"** said Maria Sol Lopez Castro, Program Manager at Our Cabaña.



Team Building at Our Chalet



Our Chalet has recently run a successful 'Team building and leadership' seminar that was attended by Girl Guide and Girl Scout leaders from Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Czech Republic, South Korea, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, USA, Canada, Greece, Denmark and the Maldives.

Participants developed their leadership, decision-making and team building skills, whilst learning more about each other's countries, organizations and cultures.

Rasheeda was the first Girl Guide from the Maldives Girl Guides Association to visit Our Chalet. **"The seminar was a historic moment for us,"** said the association's International Commissioner. **"Such experience and exposure contributes very much to personal development as well as the enrichment of the whole Guiding experience."**

Community Volunteers start at Sangam

Sangam's new Community Volunteer Programme is now well underway.

Participants stay at Sangam for four and a half months whilst working with local social organizations looking after infants and toddlers or helping older children to learn English whilst teaching them games, music, art and dance.

Janet from Australia, Lillian and Mandy from the UK and Kristin from the USA are now working with children from impoverished communities in and near Pune. **"It is wonderful to see the CVP participants living the mission of WAGGGS while staying at Sangam where they receive cultural, emotional and educational support,"** said Rachel Parker, Sangam's Deputy World Centre Manager.

Pax Lodge helps police with their inquiries

Three volunteers from Pax Lodge have been helping to train new police recruits by participating in a community role-play exercise. Ana from Mexico, Mio from Japan and Marie from Canada each played the part of a burgled homeowner, following a given scenario in which they had had jewelry and money stolen.

The girls were interviewed about the burglary to give the police trainees an opportunity to practise interviewing 'victims' of crime before finding themselves in the real situation.



Ana, Mio and Marie wearing the London Bobbies' hats with the new police recruits outside Pax Lodge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Membership and Funding Seminar

Over 40 delegates from 26 different countries attended **Our Cabaña's** recent Membership and Funding seminar.

The seminar covered topics such as recruiting and retaining members, promoting the WAGGGS mission and WAGGGS projects and initiatives. It helped leaders to develop strategies and activities to encourage more girls and young women to join the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting movement and to help improve Guiding and Scouting quality at a local, national and international level.

Award-winners visit Sangam

Members of the Rani Laxmibi Guide Company of Pune, who won a WAGGGS FAO Award in 2004, were honoured guests during the recent Healing Touch event at **Sangam**.

The Guide Company won the award for a project they had developed to teach nutrition and health care to women and young children in rural regions of the Maharashtra State. They presented their award-winning project to Sangam's international guests and staff during the event that focused on health care in India.

Christmas party for Our Chalet's neighbours

One of the many traditions at **Our Chalet** is the annual Christmas carol service for neighbouring families, which has been held every year since the centre was built in 1932.

The special evening was attended by around 70 people and included offerings from local musicians, presentations in German from the Chalet staff and volunteers, and entertainment from local children.



Pax Lodge visits Pax Hill

Every year **Pax Lodge** holds a special session for Trefoil Guild members and last November the participants went on a mystery tour to the small village of Bentley. As they approached, some of the ladies guessed that their visit was to Pax Hill where Lord and Lady Baden-Powell and their family lived from 1919 to 1939.

Pax Hill is now a nursing home and the staff there offered a warm welcome. The ladies enjoyed tea and biscuits in the music room and toured the house and grounds.

Frequently Asked Questions

Your questions answered



Will I see an Elephant at Sangam?

You might see an elephant wandering down the streets of Pune although they are more commonly seen in India's southern states. Camels, donkeys, cows, pigs, sheep and goats are all commonly seen on the busy Pune streets.

What's the food at Sangam like?

Food of almost all types is readily available in India. At Sangam, all of the food is well cooked and filtered water is used to wash the fruit and vegetables. Breakfast consists of toast, cereal, eggs and fruit. Lunch is a vegetarian Indian meal with mild spices. Dinner is western. The food at Sangam is delicious, and the food around town is wonderful as well.

Do you have to be 18 to stay at Sangam?

Sangam's doors are open to everyone, young and old from around the world. There is no minimum age to participate in events, however we do ask that an adult accompanies participants under the age of 18.

Can my husband stay with me at Our Chalet?

Our Chalet welcomes and encourages both male guests and volunteers. Whilst the summer sessions are primarily booked by Girl Guide groups, we are open to everyone - husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and Boy Scout groups included.

What can we do at Our Chalet in the summer?

We offer over 20 different guided walks and hikes and as many bus trips, based on personal choice and interest. An extensive programme of extreme sports, ranging from paragliding over the Adelboden valley to white water rafting in Interlaken, is also extremely popular with those in search of the ultimate challenge.

Can my children learn to ski at Our Chalet?

Adelboden is a popular winter sports resort and last year won an award for the best family resort in the Alps. The Adelboden ski school has English/French-speaking instructors and Our Chalet offers ski guiding to those who can already ski, as well as a babysitting service to families with young children. You can also go ice skating, tobogganing, snow shoeing and much more.



What type of rooms will we have at Pax Lodge?

Pax Lodge has 22 twin rooms, one triple room and three rooms with four beds. You will have the option to either share with other members of your group or to share with other session participants. Single rooms and ensuite rooms (private toilet and shower) may be available subject to a supplement.



Does Pax Lodge have Patrols?

Pax Lodge has a patrol system in place during events. This is to help us with a few of the jobs around the centre, such as setting and clearing the tables for evening meals and raising the flag, and also to give you the opportunity to meet the other participants. Everyone will be assigned a patrol for the duration of the session and will have several patrol duties during the week.

Do we have to wear uniform at Pax Lodge?

Everyone should wear their national uniform for the Opening and Closing evenings of sessions. Uniforms will also be required to see the Changing of the Guard from within the palace gates. For the rest of the session you may choose to wear casual clothing, uniform, troop shirts, etc. All participants will be given a Pax Lodge baseball hat or visor to wear when travelling together around London.

Am I too old to be a volunteer at Our Cabaña?

There is no upper age limit for volunteers at Our Cabaña. House Volunteers must be over 18 years old and Program Volunteers must be at least 20 years old.

Do you accept men at Our Cabaña?



Yes! Our Cabaña is open to everyone. You can see husbands, sons and family members enjoying our

sessions along with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the world.

If I can't go for a session, could I visit Our Cabaña?

Of course, Our Cabaña has bed and breakfast accommodation available all year round. You can join in with our scheduled programs or enjoy your own itinerary. If you are planning on traveling around Mexico, Our Cabaña is a great place to stop in Cuernavaca, "The city of Eternal Spring".

WHAT'S ON at the World Centres?

Our Cabaña, Mexico

Our Cabaña still has spaces available on its spring sessions: **Easter Session** from 21–29 March 2005, **Spanish Session** from 4–9 April 2005 and **Mind, Body and Guiding Session** from 18–23 April 2005. These are great opportunities to learn Spanish in a Spanish-speaking country, relax and take in the culture of Mexico and the experience of visiting a World Centre.

Enjoy the best combination of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, Mexico, aquatic adventures and one of the most popular beach resorts in the world, Acapulco in Our Cabaña's exciting **Aquatic Adventures** session from 14–19 March 2005 and 5–13 September 2005. SCUBA diving, snorkeling, rappelling, relaxing, making lifelong friendships, visiting archeological sites, and offering services to the community are part of our program.

Pax Lodge, England

Pax Lodge still has vacancies for its **Service Weekend** from 1–3 April 2005 in which you can support local community service projects while meeting and working together with other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Spend a week in London on Pax Lodge's **London Breakaway** from 18–25 April 2005 and see the sights that have made London famous, while making new friends at the same time. Or if you're already in London, visit Pax Lodge for an **International Adventure Day** on either 14 or 15 May 2005 and find out about Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting around the world with fun and informative activities.

There's nothing like London in the springtime, and Pax Lodge is offering a chance to visit the Chelsea Flower Show and some famous parks and gardens in **London in Bloom** from 23–28 May 2005.

Our Chalet, Switzerland

From 18–24 April 2005, Our Chalet is running a seminar on **WAGGGS and the UN** for anyone interested in learning more about the work of the United Nations and WAGGGS' role in representing girls and young women at the UN. The seminar will be of particular interest to those already involved in advocacy and lobbying.

Our Chalet's new **TEFL Week** from 11–17 April 2005 offers an informal chance to improve your English language skills whilst enjoying winter activities and international friendship.

A special **Photography Weekend** from 27–29 May 2005 offers breathtaking views and inspiring natural beauty to help improve your photography skills, while the **Spring Wild Flowers Week** from 28 May - 4 June 2005 invites you to come and discover the local flora and fauna against a backdrop of towering snow-capped peaks, alpine forests and green meadows spread with a carpet of wild flowers.

Sangam, India

Explore the WAGGGS triennial theme, **Our Rights, Our Responsibilities**, and get involved with organizations working for children's rights in Pune in Sangam's **Challenge for Children** event from 1–12 September 2005. The event includes running a three-day camp for local children.

Return to Sangam from 13–22 October 2005 invites old friends and new to explore 'behind the scenes' in and around Pune and to help celebrate Sangam's 39th birthday.

If you're looking for excitement, then join the **Spirit of Adventure** event from 19–28 November 2005 with team and individual challenges designed to improve communication skills, conflict resolution, teambuilding, goal setting and strategic planning. Or discover thousands of years of Indian culture, philosophy and spirituality in Sangam's **Holistic Living** event from 5–14 December 2005.

Challenge . Adventure . Spirit . International Friendship

The four World Centres are perhaps the embodiment of what it means to be a Girl Guide or Girl Scout. They are places where Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting are alive... places where you can experience adventure, challenge, international friendship and spiritual experiences.

Some recent participants, visitors, staff and volunteers share their World Centre experience below and provide an insight into how the centres can enrich the lives of all who go there.

"I have really enjoyed my time here. It is an experience that every Girl Guide and Girl Scout should get. It has made me push myself further and believe more in myself."

Helen, UK. Our Cabaña Program Volunteer



"It is amazing how people's perspectives change under different circumstances; the girls started becoming very aware of what was most important to them." **Sangam participant, UK**

"They [The Sangam Family] gave us the spirit of Sangam, which is now distributed all over the world. The spirit of Sangam will not only propagate in the Guiding life but also in our relations, in our work and in our lives." **Noha, Egypt. Sangam participant**

"It was very important to me to be at Our Cabaña. It wasn't just a Guiding experience, but also a personal challenge. I made new friends with the staff members and participants. I enjoyed seeing our guests having fun with our activities. It is always interesting to learn more about different cultures, customs and traditions, working in a team and sharing yourself with everyone who comes through the Chiefs door."

Daniela, Mexico. Our Cabaña Program Volunteer

"In ten months, I worked with people from nine different countries and shared Sangam with participants from 20 different countries. I got to volunteer with wonderful enthusiastic teachers



in Door Step School and teach English to a lively, loveable bunch of boys. I got to buy turbans, learned how to play cricket, got a motorbike license, attended different religious ceremonies and learned Hindi." **Helen, Ireland. Sangam volunteer**

"What I have grown to appreciate is the ability to understand the connection between us



all. We are completely different people, and yet the connection of Scouting and Guiding, drives us to be our best." **Laura, USA. Pax Lodge House Assistant**

"At school I learned about different countries and cultures, but I never quite understood what it really is about... After I shared these five months with so many women from different countries I'm so aware of information about all these parts of the world I have friends in. The international experience was just the best thing for me. I learned about cultural differences, similarities and parallels and I got to understand lots of them." **Rita, Germany. Pax Lodge House Assistant**



"I can't believe that a year has passed since the time I worked at Our Chalet but the memories about the time I spent there are very bright especially when I meet the girls. It's wonderful to see them again. We talked a lot about Our Chalet and we're sure that this place is a magic place which let us meet and become friends. We had developed there not only physically but psychologically and mentally which was fantastic. I can say for sure that the experience I had at Our Chalet helps me a lot in my daily life and has changed myself and my life." **Olga, Russia. Our Chalet volunteer**

MORE INFORMATION

Details of all the centres' programmes and prices are available on their web sites.

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