

Girls' Brigade News

January 2026



SEE INSIDE FOR



Highlights of the GB Session to date
Your Company Submissions
Resources4U - The Puzzle Edition
Important GB Updates
New Training Opportunities
Brand New Fab Shop Gifts
plus much more...

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BE IN THE GIRLS' BRIGADE NEWS!

Please send your company news, activities, celebrations and achievements with photographs to info@gbni.co.uk to feature in a future edition of the Girls' Brigade News.



New Year

Greeting

'Step Out in Faith' (ICGB 2026)

As we step into a new year, we are reminded of the words in 2 Corinthians 5:7:

"For we live by faith, not by sight."

I hope that 2026 brings us an exciting opportunity to embrace the ICGB theme 'Step Out in Faith.' This is a call for each of us—leaders, members, and friends of Girls' Brigade—to trust God's plan and boldly share His love in our communities.

We encourage you to be creative in your witness, using your gifts and talents to make Jesus known in fresh and meaningful ways. Whether through acts of kindness, conversations, or innovative outreach, let us shine His light wherever we go.

As Romans 10:15 reminds us:

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Let us be those feet—bringing hope, joy, and the message of salvation to those in our communities where God has us working in our GB companies.

We also ask that you pray for our GBNI delegates who are preparing to attend the Girls' Brigade International Conference in the Cook Islands this March. Pray for wisdom, safety, and that their time together will strengthen our global fellowship and inspire new ways to serve.

Together, let us make 2026 a year of faith-filled steps, trusting that God will do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Happy New Year!

With every blessing,
Isobel McKane
GBNI President



Pause

for Thought

Change has the ability to bring such excitement for so many people. It also has the ability to bring a sense of fear and uncertainty.

When I look back over the past year, I am so thankful for all the blessings God has brought but the year also brought with it some big life changes. I got married, moved to a new house in a new place, joined a new church, and became part of a new GB company. These were joyful changes, that I'm genuinely thankful for — but that didn't mean they were easy.

I went from knowing everyone around me to suddenly being the 'new person' again. New faces, new routines, new roles, new expectations. Even walking into a GB night for the first time, as a new leader, felt a bit daunting! I had been so used to my home GB family, and suddenly I was building new relationships and finding my place all over again.

Maybe you've felt something like that this year too. Maybe you started a new school, made new

friends, joined a new section, changed classes, or had people in your life move on. Perhaps you have changed jobs, moved somewhere new, or there have been small changes made in different areas of your life, creating a sense of unknown. Maybe you faced a change that was exciting or one that made you feel unsettled. Change can be refreshing, but it can also feel overwhelming when the familiar becomes unfamiliar overnight.

In the middle of all those changes, Jesus has remained constant.

*"Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today and forever."
Hebrews 13:8*

A simple short verse which holds so much promise and reassurance to each who seek, serve and follow Christ. In a world that constantly shifts, Jesus stays the same. His love doesn't change. His promises don't change. His presence with us doesn't change.

Not only does He promise that He will never change but He also understands change more than anyone. Jesus left the perfection of Heaven and stepped into our world. He experienced the biggest change imaginable. Christ became human so that we could know God's love

and experience that relationship with Him. We can know God's riches because of Christ's expense.

As we begin a new year in GB, whether your life feels full of excitement or full of uncertainty, you can hold onto the truth that the same Jesus who walked with you last year, walks into this new year with you too. He doesn't step back when things feel unfamiliar. He steps closer.

Whatever changes we face this year, we can find security in the One who never changes, know His guidance in new challenges, His peace in moments of worry, and His joy in every new beginning.



Kathryn Lennon
GBNI Youth Forum
Trustee Board Member

Week of

Prayer

In September we encouraged our members to actively take the opportunity to spend time in focused prayer for Girls' Brigade.



This was the second year we have designated a specific week to prayer. The feedback we have received has been very positive, with many companies using the materials that were produced, and made available for free on our GBNI website via the Resources Section.

Some companies have sent through pictures which show their girls engaging with God in an activity that too often gets pushed aside in our hectic lives.



There are always things that we need to pray for in Girls' Brigade. GBNI produces a monthly prayer calendar which is available upon request from GB Staff. We also post prayer points that are shared on Facebook and Instagram.



Let us be a praying organisation, with hearts that are oriented to the Only One who hears and answers the prayers of His children.

Queen's

Award



Application Deadline Reminder

Applications for March 2026 entry should be made online before 31st January 2026.

Please contact emma@gbni.co.uk if you have any questions or queries.

Final Interview Dates

Current second year Queen's Award girls will be invited to book their final interviews shortly.

Dates and locations are as follows:

- Monday 9th March in District 11 (Kilfennan Presbyterian);
- Wednesday 18th March in District 10 (Castledawson Presbyterian); and
- Tuesday 24th March in GBHQ, Antrim.

Thank You!

A huge shoutout to our amazing GB leaders! Your support and encouragement for every girl's journey through the Queen's Award programme makes such a difference - thank you!



Girls' Brigade NI

Online Shop

Saturday Openings

7th March, 21st March,
and 11th April

Times: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Shop Closure

The GBNI Shop will be closed on Tuesday 17th March, Friday 3rd April (Good Friday), Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th April (Easter Monday and Tuesday).

Gifts

Discover our latest range of thoughtfully selected gifts - perfect for all ages and budgets. All new items will be fully stocked by the end of February, so do not miss out!

Large Company Orders

For large orders including awards, trophies, and gifts, please place your order through the Online Shop. If you are collecting your order, be sure to use the 'Customer Notes' box to let us know your intended collection date.

During our peak months (February, March, and April), please allow 3-5 working days for packing. You will receive a 'Ready to Pick Up' email notification once your order is prepared. If you have not received this email, please contact Customer Service before travelling to GBHQ to confirm your order status.

Due to high demand during this period, same-day collection for large orders is not available.

350309
My Hope is in
You Mug
£5.50



310101
Curvy Pen
50p



310184
GB Girls
Full Colour
Pencil £1.00



310102
Gold Metallic
Pen £2.00



340110
Pink Piggy
Bank
£4.00



310301
Pencil &
Crayon
Set £2.20



310465
Chunky
Eraser
£1.50

310302
Popper
Crayon
£1.20



Company News

At **32nd NI Connor Presbyterian's** recent display, they had the privilege of honouring someone truly remarkable. Marlene Barr, one of their most dedicated Officers, celebrated an incredible milestone—50 years of service in the Company!



Marlene's commitment spans generations. Her three daughters grew up in GB, and one of them, Helen Currie, now serves as an Officer too. To make it even more special, Marlene's granddaughter, Lily Walker, has just completed her first year in the Tiny Tots section. That's three generations sharing the same GB journey—what an inspiring legacy!



Sam and Aaron Milligan were married on 9th July 2025 at Railway Street Presbyterian Church, Lisburn.



Wedding Celebrations!



Sam serves as leader-in-charge of Seniors and Brigaders at **375th NI Railway Street Presbyterian**. Aaron, her husband, is the son of their Captain, Hilary Milligan. We join with the Company in extending our heartfelt congratulations and wish them God's richest blessings for their life together.

On Saturday 20th September, over 290 Explorers and 78 Officers from **District 13** gathered at Rosepark Farm for a morning packed with adventure and laughter. From zip lines and swings to bouncy castles and animal trails, the girls had an unforgettable time. It was a day filled with fun, fellowship, and blessings; especially with the beautiful weather!



55th NI Cairncastle Presbyterian GB recently marked its 80th anniversary with a weekend of celebrations.

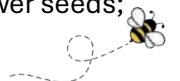


Events included a coffee morning on Saturday 25th October, followed by their enrolment service with refreshments on Sunday 26th October. The historical display featuring photographs from the Company's early years, and uniforms provided by the GB History Team proved very popular.



During the enrolment, former captain Mrs Iris Morton received the Colours and cut the anniversary cake. The occasion was attended by current members and leaders of the Company and Rev Andrew Watson. Special thanks to the History Team for providing the uniform display.

The Explorers from **99th NI Priesthill Methodist** proudly completed their Go Wild at GB badgework by sowing bee bombs and wildflower seeds; creating a vibrant haven for pollinators.



Check out the amazing before-and-after shots to see how their amazing efforts brought nature to life!

"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."
Luke 12:27



Warm congratulations to Mrs Laura Greenaway BEM on her 90th birthday from all at GBNI.

Giving thanks for her faithful life and remarkable service to Girls' Brigade as a GB Captain, GB Ireland Field Officer, Assistant National Secretary, GBNI President and for her contribution to the GB History Team.



Left: Mrs Greenaway celebrating with founding and current Officers from 298th NI Banbridge Methodist GB.

GBNI

Updates



Annual Assessments

Annual Assessments have been issued to Company Captains/ Correspondents and will be based on the figures submitted to GBHQ in November 2025 via the Annual Return. Please refer to the cover letter for payment options, including our online card payment portal via 'My Annual Return'. Payments should reach GBHQ by the end of February 2026. If your GB company requires financial assistance, please contact us as soon as possible for support.

Please note GB Awards and Badges cannot be released from the GBNI Shop until full payment of Assessment Fees has been received.

Education Authority (EA) Youth Service Registration and Funding

The EA Youth Service are due to re-open applications for generic local funding in April 2026 for youth groups. If your GB company and/or district has been registered with the EA Youth Service since 1st April 2025, you should receive direct email communication from them in due course on how to re-register and apply for funding for the next year.

Please take time now to review the expenditure being allocated to your funding and ensure you have spent the full amount by the end of March 2026. You can claim for the GB Insurance and Postage part of your Annual Assessment, and

the total will be indicated on your Annual Assessment Form. Please photocopy this for your records before sending your Assessment Form and payment to GBHQ. Alternatively, you can download a copy from 'My Annual Returns – Exports' in your 'My Brigade' section. Please annually review their Terms and Conditions for local generic non-targeted funding via: <https://eanifunding.org.uk/tcs> as they are subject to change. Please note that when claiming insurance, it must only be for the total members indicated on your EA Registration Form for girls aged 4-25 and for volunteers who serve weekly. Please subtract any other members that do not fall into these categories from your insurance total. Districts cannot claim GBNI Insurance as this is claimed at regional level.

If your GB company/district has yet to register with the EA Youth Service, please visit <https://eanifunding.org.uk/register-with-ea/> and complete the Online Account Request Form for 'Local Registration'. Please note that registering with the EA does not mean you must apply for funding, but it will allow you to avail of some of its support services and discounted rates in youth centres. Registration is required annually for interested companies.

Newly registered companies/districts must have their own company bank account and must be able to show evidence of the account at their EA verification visit.

During the registration process, all GB companies that are registering solely as a GB company, and not part of a church umbrella group, should nominate 'Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland' as your Regional Voluntary Youth Organisation and indicate that you are part of a uniformed organisation, not a church group. Also, if possible, please give the EA consent to share your information with GBNI so we know which GB companies are currently registered with the EA Youth Service.

If you are planning to apply for funding for 2026/27, please abide by the EA funding timeframe for submitting your forms and documentation. If you miss the deadline, you will not be able to complete the application process for that year. We would recommend that you look at the requirements as soon as the communication is received. If circumstances are beyond your control, to complete the process, e.g. sickness, holidays, etc., please pass it on to another responsible person in your GB company for action.

The above information is correct at the time of print; however, it is subject to change.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the EA Youth Service directly via youthfunding@eani.org.uk

Microsoft 365 Business Basic Account

For GB Captains/Correspondents only – Following on from an email sent out during the summer, and with now 49 GB companies making the change, we would like to highlight to those not yet signed up about the benefits of changing their redirected generic email address that goes to their personal email address to a GB email inbox.

GBNI, as a non-profit charity, has been able to access one free business basic licence for Microsoft 365 for each GB company, upon request.

This licence includes:

- Web and mobile versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook
- Custom business email (gbcompanyname@gbni.co.uk)
- Chat, call, and video conference with Microsoft Teams
- 1 TB of cloud storage on OneDrive

- Share files across SharePoint
- 10+ additional apps for your company needs (including Microsoft Bookings, To Do, Planner, and Forms)
- Automatic spam and malware filtering
- Anytime phone and web support

This licence is to be used solely for GB purposes and only by registered GB personnel. It will allow you to store all your GB-related documents in one place via Microsoft Online and Mobile Apps, away from all your personal information and data. Please note, unfortunately, it does not allow you to download the apps onto your PC, laptop or MacBook; they are only available through your web browser on these devices.

We hope this won't be needed for some time, but the added benefit is that when the time comes to move on from GB, you can simply pass on the login details to the new company contact, and they can reset the password and have full access to the stored company records and email communications. Please note GBNI has ultimate responsibility for the licence, and any misuse will lead to it being withdrawn. GBNI does not have access to view any of your

emails/files unless shared with us via SharePoint or email links. Passwords can be reset by the user directly or, upon request, via our Microsoft Admin for the organisation.

If you would like to upgrade your GB email to this licence, please complete this short form <https://forms.office.com/e/FLZb1mLbUt> You will be notified once your account has been activated via your personal email address, as indicated on 'My Brigade', with details on how to log in and some general guidance on use. Microsoft 365 has a wealth of online tutorials to assist you.

If you do not wish to upgrade, then you do not need to do anything; your GB email will remain as a redirect to your personal email. If in future, you change your mind, please complete the form and we will make the changeover for you.

Recruitment Resources

This year, GBNI has received development funding from the Education Authority, which is to be used to help support leaders. We know that one of the biggest challenges for some GB companies is to have the resources to help you actively promote and recruit new members into your company.

We therefore have put some of the funds into creating recruitment packs that GB companies/districts can hire and make use of at your local shopping centre, supermarket, church fair, community events, etc. We will have three packs available at any one time, packed with GB branded merchandise such as pens, pencils, lollipops, stress stars, tablecloths, flyers and a pull-up banner.

All you have to do is arrange where to promote your GB and set up the table. Once finished, return the pack along with any unused items so we can pop them back into stock to help other GB companies in need. Oh, and don't forget to send us a pic or two of your table all set up. If you would like to avail of one of the Recruitment Packs, please email info@gbni.co.uk with your dates to collect and return the pack, and we will confirm availability. Every effort you put into recruitment builds a stronger Girls' Brigade and opens doors to life-changing opportunities for girls and young women.



THANK YOU
to MADE FOR MORE

GBNI Youth
Forum

We are so thankful to Made for More Northern Ireland for delivering two out of three fantastic mini conferences so far, held last year on 7 October at 111th NI Newtownabbey Methodist Mission GB and at 62nd NI Hamilton Road Presbyterian GB on 14 November.



These sessions brought together our Seniors and Brigaders for an interactive programme exploring mental health, well-being, and resilience, with God at the helm. The girls had so much fun playing games like 'Rebs Says', 'Balloon Chaos', and more. They enjoyed doughnuts and chat, and left feeling uplifted and encouraged.

Want Made for More to Visit your GB Company?

If you would like Made for More NI to work with your GB company, do not hesitate to contact Beth Moffit directly at beth@madeformoreni.co.uk or email debra@gbni.co.uk for further information.

"Cast
all your
anxiety on Him
because He cares
for you."
1 Peter 5:7

Date: Thursday, 5 February 2026

Location: 320th NI Kilfennan
Presbyterian, District 11

Who's Invited: District 11 — and we'd love to extend a warm invitation to District 12, our closest neighbouring district, if spaces remain.

Booking: Now open on the GBNI website (<https://www.gbni.co.uk>)

Note: BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

Register
Online
Now!

Looking for Resources and
the Latest GB News?

Are you a registered leader in GBNI? Have you set up your User Account for the GBNI Website?

Register now to access *over 1200* resources and to view our full *calendar of events, workshops and training* that are available throughout the year. Simply go to <https://gbni.co.uk/login> and register for an account.

If already registered, log in with your email and password. If you have forgotten your password, don't worry, you can reset it using the above link too. If you're unable to gain leaders' access, it may be because we don't have a profile

linked to your GB company. For assistance, please email us at info@gbni.co.uk

Did you know that at the end of each month, GBNI sends out an eNews with our latest news and key reminders?

This valuable tool is for all GB leaders to be kept informed about what is happening in GBNI. If you would like to receive this monthly eNews, please log in, then go to 'My Leader Profile', scroll down to the permissions area and select the types of eNews you would like to receive. You can unsubscribe at any time by simply unselecting the eNews type. Our eNews is now powered by Mailchimp.

Leaders' Thank You Events

GBNI was delighted to host two more Leaders' Thank You Events, the first took place on Saturday 27th September 2025 at the Lodge Hotel, Coleraine where we were joined by over 140 leaders. Then on Saturday 4th October 2025 at the La Mon Hotel, Belfast, over 220 leaders gathered together for the final Leaders' Thank You Event.

Both events provided the opportunity to celebrate the incredible commitment of our leaders, with a chance to catch up with other companies and enjoy good food. We also enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the 'GB Star Awards' for the evening.



It was thrilling to find out some of the wonderful achievements and talents that our leaders have gained both within and outside of Girls' Brigade. Overall, these two events, coupled with the first event held back in June in Clogher, have highlighted the amazing group of GB leaders we have, and we truly wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the vital role each and every one of you play within the work of GBNI.

May we all continue and strive to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.







Past Members

Association

Eastern Branch

Members of the Eastern Branch met together several times over the past few months and were pleased to welcome some new members, along with other ladies who have been associated with the group for many years.

In August, we enjoyed Afternoon Tea at Second Dromara Presbyterian. Then in September, we made our way to Second Ballyeaston Presbyterian, where, after more delicious refreshments, we used our creative skills to make a family of 'stone' people. Each one individual and unique – a bit like ourselves! Some ladies who confessed that they were not 'into craft' said afterwards that they really enjoyed the afternoon.



Our meetings are all very informal and, as you see, usually involve food and plenty of chat.

Future meetings for 2026 are planned as follows:

- Saturday 7th March 2026: 1.30 pm at West Church Presbyterian, Bangor
- Friday 8th May 2026: 10.30 am, a visit to Parliament Buildings, Stormont (Booking required).



Any former members of GB will be very welcome. Please contact GBHQ if you would like to join the Past Members' Association. Details about our meetings will be sent to our members by email or text.

Ready for GB Week?



Our annual GB Collection Week will be taking place from **Monday 2nd to Saturday 7th February 2026**. This year's GB Week Cards were distributed in the August Packs upon request in last year's Company Annual Return. If you need extra cards, please contact customerservice@gbni.co.uk for assistance. We have a limited stock available.

As a reminder, Gift Aid is claimed under individual church charity registration. GBHQ are not able to process Gift Aid on behalf of local GB companies.

Competition Winners!

Brigader Badminton

Well done to all 23 pairs who qualified and took part in GBNI's Brigader Badminton NI Final on Friday 7th November 2025 at the Valley Leisure Centre, Newtownabbey.

All participants played really well, and a great night of fun was had by all.

Thank you to our Officials from Ulster Badminton (William and Alec); our referees; all of our GBNI Stewards who helped the competition to run smoothly; the staff at the Valley Leisure Centre, Newtownabbey and also to the parents, GB leaders and everyone who came to support the girls.

Finally, thank you to all of the girls who took part at all levels of the competition.



1st Place - 172nd NI Legacurry Presbyterian A



2nd Place- 92nd NI Hillsborough Presbyterian A



3rd Place- 45th NI Greenwell Street Presbyterian

Senior Netball

On Friday 28th November 2025, a total of 12 teams took part in the NI Final of Senior Netball at Ulster University Jordanstown Sports Village.

The evening was a great success, and all participants played really well.

Many thanks to our Umpires, Betty, Lisa, Lynette, June and Sue and the GBNI Stewards for helping to run the event so well.

Thanks must also be extended to the leaders and parents who supported the teams whilst preparing for the competitions.

Finally, thank you to all of the girls who took part at both the district and NI levels of the competition.



3rd Place- 8th NI Trinity Presbyterian Bangor A

Congratulations to our winners



1st Place - 348th NI Granshaw Presbyterian A



2nd Place- 160th NI St Pauls Parish Lisburn

Congratulations to our winners



Training Updates

New Captains' Workshop

On 18th October, we hosted our annual workshop for leaders stepping into the role of Captain within their GB company. The event, held at GBHQ, welcomed Ingrid Orr, Captain of Glenwherry Presbyterian GB, along with four new Captains. It was an inspiring evening of fellowship and encouragement, providing an opportunity for our new Captains to explore various aspects of their role and address individual questions. We extend our heartfelt blessings to each new Captain as they grow into this vital position within our GB family.

Leadership Training

We are delighted to welcome 218 new trainee Sub-Officers and 167 trainee Officers who have stepped forward to take on these vital roles within our local GB companies. Each has shown great commitment by completing their webinars and is now progressing to the

practical tasks outlined in their Company Experience Booklets.

Company Experience Booklet Submission and Return Process

The marking of Company Experience booklets will follow the same procedure as in previous years:

Sub-Officer Booklets:

These must be submitted to your Training Team District representative no later than 28 February 2026. Completed booklets will be returned at the annual District AGM.

Officer Booklets:

These should be sent to GBHQ for marking by 30 April 2026. They will be distributed during the Officer face-to-face training sessions scheduled for May and June 2026.

Sub-Officers have been busy attending the District workshops, gaining valuable hands-on training as part of their Leadership course.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the leaders who facilitated these sessions, sharing not only practical skills and creative ideas but also their enthusiasm and passion for GB with our new trainees.

The trainee Officers have one final face-to-face half-day training session to complete, and to facilitate the large number of trainees we have added in an extra date for this session.

This can be completed on either:

- **Saturday 30th May**
9.30 am – 1.00 pm at Hillsborough Presbyterian,
- **Friday 12th or Friday 26th June**
6.30 pm – 10.00 pm at GBHQ.

Booking for this training session will open on 16th January and can be made via the online booking system in the Upcoming Events Calendar GBNI website (please ensure you log in before booking). If you have any queries, please contact martha@gbni.co.uk

New Leadership Applications

Last year, we transitioned to an online application process for Sub-Officer and Officer Leadership Training courses, and we are pleased to continue using this system. Applicants must still obtain approval from their GB

Captain and Chaplain before being accepted onto any course. However, the new process has simplified this step by replacing paper signatures with email confirmation.

A detailed set of updated instructions for the online booking process will be emailed directly to GB Company Captains and Correspondents in January 2026, ahead of applications opening at the end of February.

The closing date for applications has been extended to **30th September**, allowing those who join the training courses at the start of the 2026/27 GB year sufficient time to apply.

Applicants approved before the end of July will receive their Company Experience Booklets in their GB Company August pack. Remaining booklets will be posted to GB Captains after the booking deadline of 30th September 2026.

The format of each course remains the same:

Sub-Officer Leadership Training

- Safeguarding webinar.
- Sub-Officer Theory webinar.
- District workshop.
- Company Experience booklet.

Officer Leadership Training

- Officer Theory webinar.
- Safeguarding webinar – this webinar only needs to be completed if the trainee has never completed the GBNI safeguarding training. If they have previously been a Sub-Officer, they will have already completed this part of the training and provided they have kept this up to date via their GB church refresher training, they only need to provide the date of their last refresher session.
- Face-to-face Officer training session.
- Company Experience Booklet.

Camp Training

Saturday 28th February 2026
10 am - 2.30 pm



GBNI leaders involved in running camps for their GB girls need to have a relevant qualification for this role. This training provides leaders with the Camp Training Certificate,

which can then be upgraded to a Camp Leader Certificate on completion of a GB camp and the Camp Leader application form.

The training day includes:

- GB Camp Guidelines.
- Key tasks for preparing for camp.
- Other relevant guidelines and procedures.
- Awareness of keeping children and leaders safe.
- Practical issues involved in running a camp.
- Ideas for camp worship and programme.

The course costs £10 per person and will be delivered face-to-face at GBHQ.

To ensure as many GB companies as possible can attend, initial bookings are limited to two participants per company. If you have additional leaders who wish to attend, please email Martha.

Any remaining places will be allocated closer to the training date. Bookings can be made via the online booking system in the Upcoming Events Calendar on the GBNI website (please ensure you log in before booking).

If you have any queries, please contact martha@gbni.co.uk

First Aid Training

GBNI recommends that every GB Company appoint a designated First Aider.



To support this, we are offering a one-day course: QA Level 3 Award in Combined Emergency First Aid at Work and Emergency Paediatric First Aid (RQF).

The training will take place in Belfast on **Saturday, 28th March 2026.**

This course typically costs £40; however, thanks to funding from EA, we are delighted to provide it free of charge.

Please note that places are limited to a maximum of 12 participants and only one per GB company.

Please email Martha to book a place, booking will be taken on a first come first served basis.

If you have any queries, please contact martha@gbni.co.uk

Expedition Training

GBNI leaders involved in training or supervising young people in the expedition section of the DofE award need to have a relevant qualification for this role.

The joint BBNI/GBNI Expedition and Outdoor Leadership course is a great way to gain a suitable qualification.

The course is designed and delivered by BB and GB leaders, especially for other leaders involved in expedition work with young people.

The next course starts in April 2026 with a training weekend and concludes with an assessment weekend in September, dates are listed below.

The cost of the course is £75.00 per person.

Training weekend:
17th - 19th April 2026.
Assessment weekend :
25th - 27th September 2026

There are two levels to the course - Level 1 and Level 2.

Level 1 is for leaders running expeditions in lowland or open country.

Level 2 is for those going into mountainous or wild country areas.

Participants must complete Level 1 before going on to Level 2.

Please note that there is a leadership unit common to both levels of the course. Those who have completed Officer or Sub-Officer Leadership Training with GB will be exempt from this unit. Leaders who have not completed GB training will need to provide evidence of other leadership training attended.

Bookings for both levels are made direct to BBNI, please email Martha for a link to the booking form required (martha@gbni.co.uk).

Equipment Opportunity

As part of the Development Fund we received from EA last year, we have been able to purchase the following items of camping equipment.

These can be borrowed from GBHQ for a small refundable deposit and are available for any GBNI leader attending this Expedition Training, for both the training and assessment weekend if required.

Please contact admin@gbni.co.uk to book out any items.

Camping items available:

- 8 Headtorches
- 4 Gas stoves
- 4 Storm shelters
- 4 Compasses
- 4 Tents
- 8 Rucksacks



Mental Health

Leaders' Workshops

Volunteer Mental Health

As volunteer leaders, you juggle demanding schedules and numerous commitments while dedicating time to your local GB Company. Your hard work and passion make a profound difference in the lives of our GB girls, yet it's easy for your own well-being to be overlooked. Come along to this workshop in March to focus on yourself for an evening and learn practical techniques to help restore balance and boost your energy and maintain harmony between life and volunteering.

4th March
GBHQ
7-9pm

Supporting our GB girls to look after their mental health

Do you sometimes feel unsure about how to support your girls with mental health challenges? Would you like practical strategies to help? Join our April workshop to gain ideas and resources that will boost your confidence and equip you to provide meaningful support to our amazing young people.

16th April
GBHQ
7-9pm

We've also enclosed the updated **"Are You Holding It All Together?"** booklet, which includes expert contacts, guidance for volunteers, and signs to watch for in young people. A related Bible study is available to offer encouragement during low times in the Resources Section of the GBNI website.

DofE Celebration Night



On Friday 21st November, the GBNI DofE Team held our annual DofE Presentation evening for GBNI girls who have completed their Bronze and Silver DofE Awards.

The evening was held in West Church Presbyterian Bangor, with over 50 participants along with their parents and leaders, as well as Trustee Board Members and DofE Team Members, coming together to celebrate the hard work and dedication of each participant to gain their Award. The current LO Manager Ingrid Orr (Captain of Glenwherry Presbyterian GB) welcomed everyone and our GBNI President, Isobel McKane opened in prayer. Certificates were presented by our speaker Rebekah

Hanna who spoke to the girls on the passage Mark 14:1-11. It can sometimes feel like we have to give our everything to get our DofE award and that as Christians Jesus is worth giving everything we have in following Him. However, not everyone understands the worth of Jesus and it can be hard at times living the Christian life in our world, but it is worth the effort.

The evening was closed by Rev Richard Huston (Associate Minister West Church Presbyterian Bangor) and everyone enjoyed the lovely supper provided by the church. Thank you to all our leaders who brought along their girls to celebrate their hard work and amazing achievements.



Meet Evie, DofE Youth Ambassador

My name is Evie Scott and I am a Brigader at 181st NI Ahorey Presbyterian GB.

In April of this year, I applied to become a UK Youth Ambassador for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, after discovering the opportunity online. Having already completed my Bronze and Silver Awards through my GB, becoming an Ambassador seemed like the perfect opportunity to shape the Award for future participants and work with like-minded young people who share my passion for DofE. In May 2025, I was delighted to find out that I had been selected from an inundation of applications to become one of 31 Ambassadors across the UK, and one of only three Ambassadors from Northern Ireland.

The programme began with an online welcome session in June, followed by our first in-person event: public speaking training in London, led by Body Talk. Over the summer, we had our bios written for the DofE website and recorded videos for social media. During October half-term, I travelled to Coventry for ambassador team building at Go Ape Outdoor Centre, where the high rope courses really

tested my resilience! My most recent

event was at the start of November, when I was selected as one of two Youth Ambassadors to host the DofE's Annual 'Youth Without Limits Live: Beyond the CV', held in Google HQ in London. This was such an insightful event, and I thoroughly enjoyed hosting it on stage.

My time as a DofE UK Youth Ambassador thus far has been a rewarding, exciting and empowering experience, and I have already developed my confidence and collaboration skills. I have made incredible friendships, particularly with my two fellow Northern Ireland Ambassadors on our travels over to England, and they have also both been a great encouragement in my faith.

It has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a UK Youth Ambassador for DofE. I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!



Stay tuned for more updates as we follow Evie during her amazing time as a Youth Ambassador.

RESOURCES4U

THE PUZZLE EDITION

Resources
4U

WELCOME TO RESOURCES 4U - THE PUZZLE EDITION.

Resources 4U is designed to equip you; our leaders with ideas and resources to complement and aid delivery of the GB Programme.

We are aware that, within GBNI, all girls are unique. They enjoy different things and have a broad range of interests. Feel free to adapt the ideas we have provided to meet the needs of your girls.

Also, don't forget to look over previous editions of R4U. These are available to download from the Resources 4U Folder on the GBNI website. You may be reminded of a great craft or game that worked really well before, but will be new to the girls who are currently in your GB company.

Farm Safety Badgework Update

Since August 2025, we've distributed nearly 4,000 Farm Safety books to GB companies across Northern Ireland.



What's next?

Explorer & Junior Workbooks: Unfortunately out of stock.

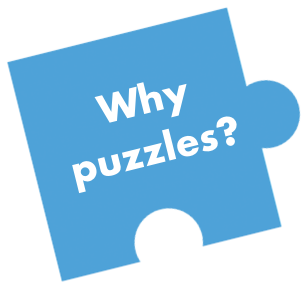
Leader Guides: A limited number are still available – email emma@gbni.co.uk to grab yours before they're gone!

Prefer digital?

All resources and workbooks are ready for download in the Farm Safety Badgework section of our website: gbni.co.uk/account/resources

Want to go further?

If your company is keen to learn more about Farm and Rural Safety, connect with Youth Farmers' Clubs of Ulster at info@yfcu.org.



Puzzles and puzzle games can be a great alternative to traditional GB fun activities such as sport and physical games.

Puzzles and puzzle games are an awesome way to bring people closer, share some laughs, and boost those key skills like communication and problem-solving. Puzzles can help your girls build trust and strengthen relationships in the group as they cheer each other on and work together to solve clues and complete tasks.

Over the next few pages, you'll find a selection of puzzle-based activities to enjoy with your girls. We'd love to hear what other games and activities they enjoy! Share your ideas with us, and we can add them to the My Resources section of the GB website to inspire other leaders. Please email your suggestions to: emma@gbni.co.uk

SCAVENGER HUNT



Ready to spark some excitement?

A scavenger hunt isn't just a game—it's an adventure! It's the perfect way to boost teamwork, communication, and a little friendly competition as participants race to track down hidden treasures in a set area.

Want to make it unforgettable? Add a theme! Tie your hunt to special occasions like Christmas, Summer, or any big event. Themed clues and creative items will turn a simple search into a thrilling challenge everyone will love.

Who will find them all first? Let the hunt begin!



GB Crest or Logo Scavenger Hunt

Using the downloadable printables found in My Resources, set up your own GB crest or logo hunt.

Which team can find the pieces and reassemble the GB crest or logo fastest?

ESCAPE ROOM

Ready for a challenge?

Imagine the thrill of racing against the clock, cracking codes, and solving puzzles as a team! Escape Rooms are an exciting way to build teamwork, sharpen problem-solving skills, and have loads of fun together.

There are plenty of guides available online to create an Escape Room, and they make a fantastic activity for Seniors and Brigaders.

Want something themed and ready to go? Head over to My Resources on the GB website, where you'll find several downloadable Escape Room packs (*Island Escape, Elf and Library Escape*) designed to bring the adventure straight to your company.

Can your team beat the clock and escape in time?



TEAM BUILDING PUZZLES



Saving Sam!

Each team receives an upside down cup (capsized boat) with a gummy ring (life jacket) trapped inside. Sam, the gummy worm, is positioned on top of the cup.

The challenge is to use two paper clips to turn the boat right side up, put the life jacket on Sam, and put him safely inside the boat.

Rules:

- Players can only touch the materials with the paper clips. No hands may touch Sam, the boat, or the life jacket.
- Sam must not be harmed in any way – no skewering Sam!!!

Source : <https://beakersandink.com/team-building-activities-middle-school/>

Paper Tower Challenge

Give each team a set number of A4 pages and a roll of sticky tape. Which team can build the highest tower in the time allocated?

Puzzle Barter

Divide the girls into groups. Give each group a jigsaw puzzle to complete. The twist is, some of the pieces are missing. The missing pieces are contained in another groups' puzzle box and vice versa. Which team is the best at negotiation and can complete their puzzle in the shortest time?

Entrapment!

Teams must cross a room that has been dressed with red wool 'lasers'. Every time a team member trips a laser, the whole team needs to go back and try again. The team needs to help each other cross the room safely. Which team can make it across quickest?

Old Favourites!

Table quizzes and Beetle Drives are great low energy game alternatives. They are also a great idea to use as part of a Parents' Night or Fundraiser event for your company.

GOT MISSING PIECES?

Who doesn't have jigsaw puzzles with missing pieces? Rather than throw them away, the pieces can be repurposed into simple craft ideas.

Puzzle Bookmarks



Photo: www.craftydiy.com

Puzzle Photoframes



Photo: www.pinterest.com

Jesus holds the pieces together craft



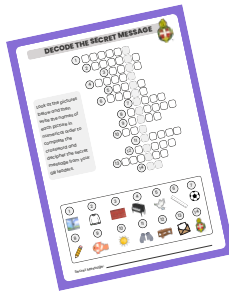
Template available to download from My Resources



Inspired by www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_-_jesus.html

DOWNLOADABLE QUIZ AND PUZZLE SHEETS

Available to download in A4 format from My Resources via the GB website.



Adapted from www.puzzlerpedia.com/riddles-for-youth

CREATIVE PRAYER

Using a piece from an old jigsaw encourage the girls to spend time in quiet prayer.

As you hold the jigsaw piece in your hand, pray for yourself. Thank God for the good things and blessings in your life. Just as a jigsaw piece fits into a larger puzzle, ask God to help you see the bigger picture of the plan He has for you and your life.

Look at the parts of the jigsaw piece that reach outwards. Thank God for those who reach out and show love and care for others. Ask God for the confidence and opportunity to share Him with your family and friends.

Look at the parts of the jigsaw piece that have spaces, waiting to be filled. Pray for people who have lost someone in their lives or for those who feel something is missing. Ask God to help them see and know how much they are loved by Him.

Try and fit the jigsaw piece into another piece. It more than likely will not fit. Pray for people who may find it hard to fit in, who have maybe moved to a new place, who feel they have no friends or are feeling lonely. Pray that they will find peace, friends and happiness. Thank God for them and ask God to bless and help them.

