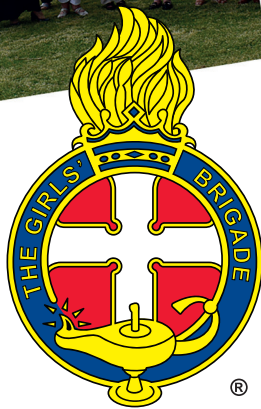


Girls' Brigade News



*Informing... encouraging...
equipping leaders!*



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Tel: 028 9454 8054
Email: info@gbni.co.uk
Web: www.gbni.co.uk

GBNI Shop:
www.gbni.co.uk/shop

Your Office Bearers are committed to staying connected with you. You are encouraged to contact them if you have any suggestions for improvement or ideas for future development in GBNI.

GBNI President:
Isobel McKane
president@gbni.co.uk

GBNI Chairperson:
Tracey Davies
chair@gbni.co.uk

The Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland
C2 Kilbegs Business Park
Fergusons Way, Antrim, BT41 4LZ

GBNI Updates

GBNI Membership Fees 2024/25

Fee per Member	£16.00 (€1 is allocated to insurance)
Postage Fee	£15.00
GB EF Fee per Member	£0.10
GB Int. Fee per Company	£1.12
GB Int. Fee per Member	£0.34
Late Submission of Annual Return Fee	£10.00 (Automatically applied from 1st December)



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Girls' Brigade News August 2024



GBNI Headquarters and Shop Closure

GBHQ and Shop will be closed on Monday 26th August 2024 for the Summer Bank Holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday 27th August 2024 at 9.30 am.

GBNI Safeguarding Policies

A review of the GBNI Safeguarding Policy and all complementary policies and forms have been carried out and are available to view from the GBNI Leaders' Section in the GBHQ Policies and Documents folder. Please take the time to familiarise yourself and your leaders with these policies and refer to them throughout the year as required.



Stay Informed

To keep up to date with all that is happening within GBNI, please visit the GBNI website frequently and follow us on all our social media platforms.

GB News page <https://gbni.co.uk/news>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GBNI1>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/girlsbrigadenorthernireland>

Blog <http://gbni.co.uk/youthblog>

Remember to check out the 'What's On' calendar in the Leaders' Section for upcoming meetings, training sessions and deadlines.

Recruiting New Members

Each company has been supplied with 15 blank Join Us Flyers and a Poster. Please use these resources to help with general recruitment for



your company. We have a small overstock of the Flyer if needed; please email info@gbni.co.uk Extra posters are available to order through the GBNI Shop.

WebFiling

Can all GB Company Admin's (Captains/Correspondents) review your 'Company Info' on the WebFiling to ensure details are up to date:

- Adjust any changes in your meeting nights/times.
- Add your church website URL including https:// in the link.
- Do you have a GB Facebook page? Add your URL.
- Check your church address is correct; especially the church postcode as this links with search facilities on the ‘Find a GBNI Company’ page.
- Provide a brief synopsis to help inform parents of new potential members about your GB company.

Leprosy Mission - Online Resource

To reduce its carbon footprint, The Leprosy Mission has now moved all of its youth resources to be available online via its website <https://www.tlm-ni.org/resources/youth-and-children>. As part of our long-term relationship with The Leprosy Mission, we would encourage you to check out these valuable resources including short age-appropriate talks, activities and fundraising suggestions.

We would love for our GB companies to avail of these resources, share about the work of The Leprosy Mission with your girls and raise some funds to support their vital work. You can

find other resources regarding the Leprosy Mission in the Programme Files.

Weekly Attendance

GB Captains are reminded that the GBNI Leaders Manual (page 34) clearly states that the Annual Session for GB companies must operate for at least 26 weeks to allow members the opportunity to achieve their 19 weeks attendance for Under 5s and Explorers and 22 weeks attendance for Junior, Seniors, Brigaders, Associates, Sub-Officers and Officers.

Please check how many nights you will be operating to ensure Attendance Awards are achievable in good time for your GB Display/Parents’ Evening and the 26 weeks requirement can be met.

Habitat for Humanity Total Update

A big THANK YOU to all the Girls’ Brigade companies that have fundraised so far to support the work of our charity partner, Habitat for Humanity Ireland.



Throughout this GB session,

you have raised £6,156 for the charity, bringing our overall total to £17,276 so far. We are now in the final year of our partnership and we would like to encourage all of our GB companies to get involved in raising some vital funds to support the work of Habitat for Humanity. To find out more about our partnership, visit <https://gbni.co.uk/gbni-partnership>

Just as a general reminder:to allow us to keep an eye on the overall total raised; please send your donation to GBNI and we will pass it onto the charity. Cheques should be made payable to GBNI and a note written on the back, stating Habitat for Humanity. If paying via BACS Transfer, reference the payment as above.

GBNI Annual General Meeting

The GBNI Board of Trustees warmly invites all Captains, Chaplains, Officers, Leaders, Reserve Officers and Past Members to attend our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21st August. Please join us for a relaxed evening as we share all the highlights of GB over the past year.

The meeting will commence at 6.30 pm sharp. There will be two presentations from representatives of Ulster Wildlife and Habitat for Humanity and a delicious BBQ to finish the evening. For catering purposes, please book your place online via the Leaders' Section by 4 pm Friday 16th August 2024. Please state in the 'requirements box' any access or dietary needs, such as gluten free, dairy free or vegetarian.

We look forward to seeing you there!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WED 21ST AUGUST 2024
6.30PM AT GBHQ

With guest speakers from Ulster Wildlife and Habitat for Humanity followed by a BBQ.

MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING



The poster features a blue background with a white dotted pattern at the top left. It includes the GBNI logo (a red shield with a white cross and a gold crown) and three circular photos of smiling individuals in GBNI uniforms. A blue button with white text and a QR code are located at the bottom.

It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks, GB will be back - eek! Where did the summer go? I think we say this every year (I'm sure Teachers are the same!) that it's really no length of time since GB and schools finished!

I'm sure many of you have headed away on holiday, perhaps abroad or closer to home; spending time with family and catching up with friends. I too took a wee break away to the sun, as someone who goes red, pink and white again, I may as well stay at home!

One of the places I love the best is pottering in my garden. I really don't like dealing with those pesky slugs and snails - that seem to eat their way through my flowers and plants at a rate of knots, despite my daily inspections!

There is a framed embroidery by my late Granny, a lady who used to grow the most magnificent, sweet peas. To me as a child, they were as tall as church steeples. This little embroidery hangs in the front porch, close to the garden, which says:

"In a garden green and gay
All my troubles fade away
Sweet contentment here I find
Joy of heart and peace of mind"



The Bible has over 60 references to gardens from the Garden of Eden

"Then God said 'Let the land produce vegetation, seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.'"

Genesis 1:11

to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Empty Tomb where Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene.

Although God has provided food and clothing for mankind; it is His written Word which really nourishes us; John 6:35 reminds us:

“I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

When we feed ourselves with God’s Word and when we wait upon Him who knows our every need, we begin to develop a closer relationship with Him. God cleanses us from the inside out and we become enriched by his spiritual nourishment.

Spending time in prayer by talking to God, starts our day by committing it to Him. Telling Him the things that trouble us or just to telling Him about our day, God always loves to hear from us.

I use my time travelling to work praying, sometimes that prayer includes random people on the streets. The word ‘prayer’ stands for ‘a personal communication for petition addressed to a deity, especially in the form of supplication, adoration, praise, contrition or thanksgiving’.

“Our children Lord in faith and prayer, we now devote to Thee” is the first line of a hymn usually sung at baptisms. Whilst we pray for the girls in our GB as they mature, we also teach them how to pray too. As we pray for our GB girls, we pray that they would know His blessing, guidance and

hand upon their lives as they receive not only the food from His bounteous gardens, but that they may receive His spiritual nourishment and grow in faith too.

I wish you all well as you plan your incoming GB session. May God enrich your lives as you ‘Seek, Serve and Follow Christ’.

Now I’m back out to the garden to look for those slugs and snails, making sure they are not eating the fruit for the jams or puddings or the leaves of the winter vegetables!

Blessings

Heather Lindsay
GBNI Vice-President





Thank You!

We were so delighted to celebrate our outstanding volunteers with a series of events* in June 2024. We kicked off the celebrations with a fabulous Afternoon Tea in Dunadry Hotel and Gardens, Antrim. This was followed by a relaxed BBQ for GBNI Team members, Brigade Council and District Commissioners at GBHQ. We then finished off with another amazing Afternoon Tea in Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen.

Isobel McKane, GBNI President, shared a word of thanks on behalf of everyone in Girls' Brigade as she asked us all to think about three T's - Thankfulness, Talents and Timing.

Let Us Sing Songs of Praise:

1 "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! 3 For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand."

Psalm 95:1-7



1. Thankfulness

Today Girls' Brigade is saying thank you to its volunteers, but it is important that we remember that we are volunteers in a wonderful organisation with the purpose of serving our God and Saviour.

Psalms 95 reminds us of the greatness of our God, His power, majesty and yet, to Him, as His children, we are so important, that is so worth praising God for!

He is a gracious God and a forgiving Saviour and for that we need to be so thankful.

We are so blessed here in Northern Ireland, to have churches supportive of the work of GB, another blessing

to praise God for.

Let us be thankful for the opportunities available to us; to share the love of Jesus in our communities. Be affirmed, that the connection you make with the girls in your company, are opportunities to share God's love in a fun and relevant way to the girls we see week-by-week. This is such an important opportunity to plant gospel seeds in young lives, some who do not regularly attend a church.

We pray these seeds will bear fruit for His Kingdom, shaping the lives of young women, in God's strength for future generations!

Helping in our GB companies can

be enjoyable, but it also takes commitment. Many of our Leaders are working, running homes, mummies, getting children through exams etc. Yet are called to serve in GB. And as a Captain, I am so thankful for every person who shares in this work with me in my company.

We are thankful for every Leader we have in our GB companies. We are also thankful for our GB Headquarters' staff, for the support they provide us, the resources, programmes, etc., which are available to us.

2. Talents

It would be a boring world if we were all the same, thankfully we are not. God has equipped each one of us with the talents and skills we need for where He has placed us and for that, we should be thankful.

As I have had the opportunity to see how GB is done right across Northern Ireland, in many ways, I look with envy at the work and the talents of those companies who do PE. I am in awe of the standard of the girls performing at the PE Finals; but we are not all PE companies. In other companies there may be girls who love to craft and have ladies teaching them new skills, developing their creativity, singing, or marching and the list goes on and on.

Then there is all the work you all put into your parents' evenings. Let us be honest, if you were asked

to do so much in your day job, you would be contacting unions, yet we all do it! It is so rewarding to see the pleasure and affirmation parents get watching their children on the floor doing their part and the sense of achievement our girls, of all ages, have when they have performed.

But our companies would not function if it were not for that Leader who opens the halls, brushes the floor and tidies the toilets, etc. etc.

We are all needed, and whatever your job, it is needed to make your company function whether you are visible or behind the scenes. Using your talents in GB is important, your service to your company and your Lord. We all do GB differently - no one is better than another. Our talents are unique to each of us, as individuals, and when we give them over to God, He uses them where we are. Remember that whatever your gifts and talents, they are the right ones for the girls in your company because our Lord equips us for what we need where we are placed.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

3. Timing

God's timing is perfect. Esther was a Jewish maiden who was taken into the royal court of King Xerxes and eventually chosen to be Queen of Persia. The Bible makes it clear that Esther was placed in her influential position, "...for such a time as this."...God's purpose was accomplished through Esther.

We, like Esther, have meaningful choices to make. We may not have as much power and influence as Esther had, but God has still placed us where He wants us to be, "...for such a time as this".

We are not here by accident. We have a God-given circle of influence. We must pay attention to what is happening around us and seek God's direction in how He wants to use us. He has placed us in the time, the position, and the place He wants us to be. And He invites us to confidently join in His work.

In Esther's day, the duty to save a nation fell to her, and God had given her all she needed to accomplish the task.

God has done the same for us, whatever the task He assigns, and He will use us in, "...for such a time as this.".

Whatever the size of your GB company, whatever the space and resources available to you, please continue in your service to God

and GB and be affirmed that you are making a difference in young women's lives in your community.

And really on behalf of the Board and the Staff at GBHQ it is the right time to say thank you for continuing the work you do in your churches and companies. God bless you all in this work.

* Events subsidised thanks to EA funding.



Scan the QR code to watch the GBNI Leader celebration video.

2023/24 Senior and Brigader Habitat for Humanity Ireland Photography Competition

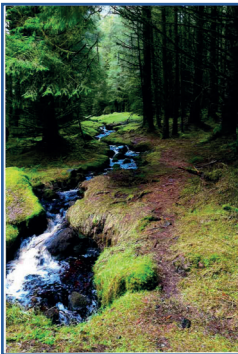
It was great to have a Photography Competition back in our 2023/24 session.

As we continued our partnership with Habitat for Humanity, we wanted to turn our focus to another part of their work and think about how we take responsibility for looking after our world.

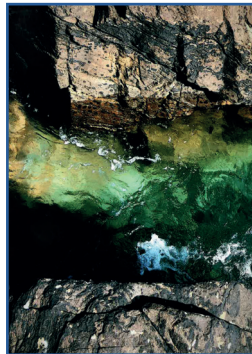
Seniors and Brigaders were tasked with capturing some of their favourite wonders of creation on camera. The girls were then asked to submit a photograph along with a short-written piece describing how and why they thought we should be doing our part to protect our world.

The standard of entries was extremely high, and Habitat for Humanity had the difficult job of adjudicating the entries. We had a total of 280 entries across both sections, with five from each section being awarded a Top-5 place and 45 from each section being awarded Highly Commended. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.

Seniors Top 5



Amy McKee
162nd NI Ballynure
Presbyterian



Leah Donaldson
89th NI Kilkeel
Presbyterian



Aimee Liggett
84th NI Second
Castlederg
Presbyterian

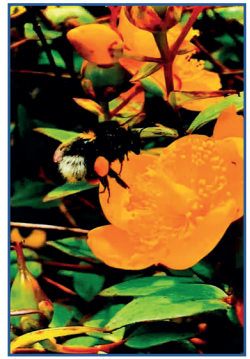
Brigaders Top 5



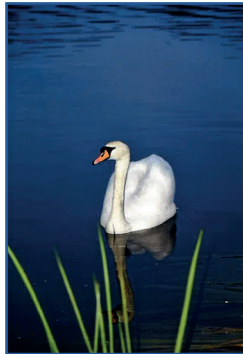
Lois Henderson
146th NI Mourne
Presbyterian



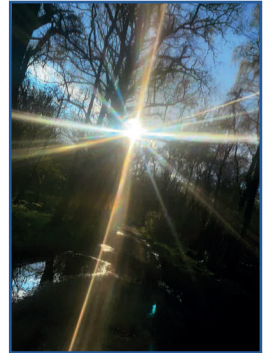
Bethney Park
72nd NI Kilbride
Presbyterian



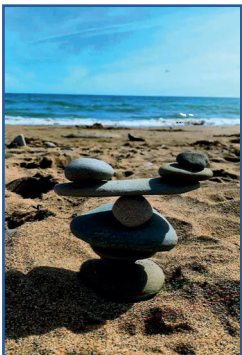
Lucy Logan
162nd NI Ballynure
Presbyterian



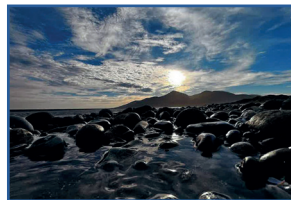
Susie Barnes
12th NI Magheragall
Presbyterian



Zara Newell
89th NI Kilkeel
Presbyterian



Lydia Agnew
120th NI Annalong
Presbyterian



Phillipa McLeese
12th NI Magheragall
Presbyterian



Queen's Award

West Church Ballymena warmly welcomed the Queen's Award recipients and guests to their church for this year's Award Presentation Ceremony held on Friday 10th May 2024.

Our guest speaker was Deaconess Rachel Cubitt. We were also delighted to be joined by Alderman Gerardine Mulvenna Mayor of Mid and East Antrim as well as Group Commander Archie McKay Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service who was presented with trauma teddies completed by the girls as part of their initiative test.

During the evening, experiences and lessons learned during their Queen's Award journey were also shared by Hannah Chambers (111th NI Newtownabbey Methodist Mission), Olivia Smyth (221st NI Magherafelt Presbyterian), Amy McGregor (252nd NI Balteagh Presbyterian) and Mollie Guthrie-Drumm (320th NI Kilfennan Presbyterian).

We all congratulate the girls on achieving their Queen's Award; well done!





We first met Hannah Chambers from 111th NI Newtownabbey Methodist Mission two years ago when she started her Queen's Award programme.



Now she has successfully completed the Award we caught up with her one final time.

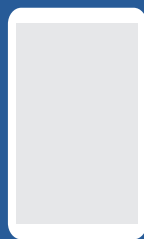
“I have loved every part of my Queen's Award over the past two years. The highlight was definitely creating my podcast for my project. Doing this allowed me to get to know some of my close friends and family on a deeper level and learn about their journey of faith and how they pursue it in daily life.

I also really enjoyed my company service and getting to see all the girls' personalities grow through the years; to help teach them about Jesus and share the Good News. The initiative tests were also quite fun as I got to learn a new skill (knitting) and got to see that teddy go somewhere where it will help settle younger children if injured.

The Presentation Service was also a highlight. I loved getting to see the other girls and hear how they found their Queen's Award.

Overall I have loved every minute of my Queen's Award. I would recommend it to anyone who is thinking about doing it in the future.”





Information webinars

A series of Queen's Award online information webinars are planned again this autumn. The webinars last around 45 minutes and are the ideal opportunity to find out more about the Queen's Award programme and the unique challenges and opportunities it offers your girls and young women. Webinars are open to all girls interested in starting their Queen's Award in March 2025 and all GB leaders who would like to find out more about offering the Award programme in their company. Booking is now open in the Leaders' Section of the GBNI website.

Webinar dates

Wednesday 2nd October 7 pm
Tuesday 15th October 7 pm
Wednesday 13th November 7 pm
Thursday 28th November 7 pm

Does a webinar fall on the same night as your usual GB company meeting? Why not register as a company and join the webinar with all of your Brigaders and young people aged 15-23 years of age to let everyone discover more about the Queen's Award and what it could mean for them!



329th NI Christ Church Primacy GB were thrilled to celebrate their 40th anniversary this year.

The girls have enjoyed a packed programme as always and had their Annual Display on Friday 19th April, with the Mayor of Ards and North Down Cllr Jennifer Gilmour as Guest of Honour. Cllr Gilmour attended GB herself and her three daughters are now members of 329th GB company.

The company also held an anniversary dinner to celebrate the work of GB in Primacy over the past 40 years. This was attended by current leaders, former leaders and parents. As part of the evening, messages were shared from leaders, members and parents, past and present. It was lovely to reminisce and hear people's fond memories of GB.

The Captain and leaders would like to thank parents, relatives and friends who encourage the girls to attend each week and support all their activities, and also the girls for working so hard.

A special mention also has to go to the women who took the decision 40 years ago to form the GB company at Christ Church Primacy.



Meet Lois - our Intern



Tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is Lois, I live just outside Ballymoney and attend an Reformed Presbyterian church there. I have just finished my degree in English with Creative Writing at Queen's University Belfast. I love all things books and reading and love to write poems and tell stories in my own time! I was a GB girl myself and achieved my Brigader Brooch with 273rd NI Ballymoney Reformed Presbyterian GB.

What made you apply for an internship with Girls' Brigade?

While in my final semester, naturally I began to look at what I'd like to do next (it was a wee bit of a panic to be perfectly honest!). I received an email from QUB advertising 'Micro-Internships', and it seemed perfect for me because they were very flexible and would only take up 100 hours. Down the list I saw that the Girls' Brigade was one of the options, advertising the role relating to "Social Media". This was perfect for me, as I wanted to expand my experience and explore possible career options in marketing. It was also perfect

as I looked fondly on my time as a girl in GB and knew that the values and ethos of the company of GBNI were perfectly suited to me.

Share a little about your internship role.

My role was along the lines of "Social Media" but it was also very flexible and I got to help out with lots of different things! I began by having a look at the social media platforms used and drew up a review of what I thought had been done well and what could be improved, (this was the more boring part). I also assisted with scheduling posts on both Instagram and Facebook for up to a month. I was involved with shooting photos and videos of products that are available to GB companies to hire and got creative in finding fun ways to advertise these!

What has been a highlight during your internship?

The highlights were the days I got handed a camera, because I got to play with the products (in the name of research!). I built a LEGO dog and got creative in finding ways to post him on social media, I also played around a bit with the DJ sets, but settled for a still image, (I didn't want to hurt anyone's ears). I never got the hang of the drones though,

but I'm sure these will be great craic for young girls to play around with. I also loved putting together the Bible verses to post on Mondays because I knew I was handling the Word of God; it was a very important job, and I enjoyed being creative using Canva, creating images for the verses.

Have you faced any challenges?

A challenge I faced was actually getting to the office, as my car broke down the day before I was going to start! Nevertheless, all was well thanks to the kindness of all the staff, I was offered lifts to and from the train station when it was clear my car wouldn't be fixed any time soon. I felt right at home in the office, and although it can get busy at times, everybody is willing to have a chat.

Have you learnt any new skills?

Other than my LEGO building skills? I've learnt loads! I found my way around a camera quite well, heightened my skills with Meta Business Suite, and, through Canva, I found I had a deft hand at graphic design. I also got familiar with an office and how it functions in different teams and management and observed other's interactions in their own roles. When opportunity arose for me to help out with proof-

reading, I jumped at the chance to learn a new skill and apply skills learned through my English degree.

What do you hope to do in your future career?

I'm still unsure what I'd like to do long-term. However, I interviewed further for a temporary job with GBNI that sprung up while I was doing my internship, and... I got the job! So, I guess I'll be sticking around for a wee while longer in GB, and I'm not one bit disappointed! Whatever God has in store for me, the office at GBHQ is definitely a great launchpad.

Would you recommend GBNI to anyone considering an internship or work placement?

The short answer:yes! I would recommend it to anyone who wants to familiarise themselves with an office environment, gain new skills, and enhance pre-existing ones. As I've said, it's a great launchpad even if you're here for a short time. The staff here are lovely and welcoming and, although it is a business, it's ethos and Aim "...the extension of Christ's Kingdom among girls" is brilliant. Whether you are a GB girl yourself or just someone who'd like to gain experience, this internship is brilliant!

PE Demos

Pre-registration for PE Demonstrations opened on Monday 12th August 2024.

2024/2025 Demonstration Dates & Venues		
Monday 2nd September	Section	Time
St Paul's Parish, Lisburn BT28 1UE	AS AT	7.30 pm 8.45 pm
Tuesday 3rd September	Section	Time
Trinity Methodist, Lisburn BT28 2GX	ET JT	7.30 pm 8.45 pm
Wednesday 4th September	Section	Time
St Mary's Parish, Dundonald BT16 2RY	BS BT	7.30 pm 8.45 pm
Thursday 5th September	Section	Time
Cregagh Congregational	JSSS JST	7.30 pm 8.45 pm
Saturday 7th September	Section	Time
Second Comber Presbyterian BT23 5DT	BT JT JSSS JST BS ET	9 am 10.30 am 12 pm 1 pm 2.30 pm 3.30 pm

Additional information for Demos:

Please read the following information if you are attending a demonstration on behalf of your company.

For all Demos:

- All PE Demos are now strictly pre-registration only (online booking via GBNI Leaders' Section). All places must be booked and paid for online.
- Demonstrations for PE (Solo and Team) are available at £5.00 per company per set - three spaces per company with only two

working on the floor at any one time.

- Members may only attend one demonstration per set.
- Demonstrations for Associate PE (Solo and Team) are also available at £5.00 per company per set- 10 spaces per company.

What to wear for Demonstrations:

- Only correct Girls' Brigade uniform as listed below may be worn on the floor:
- Correct PE uniform (no jewellery, nail polish, false nails, sweatshirts/hoodies or jogging bottoms/leggings), or Officers' working uniform - navy jogging bottoms (no leggings and no branding, with the exception of GB jogging bottoms), GB regulation polo shirt (must be white with GB Crest), navy GB sweatshirt, and white PE slippers with white ankle socks.
- Hoodies must not be worn on the floor.
- Anyone not wearing correct uniform will be asked to leave the floor.

For directions to the demonstration venues, please refer to Google Maps using postcodes provided.



PE Competitions

Entry deadline for all PE Competitions - Monday 2nd December 2024 at 5 pm

Explorer Team

Inter District Competitions - Saturday 18th January 2025

NI Final - Saturday 1st February 2025 at 10 am

Junior Team

Inter District Competitions - Saturday 18th January 2025

NI Final - Saturday 8th February 2025 at 10 am

Junior/Senior Team

Inter District Competitions - Monday 13th January 2025

NI Final - Saturday 8th February 2025 at 3 pm

Junior/Senior Solo Skipping

Inter District Competitions - Wednesday 15th January 2025

NI Final - Saturday 8th February 2025 at 1 pm

Brigader Team

Inter District Competitions - Tuesday 21st January 2025

NI Final - Saturday 1st February 2025 at 3 pm

Brigader Solo

Inter District Competitions - Thursday 16th January 2025

NI Final - Saturday 1st February at 1 pm

Dates and venue for NI Finals

1st and 8th February.

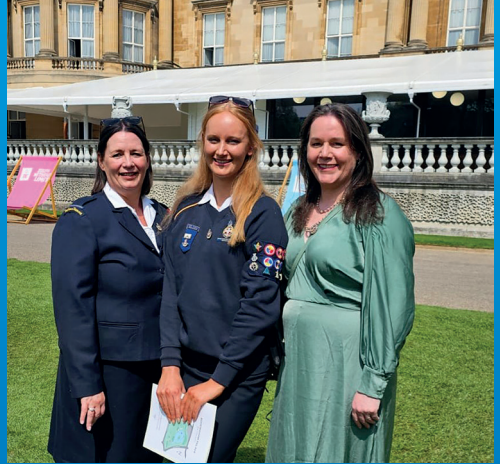
Venue (TBC)

Associate Team and Associate Solo

Competitions will be held on Friday 21st February 2025, at Trinity Methodist, Lisburn (TBC).



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards



21 girls representing the following GB companies were honoured to attend Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award on 10th May 2024. What a fabulous achievement! Well done to everyone.

- 1st NI Thomas Street Methodist
- 106th NI Ballygowan Presbyterian
- 136th NI Raffrey Presbyterian
- 149th NI Templepatrick Presbyterian
- 181st NI Ahorey Presbyterian
- 184th NI Loughbrickland Presbyterian
- 251st NI Glenwherry Presbyterian
- 271st NI Hazelbank Presbyterian
- 297th NI West Church Bangor
- 362nd NI Raloo Presbyterian



Girls' Brigade shop

Northern Ireland



*The GBNI Shop is open
Monday to Thursday 9.30 am - 5.00 pm
Friday 9.30 am - 4.00 pm*

The GBNI Shop is also open on the following
Saturday mornings from 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
September 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th
October 5th, 12th and November 2nd 2024.
Visit our Shop in Antrim at GBHQ or shop online
gbni.co.uk/shop

The shop accepts cash, card payments and cheques.



*Proceeds from our Shop support
the ongoing programme, training,
marketing and development work
in GBNI.
Thank you for your support!*

Price List 2024/25

Tunic	£23.00 - £28.00	Navy Pants	£4.00 - £4.90
Red Knitted Jumper	£15.50	Long Leg Pants	£8.20 - £9.80
Girls' White Blouse	£8.50 - £12.00	Knee Socks	£1.90
Navy V Neck Sweatshirt	£13.00 - £18.50	Ankle Socks	£1.50 - £4.00
Sub-Officers' Sweatshirt	£18.50	Red/Navy Tights	£4.20
Girls' Navy Skirt	£19.50 - £25.00	Armband	£2.50
Jogging Bottoms	£17.00 - £21.00	Section Badge	£1.50
White Slippers	£6.00 - £8.00	5m Ribbon	£2.30
Officer Jacket	£115.00	5m White Tape	£1.50 - £2.00
Officer Skirt	£40.00	Officer Blouse	£25.00

Important information

Orders with Made To Order items must be paid before they can be processed.

GBNI Hoodies and Coloured Polo Shirts

It is important to book out a sample set of either of the above to check colours and sizing before placing your orders - remember all made-to-order items cannot be returned.

GBNI Hoodies

There are **three** size sets available to book out.

GBNI Coloured Polo Shirts

There are **two** sets available to book out.

To book out the GBNI Hoodies or the Coloured Polo Shirt, please contact customerservice@gbni.co.uk or call 028 9454 8054 and press 1 for the GBNI Shop.

Please ensure parents are aware that they cannot purchase hoodies and polo shirts directly from the Shop.

Officer Uniform

If you require a size that we do not currently stock, this can be produced by our supplier. Please contact our GBNI Shop Manager, Claire, by email at shopmanager@gbni.co.uk or phone 028 9454 8054 press 1 for the GBNI Shop. Please note a delivery date for the item would be confirmed following your enquiry and a surcharge may apply for this service.

Book your GBNI Uniform Sample Sets now!

Large Company Orders

Large uniform orders should be placed with the Online Shop. If the order is for collection, please use the 'Customer Notes' box to indicate when the order will be collected. Normal packing time during the busy months of September and October is three-five working days. Please check with Customer Service that your order is ready for collection before travelling to GBHQ. Unfortunately, large orders cannot be placed in the Walk In Shop and taken the same day.

Uniform Size Set for Loan

The GBNI Shop can provide a size set of uniform that can be booked out for one week. This will allow parents to check what size of uniform they require for their daughters before placing their orders online. Please contact customerservice@gbni.co.uk to book a size set.

customerservice@gbni.co.uk
028 9454 8054



**New GBNI Website
...we're reaching
the final stages!**

We hope you are as excited as we are about the new GBNI website!

Below we have answered a few questions you may have regarding the website.

Why did we not just update the current site?

Our current website was built on a platform called Kentico and during the pandemic, the company conducted a review and decided to change how they would structure their platform and any future updates.

Upgrading our site to the latest version and keeping our data secure meant the redevelopment of the whole back-end code. It would cost a pretty penny to carry out this work, without changing the look or adding any new features to improve the site.

Thank you to our previous Web Developers, Flint Studios, for their support over the past five years working on our current site.

Why did we consider a brand-new website?

A website is a big investment, and we want it to be a valuable resource for our members.

A Website Review Team was set-up and a member survey was actioned to identify the pros and cons of the current site. From those results, we started a Tender process to look at the possibility of redesigning the site into a fresher, more youthful, modern, and user-friendly experience.

The cost of redesigning the site on a new platform was half of what was estimated for replacing the code of the current site.

Who won the contract?

We are delighted to be working with Thought Collective who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in strategic and effective visual communication for faith-based, youth and large membership organisations.

The Tender process has been long, but once we got into the development stages, we had an excellent group of GB volunteers and Staff working with Ryan and his team to deliver this project.

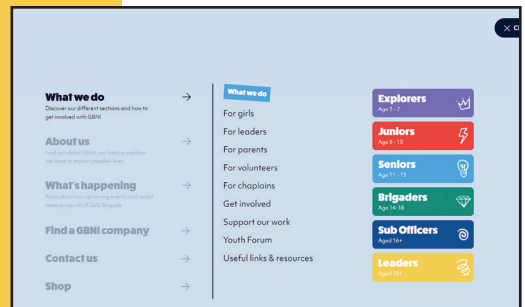
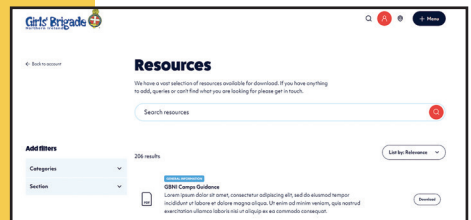
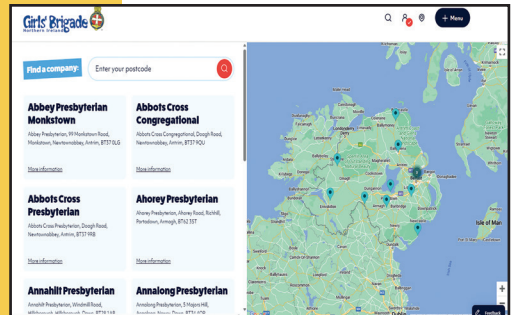
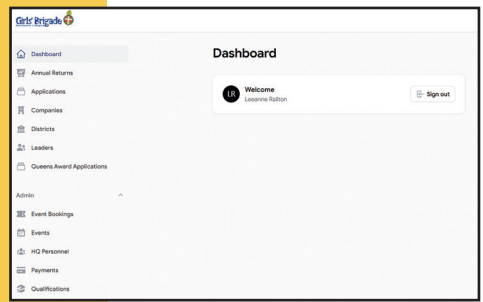
We are delighted with the outcome of the website and know that this investment will carry forward for years to come. A big thank you to all of those that have been a part of this project.

Tell us about the new design.

The biggest change is the colour; it is no longer blue throughout. We went with a clean white background but introduced pops of GB colours on every page.

We wanted the website to reflect what Girls' Brigade is about; fun and exciting for girls of all ages to meet friends, develop new skills and learn more about God.

We had the help of Rachel Stoops from 28th NI First Bangor GB



who, over the summer, took fresh new photographs for the site. These will be built up over the next year as we get into our GB programme.

The layout has a better structure, and you will see design changes in both the Resource Section and My Brigade (aka WebFiling).

What new features should we see?

We have *improved* the *navigation* across the site to make it easier to move around the site and find information.

As a member organisation, the site plays many roles: for new members to get information about GB; a source of information for trainee leaders; a tool to equip and inform leaders about events, training, resources, and online booking; a database of leaders' details and company returns and our online shop for uniform, gifts, awards and resources.

No matter the reason someone visits the site, we want it to be a simple *user-friendly* experience.

One of the biggest feedback items from the survey was the *search facility* in the Resource Section. We have now added a

filter system to help leaders find information faster.

We have also added a feature to pop-up images and a synopsis about the resource before downloading it.

We are working our way through these, and as you can imagine, we still have resources to update.

We wanted all of our leaders to know what is happening in GB. *We will no longer have different areas for news, blogs, competition results; all of these will now be in one place.*

We have also changed our eNews provider to Mailchimp which has an integration feature to allow leaders to subscribe through their profile on My Brigade, simply by ticking a button and selecting which eNews they want to subscribe to.

Our *What's On Calendar* has now been integrated with our Events Booking System. This means that details will always be up-to-date and accurate. It will be available on the front-end of the site to provide parents with basic information. A more detailed version is available in the Resource Section for leaders.

To make GB greener, we have also added *online forms* for both *Queen's Award* and *Training Applications*. Applicants can sign-up; send an automated email to their Captain/Chaplain to electronically complete and sign their section with the registration fee now payable online.

We have also incorporated the *Annual Partnership Agreement* into the Online Annual Return in the same way. Captains will now sign the form online and send an automated email to their Chaplain or Church Representative to sign the form.

Please note Company Night Risk Assessments will now need to be uploaded before you can submit your Annual Return. We are also introducing online payments for Annual Assessment Fees.

These are some of the changes we have made, please explore the site, and feel free to provide feedback to help us make any further improvements.

Has the online shop changed?

We really wanted to create a better user-experience, not only online but instore also.

The GBNI Shop has been moved over to Shopify and the Shop

Staff have been busy setting-up the POS system, which meant barcoding every item sold in the Shop.

Customers will experience easier returns and exchanges in-store. It will also be much easier to place large award and badge orders online for displays and parents' nights.

When will the site go live?

At the time of writing this article, the planned date for the site to go live is mid-August and we hope to launch the site at the GBNI Annual General Meeting being held on *21st August* at GBHQ.

Once the site is launched, we will still have some work to complete, and we ask you to please bear with us as we work through updating these areas.

Endurance Awards

It was a privilege to present Endurance Awards to four very deserving girls from three different GB companies in the spring of 2024: Anna Stevenson & Sophie Leinster both from 62nd NI Hamilton Road Presbyterian, Bangor, Darcie Smyth from 142nd NI Kilmakee Presbyterian and Sophie McClenaghan from 155th NI Greenisland Methodist.

These girls have all faced challenges in their lives with courage and determination and have continued to connect with their Girls' Brigade companies, show unwavering strength and perseverance.

It is a humbling experience to present our Endurance Award and I do so with pride and admiration for Anna and Sophie, Darcie and Sophie. These four girls and others like them have continued to give their best to their companies with remarkable commitment and spirit, despite injury or illness. Their endurance serves as a powerful reminder of the limitless potential within each one of us.

The families of these young ladies have also been on a difficult journey alongside their daughters. It has been lovely to have had the opportunity

to meet them too and hear about their journey. It has also been wonderful to hear of how the volunteers in these three companies have supported the girls and their families at these most trying of times. I have seen first-hand the special pastoral care these companies have provided and the genuine family spirit and practical Christian love the Captains, Officers and Helpers have shown.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, congratulations to each of you on receiving the Award.

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10 ESV

Isobel McKane
GBNI President



Anna Stevenson
62nd NI Hamilton Road
Presbyterian



Sophie Leinster
62nd NI Hamilton Road
Presbyterian



Sophie McClenaghan
155th NI Greenisland
Methodist



Darcie Smyth
142nd NI Kilmakee
Presbyterian

GBNI Calendar of Events 2024-2025

2024		Venue
Wednesday 21 st August	GBNI AGM	GBHQ
Mon 2 nd - Sat 7 th September	PE Demos	TBC
Wednesday 11 th September	Safeguarding Webinar	Online
Tuesday 17 th September	Sub-Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Fri 20 th - Sun 22 nd September	BB/GB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership - Assessment Weekend	Mournes
Tuesday 24 th September	WWM training for QA Mentors	Online
Thursday 26 th September	Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Saturday 28 th September	Leaders' Worship Event	TBC
Monday 7 th October	Competition Closing Date 1	N/A
Tuesday 8 th October	Safeguarding Webinar	Online
Tuesday 15 th October	New Captains' Workshop	GBHQ
Tuesday 15 th October	QA Webinar	Online
Thursday 17 th October	Walk with Me Webinar	Online
Wednesday 23 rd October	Sub-Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Wednesday 30 th October	Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Friday 1 st - Saturday 9 th November	DT Brigader Dodgeball	Various
Thursday 7 th November	Safeguarding Webinar	Online
Friday 8 th - Saturday 16 th November	DT Senior Unihoc	Various
Tuesday 12 th November	Walk With Me Training	GBHQ
Wednesday 13 th November	QA Webinar	Online
Friday 22 nd November	Brigader Dodgeball NI Finals	Lagan Valley Leisureplex
Thursday 28 th November	QA Webinar	Online
Friday 29 th November	DofE Presentation Evening	TBC
Saturday 30 th November	Annual Return's Submission Deadline	N/A
Monday 2 nd December	Competition Closing Date 2	N/A
Friday 6 th December	Senior Unihoc NI Finals	TBC
Friday 6 th December	Explorer and Junior Art Submission	GBHQ
Saturday 7 th December	Youth Forum Carol Service	Ballyclare Presbyterian

Dates and venues are subject to change. Keep an eye on the GBNI What's On Calendar for any updates via the Leaders' Section.

2025		
Monday 13 th January	ID PE Junior/Senior Teams	TBC
Wednesday 15 th January	ID PE Junior/Senior Solo Skipping	TBC
Thursday 16 th January	ID PE Brigader Solo	TBC
Saturday 18 th January	ID PE Explorer & Junior Teams	TBC
Monday 20 th January	QA Application Deadline	N/A
Tuesday 21 st January	ID PE Brigader Teams	TBC
Saturday 1 st February	PE Finals - Explorer/Brigader	TBC
Mon 3 rd - Sat 8 th February	GB Week	N/A
Saturday 8 th February	PE Finals - Junior/Senior	TBC
Monday 10 th February	Walk With Me Training	GBHQ
Friday 14 th - Friday 28 th February	DT Explorer and Junior Choral Speaking	Various
Friday 21 st February	PE Finals - Associate	TBC
Saturday 22 nd February	Camp Training	GBHQ
Friday 28 th February	Assessment Fees Due	N/A
Saturday 8 th March	Explorer & Junior Choral Speaking NI Final	TBC
Monday 10 th March	QA Interviews	TBC
Thursday 13 th March	QA Interviews	TBC
Wednesday 26 th March	QA Interviews	TBC
Tuesday 1 st April	QA Interviews	TBC
Friday 11 th - Sunday 13 th April	BB/GB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership - training weekend	BBHQ/ Mournes
Monday 21 st Apr - Thursday 15 th May	District AGMs	Various
Friday 16 th May	QA Presentation Ceremony	Drumreagh Presbyterian
Tuesday 27 th May - Monday 2 nd June	Shop closed for Stocktake	N/A





Leaders' Worship Event

Saturday 28th
September 2024

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON



DofE BB/GB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership Award

Leaders involved in training or supervising young people in expedition activity need to have a relevant qualification for this role.

The BB/GB Expedition & 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 2025, with a training weekend and concludes with an assessment weekend in September of the same year.

There are two levels to the course. 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 haven't

completed GB training will have to provide evidence of other leadership training attended or can attend courses run by DofE Belfast office.

Dates for 2025

Training weekend
11th -13th April 2025
BBHQ & Mournes

Assessment weekend
26th - 28th Sept 2025
BBHQ & Mournes

Course Fees
Level 1: £75pp
Level 2: £75pp

BBNI manage the booking for this course, please contact Martha (martha@gbni.co.uk) for a link to the booking form.



We now have a selection of equipment, including tents, rucksacks, stoves, head torches, compasses and storm shelters that leaders attending the Expedition training can borrow. Please contact Martha if you would like more details.

DofE Award Presentation Evening

This annual event is for those GBNI girls who have completed their Bronze or Silver DofEAwards in 2023/24 up to the deadline of 31st October 2024.

For those participants who have booked into this event using the form sent out with their Award, no further action is needed and they will be contacted directly nearer the time.

Each participant is allowed up to two guests and each GB company is allowed up to two representatives. There will be a light supper for all girls and guests after the service and this event is free.

This year the Presentation Evening will be held as follows.

Date: Friday 29th November

Venue: West Church Bangor (TBC)

Time: 7.30 pm

CPR scheme

Less than one in ten people who have a cardiac arrest outside of hospital in the UK survives. With your help we can change that.

Help us create a nation of life savers across NI by teaching your young people CPR.

GBNI is delighted, in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation, to be able to offer a CPR Training kit which is suitable for use with 12+ year old young people.

No instructor is needed as all of the techniques are taught using videos. All you need is a DVD player and a little space to practise in.

GBNI has a supply of kits which includes all training materials and resuscitation dummies. They can be booked out by contacting GBHQ. Certificates are also available to give out to the girls on completion of the training.

New Captain's Workshop

Tuesday 15th October 2024

7 pm @ GBHQ Cost £5

Are you a new or relatively new Captain? Come along to our New Captains' Seminar and have an opportunity to meet and talk with others in a similar situation, as well as receiving some pointers of things to consider as part of your Captain role. You

can book online in the Leaders section of our website or contact GBHQ for more details.

Leadership Training

Each year we are richly blessed by the number of volunteer leaders who step-up to train for the roles of Officer and Sub-Officer. These courses could not run without the support and commitment of our district leaders and the membership that serve so faithfully on the Training Team. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the year gone past and all the support they will provide to our next group of trainees.

The districts ran a variety of workshops for our trainee Sub-Officers and the trainee Officers took part in face-to-face training in Ballyclare and Lisburn.

These were opportunities for the trainees to take part in practical training to complement their online theory and safeguarding training.

It was a blessing to share both fellowship and fun with our trainees as well as looking at new ideas that they can use in their local GB companies.



Past Members

The Northern Branch of GB Past Members rounded off their year with a lovely meal, filled with friendship and laughter in the Lodge Hotel, Coleraine with special guests Chloe and Judith McCombe.

Chloe and Judith are Irish International Paratriathletes, better known as the Tandem Twins. Both girls were born with a form of albinism. As Chloe says, “they don’t have the white hair and pink eyes associated with albinism but they do have the very poor eyesight.” She reckons that basically, makes them albinos in disguise!

The girls shared their journey, how they started off as rowers and ended up as Triathletes hoping for a place in the Paralympic Games in Paris this summer. They travel the world with their guides competing very successfully in major competitions.

It was amazing to hear just how dedicated both girls are. The early morning starts, the incredibly long hours, the dedication... made everyone feel exhausted just listening to everything they pack into a day!

The girls shared their very strong faith in God. They love to

witness to others especially when they are competing in different countries. Their mantra is very much - My best for His Glory, All Glory to God! The girls are inspirational with their never give up attitude and sense of fun.



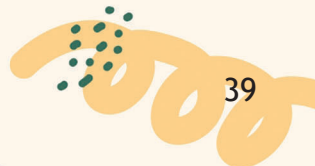
The Northern Branch of GBNI Past Members meets four times a year in the Limavady, Coleraine, Ballymoney area.

New members are very welcome; just come along to whatever meetings suit you. It’s a great opportunity to meet up with old and new friends and catch up with the news! As well as enjoying guest speakers, there is of course, tea and coffee.

Please pass on details to anyone you know who has retired from GB.

Contact Maureen Thompson (Secretary) 07879 498620 or Valerie Hamilton (Chair) 07708 804719, for more details.

August 2024 edition



Welcome to the latest edition of Resources4U

We hope and pray you are all looking forward to this incoming GB year as much as we are. This edition of Resources4U contains activity ideas and suggestions to complement the new resources for girls and leaders, developed in association with Ulster Wildlife.

You will also find details of games and activities to consider for use when completing the Brigade Knowledge topic with your girls. As you use these resources, it is our prayer that your girls will have fun, get to know each other more and build lasting friendships that will carry on long into the future.

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

and Ideas' folder at www.gbni.co.uk/leaders

You may be reminded of a great craft or game that worked really well before but will be new to the girls that are currently in your GB company.

All templates and full activity guides are available to download and copy in the Resources4U section of the GBNI website.



PICKLEBALL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Each set contains one pickleball net, four paddles and four balls.

GBHQ has six complete sets that can be borrowed for Company or District use.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE FASTEST GROWING SPORT

Contact GBHQ for more information



The GBNI Programme Team recently produced a series of video resources for use by GB Leaders.

- **An introduction to basic common PE steps.** What is it called? What does it look like written on a script? How is it performed?
- **Leading from the front.** Tips on how to engage your girls.
- **Showcasing GB.** For use by churches to help raise awareness of GB within their congregations and promoting leader opportunities.
- **GB uniform.** A detailed visual description of GB uniform for all sections, including leaders.



Programme updates for all sections have been included in your company August pack. Please let us know what you think of the updates at anytime by email to info@gbni.co.uk

Go Wild at GB

We have loved working with Ulster Wildlife to produce a leader pack and workbooks for Explorers and Juniors with the aim of encouraging girls and leaders to explore, go wild at GB and become wildlife heroes.

One copy of each resource was included in your company August pack, additional copies can be ordered, free of charge, from GBHQ. Additionally, the first **50** companies to order additional workbooks will also receive a free packet of **BeeBombs** to help support local wildlife.

“We’re passionate about helping young people connect with nature, take action for wildlife and the environment, and giving them a platform to make their voice heard. We know that young people that are connected to nature are happier, healthier, mentally and physically.”
Ulster Wildlife.



Wild at GB Youth Award

The Wild at GB Youth Award recognises, rewards and celebrates the time GB companies spend connecting with and helping the natural world.

There are four consecutive levels based on the number of hours of activity completed.

Individual hours completed by girls and leaders across the GB company are accumulated to attain an overall award level.

Bronze level	15 hours
Silver level	40 hours
Gold level	60 hours
Green level	100 hours

The award activities completed will depend very much on the areas and spaces around your GB company; check out the Leader Resource Pack for more details.



What's GB all about?

Are you covering the Brigade Knowledge badgework topic with your Juniors, Seniors or Brigaders this session?

Are you looking for some inspiration and ideas? We have just what you need!

A series of three PowerPoint presentations (one each for Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders) featuring animations and videos have been developed to help leaders cover and deliver the Brigade Knowledge topic.

Contents include GB history, our Aim and Motto, GB crest, uniform and programme, my church and leaders, GB Worldwide, GBNI Youth Forum plus more!

All three resources are available to download from the Leaders' Section of the GBNI website.



In addition to the activities contained in the Brigade Knowledge workbooks available from the GB Shop; we have added a few more ideas below to help your girls have fun while they learn more about GB.

GB Crest jigsaw - team challenge

Cut out the different elements of the GB crest, divide the girls into teams and challenge each team to fit the crest back together correctly.

But there is a twist. The girl putting the pieces together is wearing a blindfold and can only follow the instructions of her team mates. Which team can get

the crest together properly in the quickest time?

Pass the slipper

Once the girls have completed the Brigade Knowledge topic, you can play a quick game of pass the slipper to let them share what they have learnt. Arrange the girls in a circle and pass around an old GB white slipper. Play music and when the music stops, the girl left holding the slipper can share something new she has learnt about GB.



What would you plan?

Divide the girls into groups. Ask each group to imagine they have been tasked with planning the next GB International Conference, setting the theme and focus.

- Where will it happen?
- What activities and events will take place?

Connections

Ask the girls to stand in a circle. Give one girl a ball of string. Tell her to hold on to one end of the string and throw the ball to another girl in the circle. After catching the string, this girl in turn holds a section of the unwound string and throws the rest of the ball to another girl and so on. At the end, once everyone is holding the string the girls will have made a string web with many connections. This is similar to GB. Each company is connected to others in their district, districts are connected to other districts and together we are all joined and part of Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland.

GB cookies

Bake GB cookies using a ready made cookie dough packet. Using icing, the same colour as found in Junior and Senior circles, decorate the cookies. If you have letter cookie cutters,

the girls may wish to spell out the GB Motto as well.

If you do not have time to bake, you can use pancakes, doughnuts or cupcakes instead. The girls can use icing and sprinkles to make their own GB themed treats to enjoy later!

Creative prayer

Companies can borrow Prayer Boxes from GBHQ containing everything you need to set up a range of creative prayer stations for your girls and leaders.

One of the prayer ideas asks the girls to pray for a country around the world. You could easily adapt this and encourage the girls to pray for GB girls and leaders in a specific country.

If you haven't already used these or other prayer resources with your company, we would urge you to consider this for the incoming session.

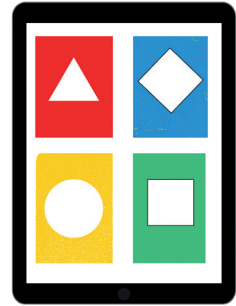
“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

1 John 5:14 (NIV)

Kahoot!

What is Kahoot!?

Kahoot! is a game-based platform that makes it easy to share and play games and quizzes.



What equipment do I need?

- As the game host, you need a big screen connected to a device (phone, laptop, iPad, tablet etc.)
- Players or teams answer on their own devices, while questions are displayed on a shared screen. GB companies can book iPads from GBHQ to allow girls to play rather than allowing the use of mobile phones on company nights.

How to play

- Set up a Kahoot! account at www.kahoot.com
- Using a web browser or the Kahoot! App, log in to your Kahoot! account and search for 'Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland' kahoots in public content.
- Choose the kahoot you want to play with your girls. We have focused on creating kahoots to support delivery of the Brigade Knowledge topic. More kahoots suitable for family quiz nights, fundraising events, fun and party nights are planned.

Make sure you check back regularly for new kahoots to play!

Team Games

Team games are a great way to encourage your girls to work together and to help build new friendships. They can be great ice-breakers when girls are either new to your GB company or new to the GB section they are now a part of.



Juniors at the Junior Team Games NI Final this year played a brilliant game that involved everyone and kept the girls all entertained and enthusiastic. Below you will find a variation of the game to try out with your girls.

Who wears it best relay?

- Divide the girls into teams of equal participants. At one end of each hall, leave a pile of wearable items or clothing, one pile for each team. Wearable items can include jumpers, rubber gloves, tutu skirts, wellies, sunglasses, sport bibs etc. The teams line up at the other end of the hall.

- On 'Go', the first girl must run to the pile of items, pick one, put it on and run back to their team. They then pass this item to the next girl in line, who puts it on and then wearing it, runs to the pile to select a second item.
- This player then returns to the team wearing both items, takes both off, helps the third player to put on the two items before she then runs to the pile and selects a third item and so on.
- The winning team is the one who successfully transfers all the items from one end of the hall to the other, removes them all from the final player and sits down.



Please share your game ideas with us by emailing info@gbni.co.uk

Beach ball race

- Divide the girls into teams. Each team then selects pairs.
- The first pair must move the beach ball from one end of the hall to the other and back again without using their hands. The pair can work together to hold the beach ball between their backs, between their sides or using only their elbows etc.
- Once the first pair in the team has successfully transported the ball, the next pair get ready to go and should complete the same challenge but using a different way of moving the ball.
- The winning team is the one whose pairs all make it to the end and back with the ball in the fastest time.

Hula Hoop pass

- Wrap tape around a Hula Hoop to create a marker point.
- The girls standing in a circle, must balance the hoop horizontally, with the hoop only touching their fingers.
- The group has to move around the circle until the marker is back where it started, using only two fingers each and

without letting it drop.

Change places if...

- Ask the girls to stand in a circle.
- A leader calls out a series of statements that may or may not relate to the girls' lives. e.g. 'Swam in the ocean'.
- If the statement is something a player has done before, they should change places with either of the girls standing next to them.
- If a player hasn't done what was called out, they stay put.
- Each person should keep note of the number of times they change places; you could offer a prize for the most and also the least number of place changes.



Get to know you - 'The Question Chair'

- Set a comfy chair in the middle of the room and explain that it is now the 'Question Chair.' Each person will then take a turn in the 'Question Chair' for 2-3 minutes.
- The rest of the group have those 2-3 minutes to fire as many questions as possible at the person.
- This is very effective and can create a lot of laughs depending on the questions.
- If your girls are very shy, you could just put your leaders in the 'Question Chair.'
- Think of some questions yourselves to get the game started.



Balloon names

This game requires a little bit of preparation in advance and is a great way of encouraging team work as well as helping girls get to know new members.

- Blow up balloons, one for each girl in the section, and write their full name on it in marker.
- Throw the balloons into the room and set a timer for three minutes. Everyone in the room has to find the balloon with their name on it. Can they do it within the three minutes?
- Once everyone has found their balloon, throw them all back into the room again.
- Reset the timer to three minutes; this time however ask the girls to pick up only one balloon. The girls have to find the person with the name on the balloon they have picked up; again within the three minutes.
- Was it any quicker when everyone helped and worked together to give them the correct balloon rather than only being concerned with finding their own?

This can be a great starting point for chatting to the girls about the importance of helping others and putting their needs first before ourselves.

In the Bible, in Mark 9:33-35 the disciples have been arguing about who is the greatest. They are embarrassed that Jesus has heard them bickering. He uses this to teach the disciples and us an important lesson in Mark 9:35.

He tells the disciples that they must be first to be the last. But what does this mean? In other words; you must be a servant of others; you should put their

needs before yours. This doesn't just apply to people we know or who we think is important. No one is better than anyone else; we are all equal and when we help and serve others, we are indeed serving God.

Prayer bffs

The best way to get to know each other and to grow in faith is to pray together. Why not set up prayer triplets within your company? Set aside a few minutes for groups of three to pray together every week. This is great for leaders also.

Try this Bible emoji quiz with your girls and leaders (printable copy and answers can be downloaded from the Leaders' Section of the GBNI website).





ICGB Conference 2026 - The Cook Islands

Contact Debra (debra@gbni.co.uk) at GBHQ for more details regarding costs and how to register your interest.



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