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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

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

GBNI Shop:

www.gbni.co.uk/shop

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.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

As we stand on the brink of a new GB session, I hope you have all enjoyed a well-deserved break over the summer and are eagerly looking forward to what the new GB year brings.

When I think of GB I think of teamwork, and I don't just mean PE! We have all been blessed with talents and when we work as a team we have a unified purpose. I always remember an acronym used at a training course where TEAM meant Together Everyone Achieves More. The Bible reminds us in Romans 12:4-5 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." And when we embrace teamwork we become a reflection of Christ's love for one another. Unity is strength, when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.

In teamwork we also encourage and support one another - 1st Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up." By respecting and accepting one another's differences, we create a rich tapestry that reflects God's magnificent design.

Working together we also form lasting friendships, and I have definitely found this to be true being a member of GB; as we all have a common goal to "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ." Even when meeting up with Past members, after many years, happy memories are always recalled.

No matter what you undertake within the coming session always remember Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Lorraine Murtagh 124th NI Rathcoole Presbyterian



GBNI Membership Fees 2025/2026

Fee per member	£17.50 (£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

GBNI Headquarters and Shop Closure

GBHQ and Shop will be closed on Monday 25th August 2025 for the Summer Bank Holiday, reopening on Tuesday 26th August 2025 at 9.30 am.

GBNI Consent Forms for 2025/2026



There have been no changes to the GBNI Consent Forms. They are available from 'My Resources' for download. If you would like to consider using online forms via Google Forms, we have instructions in 'My Google Forms Resources' to assist you. Google Form Templates for 2025/2026 are now available to view for those who

already have permission to copy. We would like to remind all users to make a copy of the form before editing so that the main templates are not changed for other GB companies using this resource. If you do notice a change to the form, please email info@gbni.co.uk as soon as possible, as these forms are not monitored.

GBNI Microsoft Accounts

Currently, all GB companies have a GBNI email address set as a redirect to the personal email of the main contact of the GB company. GBNI has acquired free licenses for Microsoft 365 Basic, which would allow



us to change your GBNI redirect email into a 'live' inbox, which is accessible online and through mail apps on devices. You will be able to send and receive GB-specific emails from this inbox, allowing you to keep GB communication separate from your personal emails. The licence also allows the account holder to have access to MS Online Services for Word, Excel and PowerPoint. GBNI will contact GB companies directly over the next few months with further details.

Stay Informed

There is always lots happening in Girls' Brigade from events, competitions, deadlines, trainings and meetings at both national and district levels. To keep up to date with all that is happening within GBNI, we would like to encourage all GB leaders to register on the GBNI website, log in and regularly check https://gbni.co.uk/calendar If your GB Captain/Leader in charge has your profile added to 'My Brigade' and your registration email matches, you will get instant access to the all the leaders' features on the website.



These include:

- 1. Over 1100 Resources from forms, policies, programme, competition details etc.
- 2. Book course, training, competitions and events.
- 3. View what is happening in your district.
- 4. View the latest GBNI Newsletter.
- 5. Update your personal details and sign the data consent box.
- 6. Sign up for the GBNI monthly eNews for all the latest news and deadline reminders.

Don't panic if you don't get instant access, the website sends GBHQ a 'Leaders' Request email' and we do daily manual searches in 'My Brigade' to match leader registrations with profiles. If there is no profile, we will contact the Company Captain/Leader in Charge to verify your role in GB and set-up a basic registration. Please allow up to two days for accounts to be matched. Contact info@gbni.co.uk for any login issues.

To help further improve the sharing of information across leaders and support Captains, GB companies may consider adding an additional leader as a Correspondent for the company via Roles under 'My Company'. Please note this role activates Company Admin access to 'My Brigade'.

Are you on social media?

Please 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

Recruiting New Members

A survey was sent out to all GB companies to feedback if they use the GBNI Recruitment Poster and Flyers supplied in the August Packs. If you responded, we have included in your pack what has been requested. If you are using this resource, please can we encourage you to display your posters around your community and pass out the flyers to encourage new members. Please remember to add your company's personal information, such as contact details, mosting pight and times. There is a



contact details, meeting night and times. There is a QR code that potential members can scan to be directed to https://gbni.co.uk/what-we-do/for-girls for more details about what Girls' Brigade has to offer.

If you did not complete the survey, to reduce waste, we have presumed that you do not use these resources and have excluded them from your pack. A small quantity of flyers are available from GBHQ upon request via info@gbni.co.uk with extra posters available to purchase through the GBNI Shop. Please note this design will be used on a two-year circle.

We will have social media posts encouraging recruitment and you are welcome to share across your company and church social media, sign-posting potential new members to your church website for information.

We would also encourage GB Company Admins to log in to 'My Brigade' and review and update the 'About' section in 'My Company'. Some of this information is directly linked to the 'Find a GBNI Company' page on the GBNI website.

The more information you share, the more helpful it is to parents to make an informed choice when seeking a local GB company that best suits their daughter's needs.

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

Weekly Attendance

GB Captains are reminded that the GBNI guidelines (see 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-week requirement can be met.



District Executive Representatives

Did you know that each GB company is entitled to have one representative sit on the District Executive, and it does not have to be the Company Captain?

We understand life is busy and especially for a Captain who has a lot to manage with company life; it's hard to attend everything. However, if your GB company is not currently represented, you are missing out on being part of the decision-making within GB, a support network from other GB companies and having the opportunity to be involved in district events, activities, discussions, training and services. Please consider sharing the load and asking another leader within the company to fulfil this role so that your company can be part of the wider family of the Girls' Brigade. Notify your District Secretary of any queries or changes.

Did you know that 14 out of 15 districts have vacancies for key roles for Office Bearers, Brigade Council, Youth Representatives and GBNI Teams?

Urgent call for help! We would like to encourage all GB Officers to consider using their gifts to serve within their district. Within the structure of Girls' Brigade, it is vitally important that your district has representation across the whole of the organisation and that your district has a voice in the decision-making that happens at national level. Your views and input into the running of the organisation for future generations to come are key to the continued growth and success of this youth ministry across Northern Ireland. The term of office is four years, but this can be reduced if you feel you can't commit long-term. Please speak with your Captain or District Secretary to see if you have the skills to fill one of the vacant roles within your district. A copy of District Office Bearer Role Descriptions and the GBNI Team Service Sheet is available from 'My Resources' to see what is involved in each of these roles. Call GBHQ if you would like any further information.

Do you currently serve on your District Executive as a company Representative, Officer Bearer or GBNI Teams Representative?

To reduce paper waste, we have removed the District Consent Form and have added a feature to 'My Brigade'. Please log in to the GBNI website, go to 'My Leader Details' and update your personal details accordingly. At the 'Permissions' section, let us know how you would like your data to be used. There is a new question to consent to GBNI sharing your data as a report with your District Secretary. Please select if you give permission and what information you consent to us sharing. Remember to sign up for the GBNI monthly eNews to stay informed, and if you haven't already done so, please sign and date your one-time-only consent box.

Stepping away from GB company life

If you or another leader in your company has decided to step away from company involvement, please consider registering directly with GBNI as a Reserve Officer or join our Past Members' Association. Registration forms for both roles are available to download from 'My Resources'.

As a Reserve Officer, you can still be involved in Brigade activities without being connected to a GB company. You can still wear uniform, serve on your local District Executive as an Officer Bearer or as a Team Representative and if qualified, aid DofE expedition supervision. You can steward at GBNI Events and Competitions, and you can also be on standby for a GB company that needs leaders, whether it is for one night, a few weeks or longer. For just £6 a year, you will remain insured, have access to the leaders' areas of the GBNI website and receive a copy of the GBNI Newsletter.

Our Past Members' Association is an informal group that meets periodically throughout the year across two branches, Northern and Eastern. The ladies come together for fellowship, talks, craft nights, dinners and outings to spend time with GB friends. A number of our members are also participating in the Discovery Award for the over 50s with many enjoying the challenge and achievement the Award brings.



The GBNI Board of Trustees warmly invite our members to our GBNI AGM for an enjoyable evening where we'll recap all the exciting moments and achievements from the 2024/2025 GB Session.

What's happening:

- · Light refreshments at 6 pm
- AGM at 6.30 pm
- Finishing with our annual delicious BBQ.
- · GB shop will be open.

JOIN US ON 27TH AUGUST AT GBHQ FROM 6 PM



For catering purposes, please book your place online via the GBNI website by 3 pm Friday 22nd August 2025.



gbni.co.uk/agm

COMPANY NEWS





262nd NI Second Broughshane GB celebrated their 50th Anniversary with an Anniversary Display held on Friday 21st March and a Celebration Service on Sunday 23rd March 2025.

249th NI Drumachose GB

together with 1st Drumachose Boys' Brigade collected £1500 for The Children's Cancer Unit Charity at their recent displays. The charity has recently been supporting families within the companies.



Well done to you all!

Pictured Emily Hamilton (GB Officer and Staff Nurse), Sandra Laird (GB Captain), Richard Gallick (BB Officer in Charge), Stephen Breydin (BB Officer). Martha & Frazer (members of GB & BB).

On Thursday 9th May 2025, Templepatrick Presbyterian

Church was represented at the garden party at Buckingham Palace by eight DofE Gold Award recipients- seven GB girls and one BB boy. The BB company boys join with the GB members when doing expeditions. The church, GB and BB companies are delighted to have had so many representatives.



62nd NI Hamilton Road completed badgework in the 2024-25 session focussing on the work of Ulster Wildlife. The Juniors and their Officer Emma Reid, in conjunction with her Dad. David Irwin, offered to plant trees provided from the Woodland Trust in a plot of land at the rear of their home, in memory of Emma's mum/David's wife, Ann. Ann was a member as both girl and Officer, and also a lasting friend of the Company; who sadly passed away two years ago.

Many girls, from the youngest to the oldest, their families and Officers from Hamilton Road GB, both past and present, came throughout the day, on 5th April 2025, to plant trees as a lasting legacy and to build new habitats for the local wildlife.

The Company also planted a Captain's tree with the past Captains, Heather Beattie, Morva Brown, Noreen Moore and Suzanne McCombe (current Company Captain).











On Friday 9th May 2025, 38 leaders from across *Lagan District* came together to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Leaders enjoyed a BBQ-style meal with a range of salads and a tempting selection of desserts.

The night also featured a competitive table quiz, adding to the sense of camaraderie in the hall. Thank you to St. Patrick's, Drumbeg for hosting the event which was kindly supported by funding from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.















'ROOTED IN CHRIST'

June 2025 saw the first Girls' Brigade Conference, 'Rooted in Christ' held in Newtownabbey Methodist Mission.

Over 100 leaders came together to examine our understanding of what it means to be 'Rooted in Christ' and enjoyed praise and fellowship together. Leaders had the opportunity to connect and network with a wide range of organisations to gather new ideas and resources, as well as taking part in a series of workshops designed to equip, encourage, and inspire volunteers in their role as GB leaders.

The Programme Team would like to thank Made for More NI, Love for Life, KD Crafts, Rev Aaron Ditty, and the GBNI Spiritual Team for leading the workshops so well. Thanks, is also expressed to Newtownabbey Methodist Mission GB Company and the church for their kind hospitality and very warm welcome.



THE QUEEN'S AWARD

The Queen's Award Team were delighted to award
The Queen's Award brooch and certificate to 47 young women upon successful completion of their Award programme this session. As a GB family, we congratulate all the girls on their achievement and thank them all for their commitment to GB.

2025 Presentation Ceremony

Drumreagh Presbyterian warmly welcomed the Queen's Award recipients and guests to their church for this year's award presentation ceremony on Friday 16th May 2025. Our guest speaker was Ruth Bromley, Children's Development Officer, Presbyterian Church in Ireland. We were also delighted to be joined by Right Reverend Dr Richard Murray, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Councillor Tanya Stirling, Deputy Mayor, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

A special thanks to everyone at Drumreagh Presbyterian for their kindness and hospitality.

During the evening, experiences and lessons learned during their Queen's Award journey were also shared by Chloe Farley, 337th NI Aughnacloy and Ballymagrane, Jessica Robinson, 82nd NI Ebrington Presbyterian, Zara Gillespie, 252nd NI Balteagh Presbyterian and Faith Murphy, 254th NI First Limavady Presbyterian.

















CONGRATULATIONS
TO YOU ALL!

2026 Queen's Award Programme Entry



The Queen's Award programme is open to all GB girls and young women who meet the entry criteria as detailed on the GBNI website (linked below).

www.gbni.co.uk/what-we-do/for-girls/brigaders/queens-award

Information webinars are scheduled for October and November to give potential participants, parents and GB Leaders the opportunity to find out more about the Queen's Award syllabus and the rewards and benefits it offers all girls. Applicants must attend an information webinar before applying.

2025 Webinar Dates (all at 7 pm).

- Tuesday 14th October
- Monday 27th October
- Thursday 13th November

Webinar places can be booked via the Upcoming Events calender on our website. Applications to the Award programme can be made online from 1st September 2025 until 31st January 2026; ahead of 1st March 2026 programme start date.

Scan the QR code to hear some Queen's Award highlights shared by 2025 Award recipients.



For more information regarding the Queen's Award programme please email emma@gbni.co.uk

SENIORS & BRIGADERS ONLY!

Is it true that the mental health of our teenage girls is the worst it's ever been?

What has faith got to do with mental health?





Let's come together for a night of fun, games, food and discussion around the topic of mental health, learning what you can do if you find yourself struggling or techniques to help others around you when they are going through a hard time.

GBNI Youth Forum alongside Made for More are so excited to be able to offer a series of FREE EVENTS JUST FOR SENIORS AND BRIGADERS.

- Tuesday 7th October in Newtownabbey Methodist D8
- Friday 14th November in Hamilton Road Presbyterian D4
- Tuesday 20th January in Magheramason Presbyterian D11

Priortity booking will be given to companies in host Company Districts and Captains will be contacted when bookings are open. Any remaining places will be offered to any GB Company willing to travel to the venue.

If you would like more information regarding these events, please contact youthforum@gbni.co.uk





TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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 2026 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 and Level 2 is 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 the DofE Belfast office.

Dates for 2026

Training weekend 17th -19th April 2026 BBHQ & Mournes Assessment weekend: 25th - 27th Sept 2026 BBHQ & Mournes

Course Fees

Level 1: £75pp and Level 2: £75pp

BBNI manage the booking for this course, please contact Martha for a link to the booking form, once available.

As part of EA funding, 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 info@gbni.co.uk to book out any items.

Camping Equipment Available

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



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 lifesavers across the 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 WORKSHOP

Tuesday 14th October 2025 7 pm @ GBHQ Cost £5

Are you a new or relatively new Captain? Come along to our New Captain Workshop and have an opportunity to meet and talk with others in a similar situation, ask questions and talk about things to consider as part of your Captain's role. Places can be booked online in the Upcoming Events Calendar on our website.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

We have been so richly blessed this past year by the number of volunteer leaders who have stepped up to train for the roles of Officer and Sub-Officer, with 150 trainees Officers and 205



trainee Sub-Officers starting their courses last September.

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 Ballynure and Moy. These were opportunities for the trainee Officers to take part in practical training to complement their online theory and safeguarding training. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to share both fellowship and fun with our trainees as well as looking at new ideas that they could use in their local GB Companies.

2025-26 Session Leadership Applications

In response to feedback from last year's course we have extended the deadline for applying for both leadership courses to the end of September.

This should hopefully allow time for any of our young people who return to GB in September with a desire to serve in these roles to apply and not have to wait another year to begin their training.

Applications for the 2025/26 Officer and Sub-Officer courses are now only available online, please contact GBHQ if you have any question about the application process.

CAMP TRAINING

Saturday 28th February 2026 10 am - 2.30 pm @ GBHQ Cost £10

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 camp and 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



Places can be booked via the online booking system in the Upcoming Events Calendar on our website.

LEADER WORKSHOPS

We are excited to be partnering with Made for More to deliver two workshops for our volunteer leaders on mental health. The first workshop will look at how important it is to look after your own mental health as you balance a busy life and work with all the time and energy you bring to your volunteer leader role in GBNI. The second workshop will look at how we as leaders can help support the mental health of our girls as they face increasingly busy and at times challenging lives in our modern world.

Each workshop will bring knowledge and practical ideas, equipping you to confidently look after your own mental health and that of our GB girls.

Dates

Workshop 1 - Supporting your own mental health Wednesday 4th March 7pm @ GBHQ.

Workshop 2 - Supporting our girls' mental health Thursday 16th April 7pm @ GBHQ.

Both of these workshops are free but will be limited initially to two bookings per GB Company.

Places can be booked via the online booking system in the upcoming Events Calendar on our website.

FOR ALL TRAINING QUERIES

CONTACT MARTHA@GBNI.CO.UK



LEADERS' THANK YOU EVENT

CORICK HOUSE HOTEL

The first Leaders' Thank You Event took place on Friday 6th June at Corick House Hotel, Clogher where over 60 GB leaders came together for an evening of good food, reflection and thanks.



It was wonderful to look back on the previous GB session and be reminded of all aspects of GB life where we should be thankful for



We are also looking forward to the next two Leaders' Thank You Events taking place in September and October* 2025.

To book, please visit the Upcoming Events Calendar on the GBNI website and search via the event date.

^{*}Please note, the event at the La Mon Hotel on Saturday 4th October is fully booked. A waiting list is in operation should there be any cancellations.

GBNI EVENT CALENDAR 25-26



Wednesday 21st August	GBNI AGM	GBHQ
Monday 1st - Saturday 6th	PE Demos	TBC
September		
Monday 22 nd September	GB Week of Prayer	Various
Friday 26 th - Sunday 28 th	BB/GB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership	Mournes
September		
Saturday 27 th September	Leaders' Thank You Event- Coleraine	Lodge Hotel, Coleraine
Wednesday 1st October	Safeguarding Webinar	Online
Saturday 4 th October	Leaders' Thank You Event- Belfast	La Mon Hotel, Belfast
Monday 6 th October	Competition Closing date 1	N/A
Tuesday 7 th October	Senior & Brigader Made for More Event	D8 - Newtownabbey Methodist
Thursday 9 th October	Sub-Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Tuesday 14 th October	New Captains' Workshop	GBHQ and online
Tuesday 14 th October	Queen's Award webinar	Online
Friday 17 th - Saturday 25 th	DT Brigader Badminton	Various
October		
Tuesday 21st October	Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Monday 27 th October	Queen's Award webinar	Online
Tuesday 4 th November	Safeguarding Webinar	Online
Friday 7 th November	Brigader Badminton NI Final	Valley Leisure Centre, N'abbey
Friday 7 th - Saturday 15 th	DT Senior Netball	Various
November		
Tuesday 11 th November	Walk with Me Training	Online
Thursday 13 th November	Queen's Award webinar	Online
Friday 14 th November	Senior & Brigader Made for More Event	D4 - Hamilton Road Presbyterian
Thursday 20 th November	Pray for GB	Online
Friday 21st November	DofE Presentation evening	West Church Presbyterian Bangor
Tuesday 25 th November	Sub-Officer Theory webinar	Online
Friday 28th November	Senior Netball NI Final	UU Sports Village, Jordanstown
Friday 28th November -	DT Junior Dodgeball	Various
Saturday 6 th December		
Sunday 30 th November	Annual Return's Submission Deadline	N/A
Monday 1st December	Competition Closing date 2	N/A

Dates and venues are subject to change. Keep an eye on our online calendar and bookings for any updates via gbni.co.uk/calendar. (Remember to log in first to view Leader only events).

Wednesday 7 th January	Safeguarding Webinar	Online
Saturday 10th January	Junior Dodgeball NI Final	Queen's PEC Belfast
Monday 12th January	ID PE Junior/Senior Teams	TBC
Wednesday 14th January	ID PE Junior/Senior Solo Skipping	TBC
Thursday 15th January	Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Thursday 15th January	ID PE Brigader Solo	TBC
Saturday 17th January	ID PE Explorer & Junior Teams	TBC
Tuesday 20th January	Senior & Brigader Made for More Event	D11 - Magheramason Pres
Tuesday 20th January	ID PE Brigader Teams	TBC
Thursday 22 nd January	TBC Safeguarding webinar	Online
Wednesday 28th January	TBC Sub-Officer Theory Webinar	Online
Saturday 31st January	Queen's Award application deadline	
Saturday 31st January	PE Finals - Explorer/Brigader	Parkhall Integrated College
Monday 2 nd - Saturday 7 th	GB Week	N/A
February		
Friday 6 th February	Explorer Art Submission Deadline	GBHQ
Saturday 7 th February	PE Finals - Junior/Senior	Parkhall Integrated College
Friday 20th February	PE Finals - Associate	TBC
Saturday 28th February	Camp Training	GBHQ
Saturday 28th February	Assessment Fees Due	N/A
Wednesday 4th March	Mental Health Workshop	GBHQ
Monday 9th March	QA interviews	TBC
Wednesday 18th March	QA interviews	TBC
Tuesday 24th March	QA interviews	TBC
Thursday 16 th April	Mental Health Workshop	GBHQ
Friday 17 th - Sunday 19 th	BB/GB Expedition & Outdoor Leadership -	BBHQ/Mournes
April	training weekend	
Monday 20 th April - Friday	District AGM's	Various
15 th May		
Friday 15 th May	QA Presentation Ceremony	Moy Presbyterian
Wednesday 20 th May	TBC Craft Workshop	GBHQ
Tuesday 26 th May - Monday	Shop closed for Stocktake	N/A
1 st June		
Saturday 30 th May	Officer Training Day	TBC
Friday 19th June	Officer Training Day	TBC





The GBNI DofE team of volunteers continues its fantastic work with our GB girls to attain their DofE awards.

We would like to thank all of our leaders for all the time, energy and expense they give to this part of the work of GBNI, allowing girls to grow and develop themselves through the challenges of the DofE award and gain value life-skills along the way.

Becky Irwin from 60th NI Drumcree GB attended a gold award celebration in Buckingham Palace on 9th May 2025 along with seven other participants from her GB Company and has summed up the day for us.

"The sun beamed down on Buckingham Palace gardens, a perfect day for a DofE celebration. Award

recipients from across the UK, all wearing their gold badges, gathered in the gardens for a garden party like no other. We ate cupcakes and drank tea while the sound of show tunes from the two bands filled our ears, and many attendees enjoyed traditional garden games in the sun.

The highlight for many was meeting the Duke of Edinburgh. Friendly and genuinely interested, he took the time to speak to so many of us, asking where everyone was from and listening intently to stories of treacherous expeditions and hard-earned successes.

Many photos were taken with friends and family as we captured memories of a once in a lifetime experience. I would like to thank my GB leaders who helped me complete my Gold DofE as I wouldn't have been at the palace without them.

For me, it was a day to celebrate resilience, determination, and the shared journey of personal growth that the award gives to so many of its participants.

It was a celebration not just of the award and those who achieved it, but of the spirit and attitude it inspires."

On 23rd June 2025, Lauren Boyd from 362nd NI Raloo Presbyterian GB attended a gold award celebration in Hillsborough Castle with four GB recipients. Lauren briefly shared her award experiences with us.

"I did the award through Girls' Brigade. I was not quite the best in the group at putting up the tent, I was more there for holding up morale," she said. "For my sport, I did dance with Girls' Brigade and piano for my skill. For volunteering, I made PowerPoints for my local church. My favourite part of it was the craic and definitely the company. I would encourage other young people to go through it."



This annual event is for those GBNI girls who have completed their bronze or silver DofE awards in 2025/26 up to the deadline of 31st October 2025.

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

Leaders will be contacted when the online booking for this event is open. Please contact martha@gbni.co.uk with questions or queries.



EXPLORER FUN DAYS

On Saturday 26th April 2025, 15 GB companies totalling 281 girls and 80 leaders attended the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh for the first of the GBNI Explorer Fun Days.



Then on Saturday 24th May 2025, 26 GB companies totalling 387 girls and 142 leaders attended the Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra for the second GBNI Explorer Fun Day.

At both Fun Days, each company was able to explore the venue and see how people lived years ago as well as go on a scavenger hunt to find the 'GB girl' at eight different locations around the parks.

The girls also got the opportunity to attend an Ulster Scots session in partnership with the Ulster Scots Agency on both days. At this, the girls learnt some Ulster Scots words, sung 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' in Ulster Scots and made a small craft to take home. Lots of fun was had at both Explorer Fun Days and it was lovely to see so many companies in attendance.

Thanks, must also go to the Stewards who helped at both Fun Days, your help was very much appreciated.













PE COMPETITIONS

Explorer Team		
Inter District Competitions	Saturday 17th January 2026	
NI Final	Saturday 31st January 2026 at 10.00 am	
Junior Team		
Inter District Competitions	Saturday 17th January 2026	
NI Final	Saturday 7th February 2026 at 10.00 am	
Junior/Senior Team		
Inter District Competitions	Monday 12th January 2026	
NI Final	Saturday 7th February 2026 at 3.00 pm	
Junior/Senior Solo Skipping		
Inter District Competitions	Wednesday 14th January 2026	
NI Final	aturday 7th February 2026 at 1.00 pm	
Brigader Team		
Inter District Competitions	Tuesday 20th January 2026	
NI Final	Saturday 31st January 2026 at 3.00 pm	
Brigader Solo		
Inter District Competitions	Thursday 15th January 2026	
NI Final	Saturday 31st January 2026 at 1.00 pm	
Associate Team and Associate Solo competitions will be held on		
Friday 20th February 2026, in Trinity Methodist, Lisburn.		

Entry deadline for ALL PE competitions - Monday 1st December 2025 at 5 pm.

Additional info for Demonstrations

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

For All Demonstrations:

- All PE Demos are now strictly pre-registration only (book online in the Upcoming Events Calendar on our website). 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.
- 32 Members may only attend one demonstration per set.

2025/2026 Demonstration Dates & Venue			
Monday 1st September	Section	Time	
St Paul's Parish, Lisburn BT28 1UE	AS AT	7.15 pm 8.15 pm	
Tuesday 2nd September	Section	Time	
Trinity Methodist, Lisburn BT28 2GX TBC	JT ET	7.15 pm 8.15 pm	
Wednesday 3rd September	Section	Time	
St Mary's Parish Dundonald BT16 2RY	BS BT	7.15 pm 8.15 pm	
Thursday 4th September	Section	Time	
Cregagh Congregational BT6 9FB TBC	JSSS JST	7.15 pm 8.15 pm	
Saturday 6th September	Section	Time	
Second Comber Presbyterian BT23 5DT	JST ET JT JSSS BS BT	9.00 am 10.00 am 11.00 am 12.00 noon 1.00 pm 2.00 pm	

• 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.



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 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th
October 4th, 18th and November 1st 2025.
Visit our Shop in Antrim at GBHQ or shop online
gbni.co.uk/shop
The shop accepts cash, card payments and cheques.



Price List 2025/26

			64 50 65 50
Tunic	£24.50 - £31.00	Navy Pants	£4.50 - £5.50
Red Knitted Jumper	£16.50	Long Leg Pants	£8.80 - £10.60
Girls' White Blouse	£8.50 - £12.00	Knee Socks	£2.00
Navy V Neck Sweatshirt	£14.00 - £19.50	Ankle Socks	£1.50 - £4.20
Sub-Officers' Sweatshirt	£18.50	Red Tights	£4.80
Girls' Navy Skirt	£21.50 - £27.50	Armband	£3.00
Jogging Bottoms		Section Badge	£1.60
White Slippers	£12.00 - £15.00	5m Ribbon	£2.50
**	£6.50 - £8.50	5m White Tape	£1.80 - £2.30
Officer Jacket	£118.00	· ·	£25.00
Officer Skirt	£42.00	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.

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

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.

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

UNIFORM REVIEW

Over the past year, a subgroup of the Brigade Council was set up to review the GB uniform. The initial plan was to review general uniform guidelines and focus on some minor changes to the Officer's Ceremonial Uniform. Further decisions will take place as part of the GBNI Strategic Plan 2025-2028.

The following changes have been agreed by the Board of Trustees and Brigade Council:

- Nails All members are permitted to wear nail varnish, fake/ acrylic nails or gel nails, but must only be nude or French polish in colour. For safety reasons at competitions, members participating on the floor are not permitted to wear any nail varnish, fake/ acrylic nails or gel nails.
- 2. *Red jumper* Due to sensory issues, the fabric can be uncomfortable. Companies can contact Claire McCart, the Shop Manager, to source an alternative option.
- 3. Tattoos Members are allowed to have tattoos uncovered. However, they must be covered if they are not appropriate to the ethos and values of the organisation.
- 4. Earrings All members are permitted to wear one pair of plain stud earrings on the lobe. For safety reasons at competitions, members participating on the floor are not permitted to wear earrings.
- 5. *GB Navy Joggers* Are now discontinued from the GBNI Shop, and the remaining stock is on sale. Plain navy joggers from high-street stores are acceptable.
- Officer Ceremonial Uniform allowed up to 30 denier black tights. The GBNI Past Presidents Badge is to be worn on the right side of the jacket.

7. Shoes for ceremonial uniform:

- Officers Plain black shoes with up to two-inch heels (Stilettos are not permitted).
- Girls Plain black flat shoes.
- No restriction on material type (patent, suede, etc.) or visible coloured stitching. Straps across the foot and T-bar styles are also permitted.

8. Officer Uniform resizing:

Jackets and skirts in stock are being relabelled to a more realistic size. Future stock will be labelled correctly for new sizing. We would encourage Officers to come in-store to try on the uniform to get a more accurate fit.

DID YOU KNOW?

The GBNI Shop has a GBay section on our online shop to allow leaders and companies to sell pre-loved uniforms to other members in need of uniform. If you have a uniform that you would like to sell or swap, please contact customerservice@gbni.co.uk, and we will advertise the item for you on GBay. Also, consider swapping uniforms with GB members within your district or company. If you have any Officers who are stepping away from GB and have a uniform, consider asking them to donate or sell it to other Officers.

Hard copies of the GBNI Leaders' Manual are now out of date and discontinued from the GBNI Shop. The above changes will be added to the online version of the GBNI Leaders' Manual.

We would encourage all leaders in need of refreshing their GB knowledge to refer to the online version, available to view and download from 'My Resources' on the GBNI website.

CHARITY PARTNERSHIP COMES TO AN END



A big THANK YOU to all the Girls' Brigade companies that have fundraised over the past three years supporting the work of our charity partner, Habitat for Humanity Ireland. Throughout this GB session, you have raised £7912.63 for the charity, bringing our FINAL TOTAL to a whooping £25,188.63.

Your support in this partnership has been greatly appreciated, and there have been many activities, fundraisers and events that have taken place across GBNI to raise awareness and much-needed funds to support the work of Habitat for Humanity.









We want to send our best wishes to Jenny Williams and her team, especially Peter Graham, for all their support, advice and representation at company services and meeting nights over the past three years. It was a pleasure to work with you over the past three years, and from all at GBNI, we wish God's richest blessing for the years ahead as you serve the vulnerable at home and abroad.

Just as a general reminder: if you still have funds to be passed to Habitat for Humanity, please send your donation to GBNI, and we will pass it on to the charity. Cheques should be made payable to GBNI and a note written on the back, stating 38 Habitat for Humanity. If paying via BACS Transfer, reference the payment as above.

THE DISCOVERY AWARD

ST PAUL'S STYLE

We first heard about the Discovery Award through a GB Facebook post and as we were all ladies "of a certain age" we decided to find out a bit more about what was involved. We were delighted when former GBNI President Margaret Ming came along to outline the scheme and to enthuse and encourage us to give it a go! And from there, our "Journey of Discovery" began.

The Award aims to promote an active and healthy lifestyle by offering challenges to both stimulate and motivate. It is a personal challenge, through a programme of chosen leisure activities; it requires no special qualifications, just a willingness to have a go and the determination to do the very best that you can personally achieve.

So why did we engage with the Award?

Well, the reality is, we decided to do it for fellowship and fun. A group of us started at the same time so that we could encourage and support one another. Having journeyed through the Bronze Award, we were delighted to complete the Silver Award and attend the presentation on 7th June 2025 in Broughshane. It was humbling and inspirational to listen to the experiences of others and to celebrate along with them.

Audrey Knowles, the driving force for Discovery in St. Paul's, commented, "I really enjoyed listening to the inspiring stories of those who spoke at the presentation. It's great to hear what others are doing and get ideas for the next level. Personally, I enjoyed

writing about the journeys of discovery, reliving the special moments. It's great to have a written record to look back on."

So now that we have completed the Silver Award, we are now going for gold!

Alison Stevenson Captain, 160th NI St Paul's Parish, Lisburn



GBI Awards Trailblazer

These special GB International Awards are to recognise the dedication and selfless service of volunteers around the world that make Girls' Brigade happen on a weekly basis.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Three categories:

- ♦ Rising Star Award Under 18
- ♦ Inspiring Leader Award between the ages 18-35
- ♦ Long Service Award 25, 30, 40 and 50 years



FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE AWARDS AND HOW TO MAKE A NOMINATION, SCAN HERE





W: gbni.co.uk/trailblazer



RESOURCES 4U

AUGUST 2025

THE GAMES

EDITION

WELCOME TO RESOURCES 4U - THE GAMES 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.

Physical activity is a fun part of the GB programme.

Whether it is simple games with Under 5s to NI level competitions for Brigaders; sport and physical exercise helps build confidence, develops coordination and physical skills as well as encouraging teamwork and just being great fun!

The Programme Files developed for each section contain a wide range of games and sports. From simple parachute games to Pickleball and Unihoc. You don't have to only use the games and sports suggested; encourage your girls to try new sports and activities.

Don't forget to check out the 'Resources section' of the GBNI website for ideas and inspiration!





A new Games Bank
- pocket book of
games resource has
been included in the
August pack for
every GB company.

Additional copies are also available from GBHQ or can be downloaded from the Resources section of the GBNI website.



GBHQ has a range of sports equipment for companies to borrow free of charge.

Pickleball sets
bean bags
tunnels and hoops
stop watches
cones and discs
easi nets
egg and spoon sets
volleyball nets
and posts

frisbees
big feet
tip and throw baskets
dodgeballs
balance beams
duster hockey sets
hopper sacks
indoor footballs
rugby balls

Contact Ruth (ruth@gbni.co.uk) for more information and to book any sports equipment.

SHARING GOD WITH GAMES

Relay Games are a great way to teach the girls how to work together. Just like a relay game, there is no one person who is the best; no superstar on the team. Every player is equally important and has a vital part to play. Just like Christians, who know and love Jesus, we have a part to play in God's team. In the same way the relay baton is passed from one person to another; we must pass on what we have received - Jesus calls us to pass on the message of the gospel to others.



Sailing

Whilst we know you probably won't be taking your girls sailing, there are many sailing or nautical themed games!

After playing one of the games, chat to the girls about how a sailor does not just jump in the boat and hope the wind blows them in the right direction. A sailor takes account of the environment around them, checks the wind and weather and then sets a direction.

Life is full of things that try to set our direction for us, but we can't live being blown around by whatever comes in our way (what our friends want to do / what everyone else is doing / what problems we face). We need to set a direction for our life.

We need to choose to follow Jesus.

HAND SPORTS SIGN CRAFT

Use the template available in the Resources section to create a hand sports sign.







OLYMPIC MEDAL TREATS

Cookies and icing are all you need to make these Olympic themed treats. Source: https://www.foodista.com/blog/2012/07/27/learn-to-make-olympic-celebration-cookies

DESIGN YOUR OWN SPORTS KIT

Download this template from the Resources section.



CHEERLEADER POM POMS

Cheer on your team with these easy pom poms made from tissue paper, coloured tape and pinking shears. Image and idea from https://kidscraftroom.com/how-to-make-pom-poms/



WHICH SPORT? MIME GAME

Divide the girls into groups, each group chooses which sport to mime.

How quickly can the other teams correctly guess the sport? Template available online in the Resources section.



A TALE OF TWO RUNNERS

Check out this great video made by Christians in Sport available on christiansinsport.org.uk and on YouTube (link below).

Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams both won Gold in at the Paris 1924 Olympics, yet their stories could not be more different. What is the prize you're running for?

https://youtu.be/ncyJMIL6e04?si=nHWAZ3Bu-SIxVCbq



HONOURING GOD IN SPORT

It is very easy to think about Jesus when you are in church or Bible Class. Of course, we learn about Him while studying the Scripture Course or by serving Him, but what about when we play sport?

In Matthew 5:16 Jesus teaches us to, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."

He does not say, let your light shine while you are in church only. He means that we should do this at all times. Ask the girls to shout out the different ways that they can shine their light for Jesus while playing sport: trying their best, respecting their opponents, encouraging each other, playing fairly, avoiding bad language and respecting the referee.

Now finish by focusing on the end of that verse from Matthew. We are not just called to shine our lights for the sake of it. We are called to do it so that others will come to know Jesus. This is the most important job we could ever have. It is literally life or death work. Are you up for the challenge?

Extract from PSALT files 2022.

SPORTS PEOPLE SHARING THEIR FAITH

You may like to share with the girls some examples of Christian sportspeople who share their faith openly.

Footballer Bukayo Saka, was a star on the football field during the 2022 World Cup. In a post-match press conference, the 21 year old was asked about whether he'd been reading the Bible during the tournament.

"Yeah, I've been continuing to do that out here. I read my Bible every night. For me, it's really important to have the presence of God in me all the time and it gives me more confidence to know that God's plan is perfect, so I can go on the pitch and know that God has my back. You know just having faith in God so I don't need to be nervous or worry about any outcomes because obviously, it's my first World Cup. You know I can start worrying about different things and different outcomes, but instead, I just choose to put my faith in God."

Source: sportandfaith.com

A few years ago, The Chrisitan Institute featured an interview with two British Athletes on BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship programme. Runner Daniel Rowden and swimmer Daniel Jervis shared how their faith kept them grounded and spurred them on in their careers.

Rowden said that, "My success is not dependent on how I run, how I perform - it's so much bigger than that.

My success is determined by what Jesus did 2000 years ago."

You can access more details using the link below.

https://www.christian.org.uk/news/team-gb-olympic-athletes-share-christian-faith/

British diver Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix competed at the age of 19, in the synchronised platform diving in the 2022 Olympic games. Together with her diving partner, they won the bronze medal. The pair were interviewed after the final and Spendolini-Sirieix told Eurosport that she "gives God all the glory."

Did you miss the Craft Workshop at the recent GBNI Conference?

Not to worry! Check out some of the crafts suitable for Explorers and Juniors made on the day below. Full instructions for all crafts are available in the Resources Section of the GBNI website.



WOODEN SHAPE DECORATIONS



MASKING TAPE
PICTURES

POTATO AND FORK
PAINTING



CARDBOARD VASES

SHEEP

RESURRECTION PICTURE

Craft resources developed by Karen Dickson (KD Craft).



FARM SAFETY

in partnership with HSENI



Contact emma@gbni.co.uk to request your copies







CRAFTY TEDDIES OFFERS BUILD YOUR BEAR WORKSHOPS

WHY CHOOSE CRAFTY TEDDIES?

1. WE HAVE 10 YEARS EXPERIENCE OFFERING BUILD YOUR BEAR WORKSHOPS TO LOCAL GIRLS BRIGADES & OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS, SCHOOLS ETC

2. WE PROVIDE A FUN, CREATIVE & MEMORABLE ACTIVITY & EACH CHILD LEAVES WITH THEIR OWN HAND STUFFED BEAR. THIS ACTIVITY IS SUITABLE FOR KIDS 3+

3. WE HAVE A LARGE RANGE OF BEARS AVAILABLE, 20+ TO CHOOSE FROM & SOMETHING SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE, PLUS ABSOLUTELY NO SEWING REQUIRED



CONTACT US ON
07515772115 OR
CRAFTYTEDDIES@OUTLOOK.
COM