



Friends of the WAGGS World Centres – Chairs report from 2023

We were pleased to welcome members to our 2023 AGM at Pax Lodge in March and have the virtual meeting running alongside as well.

It was another learning curve for the Trustees to pull this together and with anything new, we did find that next time we will need to do a few things differently.

It was unfortunate that we could not hold the UK trip planned to be at Waddow due to the increase in cost in 2023 and the members interested unable to commit. This was postponed but as we now know, Girlguiding then decided to sell 5 of their Centres, Waddow being one of them.

Merchandise

We are pleased to have such an array of merchandise and in 2023 we produced a new woven badge with Sangalee, the Sangam elephant on it, and also started selling eco-friendly pens.

Some members attended events, to represent the Friends Group and also sell the merchandise. These sales really do help boost the funds.

We had a number of bookings in 2023 where members of the Friends Group attended:

- Anglia Trefoil Guild AGM
- Midlands Region Trefoil Guild AGM
- National Trefoil Guild AGM Glasgow
- Midlands Region International Day

Donations

You will know from our last AGM that we were able to donate £10,000 to the World Centres. Whilst we do not know exactly what the money was spent on at four of the Centres, we thought we would like to move our report onto sharing news and updates from the 5 Centres we support.

Below is the Thanks received from Magdalene Thomas, Head of International Operations WAGGGS

“Thank you so much for the generous donation made by the Friends of the WAGGGS World Centres to the all the World Centres. Your contribution towards scholarships is truly invaluable in providing members who would not otherwise be able to visit a world centre, the opportunity to experience the magic of our centres. We are truly grateful for the support and dedication of the Friends of the WAGGGS World Centres to the mission of the WAGGGS World Centres. We will ensure that each centres shares with you an update on the impact of your donation. Once again, thank you for your support, generosity, and commitment to the WAGGGS World Centres. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to working with you in the future.”

Nuestra Cabaña

- In January 2023 we were pleased to learn the good news that the World Board’s had decided to reopen Our Cabaña.
- A busy few months and there was a new World Centre Manager to recruit plus a whole host of things to plan, get ready and prepare for.

- We learned that the Centre was returning to its original name of Nuestra Cabaña - reflecting both the history and heritage of the Centre.
- Nuestra Cabaña opened its doors again in October 2023 and has many events planned offering Mexican adventure, friendship and delicious local cuisine.

Kusafiri

- Our donation was given to Kusafiri asking them to use this towards costs to enable girls to attend the event in August 2023.
- The event was in Ghana and themed 'Celebrating Us'
- 57 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts attended from 27 Countries
- During the event 500+ local young people enjoyed a fun day by led by the event attendees.

Our Chalet

- Our Chalet continues to thrive in the snow and the sun,
- Our donation was given to assist with the funding of scholarships
- Our Chalet offers so much for Guiding and Scouting members with a varied programme of events but also short and long term volunteering opportunities.

Sangam

- Our donation to Sangam was given to provide funding for scholarships
- Volunteers are known as 'Tares, meaning 'star' in Hindi
- As read in one of Sangam's newsletters in 2023 a Tare said - after her 4 week Community Programme

"We are a part of something bigger and this experience has demonstrated that"

Pax Lodge

- Our donation to Pax Lodge was given to go towards the decorating of the main conference room.
- As a World Centre closer to home, perhaps some of our members will get to see the decorating in person one day.

Thank you to all our members for supporting the Friends of the WAGGGS World Centres charity
Your donations and support mean we can provide extra financial support to the 5 World Centres, enabling them to stay open and provide opportunities to our Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide.

Thank you also to the Trustees who join together on zoom and carry out their role within the Charity.