

We were pleased to welcome members to our 2024 AGM at Pax Lodge in March. Whilst few in number it was apparent everyone attending very much wanted to continue to support all the World Centres.

We enjoyed listening to two volunteers from Pax Lodge – Anna from Australia who got us up and doing an action song and then Lisa from Nigeria who taught us a game she plays with her Guides.

An evening zoom session was also run with more members joining us, including some from abroad, being able to take part in a second run of the AGM. Our speakers were Hailey and Abbie who met while volunteering at Sangam and they told us about their individual community experiences.

Those attending were unable to stay at Pax Lodge due to another event having booked out the venue. However, the Leaders and volunteers from the Girlguiding South West Region who were staying, helped boost funds buying our merchandise and we did get 5 new members.

One of our Trustees, Avril felt it was time to finish in her role and step down, whilst continuing to support the group as a member. Avril was thanked for her time and contribution as a Trustee.

We also welcomed Heather O'Halloran as a Trustee having been co-opted onto the committee October 2023

Merchandise

In 2024 we had two new woven badges produced – one depicting the current logos of the 5 World Centres and another one promoting Pax Lodge which has the boat from when it was known as Our Ark.

Out and about

We had a number of bookings in 2024 where members of the Friends Group attended and thanks goes to Jane Muncey for attending all these events to sell the merchandise and recruit new members.

- National Trefoil Guild AGM in Portsmouth in June
- Hautbois Fest in August
- Midlands Region International Day in October
- Pax Lodge Christmas Bazaar in November

Jane also makes and contributes items to sell on the stall and the earrings are very popular.

Our donations to the World Centres

You will know from our last AGM that we were able to donate £8,000 to the World Centres.

This was split equally, giving each Centre £1,600 to each World Centre.

- To Nuestra Cabana - our money was given to be put towards technology and provide better internet and social media services
- Our Chalet – Cleaning Equipment, such as mops/mop heads/buckets and walkie talkies, a tent and 3 pump flasks
- Sangam - we gave £1,400 on funding bursaries and the remaining £200 on jam, marmite and smoke detectors
- Pax Lodge - a chest freezer to keep ice creams and frozen meals in to sell, a storage cupboard, some sanitary bins and a large freezer for staff to keep their food in
- Kusafiri - Our donation was given to Kusafiri asking them to use this towards scholarships at their request.

The donations and our membership 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.

We want to keep the charity running and are looking for ways to increase our membership, raise our profile and promote who we are and what we do, so that we can continue supporting the World Centres.

Please continue your support the group, your membership fee really does count, and we hope to see many of you at the events we are attending during the year.

As we, (Caroline and Karen) step down from our role as joint chair of the group, we want to thank the Trustees who have been with us along the way and for their continuing advice and support.

We wish to remember Marion Cotterill, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Marion had been a Trustee and Membership Secretary for many years and continued until her illness became too much.

We want to thank Kim Clegg for her years as the Treasurer and keeping the money in order, producing the accounts so we know how much to donate to the World Centres. Kim has stepped down as at the end of 2024, and Caroline is taking over the role of Treasurer.

We would now like to welcome our new Chair, Sheran. Sheran has held many Guiding roles and most recently been the National Trefoil Guild, International Adviser.