



This month's news:

November 2019

- 100,000 girls and young women will be empowered to Lead Out Loud
- Girls gaining business skills during National Cookie Month
- Young Guide Leader nails Silver Gaisce
- IGG Leaders receive Civic Merit Awards

Dear

We are thrilled that 100,000 girls and young women will be **empowered** to Lead Out Loud as a result of the **Juliette Low Seminar** - an international leadership development event that 500+ young Guide Leaders took part in from 14-20 November.



Eleven Irish Girl Guides (IGG) members were participants in the event which this year, for the first time, took place in **18 countries** simultaneously. We were delighted to host a hub at Gormanston Park, Co Meath, where we welcomed 23 young women from 18 different countries.

The **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts** (WAGGGS) organises the seminar every three years and it was the first time for it to come to Ireland. Three IGG members participated at the Irish hub while eight headed to overseas hubs, including

France, Switzerland, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Madagascar and the USA. We also had four facilitators - two at Gormanston, one in Switzerland and one in New York.

All 500+ participants followed the same WAGGGS **Lead Out Loud** programme through which they developed their **leadership skills** and learned how to tackle gender barriers to leadership so that they can take the lead and bring about change in their communities.



Each participant has pledged to share their leadership learnings with 200 girls over the next two years and, in this way, it is hoped that **100,000 girls and young women** will be empowered to bring about **positive change** in their communities.

Aisling Claffey, a Guide Leader from Cork, was one of the facilitators of the Irish hub. She described the event as "a resounding success" and said she had seen the participants grow in confidence as they developed their leadership skills during the week. "They have learned to lead and to be change-makers; the future is exciting for these young women," she said.

MaLau Navarro, a Guide Leader from Costa Rica who was also a facilitator at the Irish hub, said: "It has been a week full of planning and adventures where the participants were challenged and reflected on their own lives and how they can lead out loud. It has been very nice to see the girls grow in confidence during the week."

The participants visited Laytown beach where they discussed plastic pollution and they learned about recycling, composting and waster management at Sonairte National Ecology Centre where they carried out **community service** - weeding and helping out with other gardening tasks.



During an **Empowerment Evening** they were lucky enough to hear three inspiring speakers. They were children's rights advocate, former Senator and former IGG Chief Commissioner **Jillian van Turnhout**, award-winning STEM communicator and IGG Ambassador **Dr Niamh Shaw** and **Ciara-Beth Griffin**, an education rights' activist and inspirational young Guide Leader from Galway who designed the Mi Contact app to help children with autism improve their eye contact skills.

You can listen to a **podcast** [here](#) of an interview Aisling Claffey did with LMF Radio about the Juliette Low Seminar and you can see lots of **photos** from the Irish hub on our [Facebook page](#). We look forward to receiving news and photos in the coming days from our members who headed overseas.



The **11 IGG** participants will reach **2,200 girls and young women** in the next two years and in turn these girls and young women will also go on to have a positive impact on society with a variety of community action projects tied into the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).



National Cookie Month is in full swing with thousands of our members throughout the country selling packets of Irish Girl Guides' cookies to their families, friends and neighbours. Not only is this a great way for the girls to raise funds to buy new equipment for their Unit or to go on a special trip, but in the process the girls are gaining invaluable teamwork, goal-setting, money management, communication and PR skills.

IGG members in **Carrigaline, Cork**, who sold more cookies during last year's National Cookie Month than any other IGG Unit, were thrilled to receive a visit from **Dragons' Den investor Alison Cowzer**. Alison is partnering with us for our **#FutureCEOs** cookie initiative - the cookies are baked in Eastcoast Bakehouse, which she co-founded. She congratulated the Carrigaline cookie-sellers and shared some insider sales tips with them! You can read about her visit on [our website](#).

Our original Irish Girl Guides' cookies are chocolate-chip and retail at €2.50 and our new chocolate-enrobed chocolate-chunk butter-based cookies sell at €3 per packet. They are very yummy and buying our cookies helps support the empowerment of girls and young women. Why not treat yourself to a packet (or two or three)? You can buy them from our [online shop](#). And, if you like them, do please post on social media with the hashtag #FutureCEOs!

We are always delighted to see our members' hard work and community service recognised by **Gaisce - the President's Award**. Our latest recipient is **Ruby Loughlin**, a Leader with Cealla Guides, Kells, and a member of Loughcrew Senior Branch (Senior Branch is our branch for 14-30 year olds).



Ruby received her Silver Gaisce Award at a special ceremony in Belvedere College last week. She has been working towards **Irish Girl Guides' Silver Moon Award** in parallel with the Gaisce Award and hopes to have it completed in the coming weeks. Read all about her award journey in her [blog post](#) on our website.

We launched a **partnership with Gaisce - the President's Award** in 2015. Recognising the similarities between our award schemes, we joined forces with the aim of encouraging greater numbers of girls and young women to undertake challenges and activities that would help them become confident, active and responsible citizens. The two organisations share similar aims of volunteering and empowering young people to be active citizens and the partnership is designed to enable our members achieve the Gaisce award by doing the Senior Branch overall awards.

We currently have 53 members working towards their Bronze Gaisce Award, 31 working towards their Silver Gaisce and 18 aiming to receive the Gold Gaisce. We wish them all the best in their award journeys and hope to see them achieve our Bronze Star, Silver Moon and Golden Sun Awards too!



We aligned the requirements of the awards to our new **Bronze Star, Silver Moon and Golden Sun Awards** so that our members who successfully achieve these awards will receive Gaisce Awards at the corresponding level too.

As well as completing the Gaisce requirements, IGG members must also complete a number of Guiding challenges. In this way, our members are developing **confidence, self-reliance, responsibility** and other essential life skills while engaging in **community action, mountaineering, travel** and other challenges.

It's not just our young members who receive awards but sometimes our Leaders do too! We would like to congratulate **Jenny Gannon** (pictured left), our National Programme and Training Commissioner, who received a **Civic Merit Award** from **Gaisce - The President's Award** - at a special event in Farmleigh House. The Award recognises the work Jenny was involved in when setting up the [Senior Branch Journey Programme](#) and the [partnership with Gaisce](#).



Congratulations too to **Sheila Linden** (pictured right above) a Leader with Ballybay Ladybirds in Monaghan (Ladybirds are our 5-7 year old members), who received the Award for her Gaisce work in her school.

Kind regards,

Fiona Murdoch

Communications Officer
Irish Girl Guides

What we do The **Irish Girl Guides** began in 1911 and continues today, as a registered charity, to offer girls and young women a safe space to develop life skills while exploring our inter-connected world and learning to become responsible global citizens. Learn more [here](#).