



## ***Girl Guide Connections***

*This month's news:*

*January 2020*

- [New Year, New Vision, New Chief](#)
- [World Thinking Day](#)
- [Vacancy for Regional Development Officer for Eastern Region](#)
- [Two IGG members receive Gold Gaisce Awards](#)
- [Do you know someone who could volunteer with us?](#)

Dear Fi

We hope it is not too late to wish you a **Happy New Year!** We reckon a New Year is the perfect time to adopt a **New Vision** and, following an extensive consultation process with our members, we are pleased to announce our newly adopted Vision:

# New Year, New Vision!

Today there can be a place for girls to be themselves,  
a place where there is diversity, equality,  
a place to make a difference, and  
that place is Girl Guides!

We are also delighted to introduce our new Chief Commissioner, **Amanda O'Sullivan**. Amanda has been a member of Irish Girl Guides (IGG) since she joined at Guide age and has been an adult Leader in Lucan since 1994. She has already held a number of high-profile posts in the organisation, including Eastern Region Commissioner, Chair of Brownie Branch, Chair of the IT Strategy Team and two terms as Assistant Chief Commissioner.



The Chief Commissioner is Chair of the Board and, as lead volunteer, is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation. Amanda said she was looking forward to the **challenges and opportunities** afforded by her new role..

"I am looking forward to sharing this leadership journey with a fantastic team of volunteers and supported by the staff in the organisation," she said. "I am excited to continue to deliver **fantastic opportunities and programmes** for all members and support our Leaders who will be the drivers for our success."

You can read more about Amanda in the [News section of our website](#).

Former Chief Commissioner **Helen Concannon**, meanwhile, has been thanked for the six and a half years she spent at the helm of IGG. Under her leadership, the organisation has gone from strength to strength.

Helen spearheaded the development of a number of **partnerships** with high-profile businesses and organisations, including Aer Lingus, Engineers Ireland, Trócaire, Dublin City University, European Movement Ireland and Dragons' Den investor Alison Cowzer.



These collaborations have resulted in initiatives that see IGG members from as young as five developing **confidence and life-skills** as they earn Aviation, Engineers, STEM, Climate Action and Europe badges as well as participating in LEGO robotics workshops and developing entrepreneur skills through the #FutureCEOs Cookie-selling programme.

You can read more about Helen's time as Chief Commissioner [here](#).

Helen is confident that IGG will continue to flourish with Amanda at the helm. “Amanda brings a supreme knowledge of the organisation from grassroots to boardroom table with her,” she said. “Having worked with Amanda in her role of Assistant Chief Commissioner, I have closely seen her dedication to the Girl Guides and, together with the Board, she will lead the movement through the next three years with aplomb.”

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Our youth members and volunteers are back in the swing of their weekly meetings and already we have received news and photos of interesting activities and community initiatives some have been involved in this year. IGG members in Ennis helped their local **Tidy Towns** Committee with a recent litter-pick and Cú Chulainn Guides in Drogheda earned their **Water Safety** badges and learned **First Aid** during a visit to the Boyne Rivers Rescue and Recovery Centre.

Three teams of Guides and Senior Branch members from around the country have been preparing to take part in the **FIRST LEGO League** finals in Dublin City University (DCU) next month (the Munster team got up at 5.30am last Saturday to travel all the way to the DCU LEGO Education Innovation Studio for a practice run)!

Sandford Brownies, meanwhile, made posters of support for people affected by the devastating **Australian bushfires** and are planning to complete Girl Guides Australia's new [Bushfire badge](#), which has been produced in an effort to help communities and wildlife affected by the devastating fires. We are encouraging all our Units to raise funds for those affected by the fires.



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All our members are busy preparing for **World Thinking Day** on 22 February - a day when the 10 million Girl Guides throughout the world think about their sister Guides near and far and raise funds for girls in less developed countries. This year's theme is **Living Threads**.



Using threads to represent the concepts of **diversity, equity** and **inclusion**, it is hoped Guides will be inspired to reflect on how they can put equity and inclusion into practice and celebrate diversity in their communities and beyond.

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We have an exciting new **job opportunity** in our Eastern Region - this region covers Dublin, Kildare, Wicklow and parts of Laois and Offaly. We are looking for a **Regional Development Officer** to assist the Regional Team to promote Guiding within the Region and to support the volunteers delivering the programme to girls at local level.



This is an ideal role for someone with a passion to encourage girls and young women to grow in confidence, independence, leadership and teamwork skills.

Closing date for applications: 5pm TOMORROW 23 January 2020. Further details [here](#).

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And finally ... we were thrilled when **Ailís Ward** from Kinsale and **Carol Martin** from Charleville were presented with **Gold Gaisce Awards** at a special ceremony in Dublin Castle. They both worked hard undertaking a variety of challenges in order to earn the award. As part of their community action, they each volunteered with their local IGG Unit. They are a super inspiration for our younger members to follow. We look forward to them continuing to volunteer with us and we wish them well as they work towards achieving our [Golden Sun Award](#). You can read Ailís's account of her Gaisce journey [here](#) and Carol's [here](#).

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IGG is dependent on **volunteers** to keep giving girls opportunities to grow, to learn and develop into responsible citizens. If you would like to volunteer with us or know someone who would, please check [this section of our website](#), drop an email to [info@irishgirlguides.ie](mailto:info@irishgirlguides.ie) or phone us on 01-6683898.

We have **3,000 girls on waiting lists** for Ladybirds, Brownies, Guides and Senior Branch but we can only offer these girls places if we have more willing volunteers. As a volunteer, you too will develop **new skills** while you undertake **challenges** and **adventures** ... and have a lot of **fun!**

Who wouldn't want to **put a smile on a girl's face?**

Even if you don't have time right now, perhaps you know someone who does? Why not suggest it to them? No previous Guiding experience is necessary and we provide training and ongoing support.



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](#).