



This month's news:

August 2020

- **THANK YOU** for helping us clock up 45,000 kilometres!
- **HELP US** equip the female changemakers of the future!
- **SIGN** the Youth Climate Justice pledge!
- **WIN** a new novel celebrating the hope, comradeship and resilience of Girl Guides incarcerated in a World War II internment camp!

Dear

We hope you and your loved ones are keeping well and that you managed a staycation, or at least some relaxation, over the **summer**.

Our usual camps and trips could not take place but we were impressed by how many of our members found ways to keep active during the summer months.

Some met up for socially distanced **hikes** and **outings** and we are grateful to everyone - members and supporters - who continued to donate **#MishonMoon** kilometres on the Mishon App.



Together, we have completed over 45,000 kilometres - the equivalent of circumnavigating the globe! And we would ask everyone to continue the journey with us so that we reach the moon!



While the **European Jamboree** in Poland had to be postponed, one of the organisers, Sophie Cassidy, an Irish Girl Guides (IGG) member from Drogheda, joined a group of volunteers to bring the international Guiding and Scouting spirit to young people across Poland during the summer months. The activities included games and crafts they had devised to help young people learn about the **Sustainable Development Goals**. These activities are suitable for any children aged 7-14 to use (you don't have to be a Brownie or Guide!) and can be found online [here](#).



We hope you will **JOIN US** in unlocking our future **National Training Centre** in Tallaght! How? Simple! **Sponsor a LEGO block** in the LEGO wall of our new centre!

By sponsoring a LEGO block, you will play an important part in equipping and enabling the Irish female gamechangers of the future.

Our youth members are already leaders in their schools and communities and we want to continue to give them the skills to become changemakers in society and across the world.

Sponsor a LEGO block and we will print your name or company logo on your block – or blocks!

This is everyone's chance to be part of the future of IGG and our new home. Would you like to purchase a block in memory of someone or on behalf of your family? We would love to see your name on our wall!

It costs €50 to sponsor a block. And every cent of your €50 will go towards the fit out and renovation of our new National Training Centre. Our current premises are no longer fit for purpose - we have just two meeting rooms for our 11,000 members - and we now need to renovate and kit out the blank canvas warehouse we have purchased in Tallaght.

This space will serve to amplify our reach and enhance our programmes – a hub that will extend our impact and empower Irish girls and young women for generations to come

Why LEGO?

LEGO symbolises IGG's dedication to **#GirlsInSTEM**. We have built up quite a history with this empowering tool, including working with **Dublin City University** and **Science Foundation Ireland** to give our youth members opportunities to develop their STEM skills.



We believe that providing girls and young women with the opportunity to develop **STEM skills** in a girl-only setting strengthens their confidence to study STEM subjects in school and investigate careers in this area.

Through innovative LEGO programmes,
IGG is putting **#GirlsInSTEM** firmly on the map

Our youth members feel strongly about **climate justice** and Patricia Gutteridge, one of our Senior Branch members in Tralee, was instrumental in developing the National Youth Council of Ireland's **Youth Manifesto on Climate Justice**.

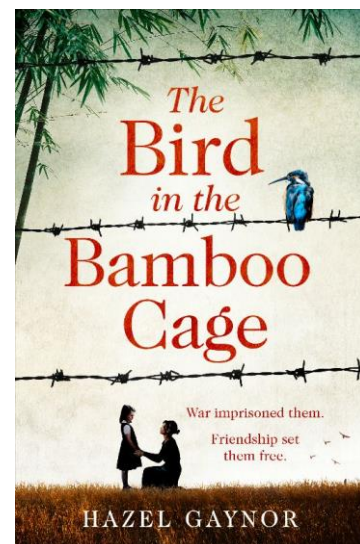


Launching the manifesto online several weeks ago, former President **Mary Robinson** said climate action needed an inter-generational approach and that it was young people who were giving her hope at present.



We would encourage you to read this [blog post](#) Patricia has written about her involvement in the manifesto and organising the launch and do, please, [sign the pledge](#).

And finally ... we are delighted to let you know about a fabulous **new novel** just published by Harper Collins, which tells the story of a group of Girl Guides who were incarcerated in an internment camp in Japan during World War II. ***The Bird in the Bamboo Cage***, which is based on true events, celebrates the hope, comradeship and resilience of the girls and their Guide Leaders as they find themselves in extremely challenging circumstances. The book, which is written by **award-winning author Hazel Gaynor**, is a gripping page-turner and we would highly recommend it.



Hazel, who enjoyed meeting some of her local **Brownies in Newbridge** earlier this year, has kindly given us five signed copies of her book, which we will be giving away in a **Facebook competition** in the coming days ([so keep an eye on our Facebook page](#))! If you're not lucky enough to win a copy, why not treat yourself to one? All good bookshops are stocking copies or you can [order online](#) either.

To whet your appetite, why not [read this piece on our website](#) which Hazel wrote for us explaining how the novel came about and how writing the book brought back happy

memories of her time as a Brownie?

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](#).

