



Nordic-Baltic Sub-region

News Letter

June 2018

News from Denmark

The main theme in the recent Danish District International Secretaries' meeting was the World Targets of the United Nations organisation.

For us, the important question is: How do we reduce the consumption of resources and thereby the pollution on land, in the ocean and in the air?



In the world outside us, the main areas of interest are: Peace, education, clean water and food.



After group discussions, we all left for home, inspired to use the received information material in the future co-operation with the scout and guide associations.

It is scary to see how long time will pass, before our pollution disappears:

HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S DECOMPOSED?

IF ONE BOTTLE OF WATER MADE IT INTO THE SEA, HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO FULLY DECOMPOSE?

Item	Decomposition Time
Toilet Roll	1 Month
Cardboard	2 Months
Plastic Bags	10-20 Years
Cigarettes	10 Years
Drinks Cans	200 Years
Fish Hooks	600 Years
Plastic Cutlery	100-1000 Years
Glass	4000 Years
Diapers	450 Years
Some Plastics	Never

WE LIVE HERE

THIS HAS TO STOP

Brought to you by:

It is important that we all make an effort for a better future for our globe - preferably together with our scouts and guides.

*Georg Lauridsen,
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(translated by K. Jorde)*

News from Finland

The Peace Light

The Peace Light from Bethlehem travelled through Finland from Turku in the south to Lapland, to Lapin Kairaa, north of the Polar Circle. Several fellowship members picked up the Peace Light from Turku and brought it forward through different routes north, east and west to scouts and fellowship members. A group from the Kärppä Guild in Seinäjoki brought the light with them on their winter trip to Lapland and stopped several places on their way to share the Peace Light with scout groups, local fellowships, churches and others. As you perhaps know, Finnish soldiers who were killed in the wars, are always buried at a special site in the cemetery and on December 6th (Finland's Independence Day) there is a candle lighted on every headstone and young soldiers standing guard. As the Peace Light has spread throughout Finland, more and more graveyards are lighted with the Peace Light on this special day.

A new Honorary Member

A new Honorary Member to the Scout and Guide Fellowship of Finland was appointed in January. Ilmari Kopponen

was appointed an honorary member on his 100th birthday on January 8th. He started in the scout movement as a small boy and was active for many years. When he "retired" from being an active scout leader, he continued in parents' council for the local scout group and later started the local fellowship group "Salon Partioveteraanit". He also competed actively in many sports, but now he has transferred his activity to daily cycling tours. Last year he cycled more than 5000 km! Not bad when you are 100 years old!

The Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting together with the Guild Days were arranged in central Finland, in Seinäjoki on March 17th-18th 2018. We started with lunch on Saturday and continued with a guided tour through the town center. Seinäjoki is a special town in as much that most of the main public buildings, including the city theatre and main church has been designed by one man, the world-famous architect Alvar Aalto. All the buildings are situated in the same area, thus making a beautiful and impressive whole. All the buildings were completed between 1960 and 1968, except for the city theatre which was finished in 1976, ten years after Aalto's death.

Later we moved to Jouppilanvuori and the scouts' campfire site where we spent the evening around the campfire, eating salmon soup, singing old scout songs - just enjoying the atmosphere and the company of friends. The walk through the night back to the hotel was a "miniature pilgrimage" where each one pondered in silence over the questions put to us at the "control posts". Some of the participants closed the evening

with a bath in the hotel's sauna, while others had lively discussions around the annual meeting the next day.



The evening was spent in the woods and on Aarnikotka-hut with good food and songs.

The annual membership meeting started next morning with a workshop with the theme "The World is changing - is the Fellowship changing?" chaired by Ossi Aura. The discussion was lively and all kind of ideas were put forward. It certainly gave the National Board a lot to think about and work on.



On Sunday morning we worked with ideas for the future

After lunch we had the official part of the annual meeting, with economy reports, activity reports, elections etc. Two members of the board left as their period was up and according to our constitution they could not be re-elected. So we got two new members, Tiina Itävuori and Juha Kosonen. The rest of the board, including NSGF President Kari Takamaa and Vice-President Harriet Meinander continue.

Text: Liv Aure-Olli, IS Finland. Photos: Marja Lamminkangas

News from Iceland

Sorry, no news from Iceland this time.

News from Lithuania

Sorry, no news from Lithuania this time.

News from Norway

Peace Light

The Peace Light from Bethlehem has arrived from Sweden to Norway every year since 1999. The light was distributed throughout the country by car, train and the Coastal Steamer throughout Advent time by a co-

operation between the St. George's Guilds of Norway and the country's two scout and guide associations. Until 2018 we had no possibility to keep the flame continuously burning in Norway. Therefore, the flame was put out by the New Year, and the process started anew in November the following year.

National Committee member Linda Amundsen wondered whether it would be possible to find a location within the country where we could get an agreement on keeping the flame permanently burning. She knew that the only place where a candle is kept burning is the Catholic Church. She contacted the Catholic Church in her home town, Bergen, and they referred her to the town's nunnery, Marias Minde. Subsequent to a few discussions, the nunnery agreed to receive the Peace Light and keep it continuously burning within its walls.

20 January 2018 became an important date for the Norwegian Peace Light, and for the Norwegian St. George's Fellowship. In an unpretentious ceremony in Marias Minde Nunnery, the Peace Light was carried by a nine-year old scout accompanied by Linda. The scout handed the Light over to one of the nuns, who placed it in a wall candlestick where it is currently permanently burning. A total of 60 people participated, including guild members, National Committee members Linda og Ivan Chetwynd, members of co-operating organisations, the Mayor of Bergen and the Nunnery's nuns.



Marias Minde Nunnery

The moment when the scout handed over the Flame from the Fellowship Lantern was a special moment for everyone who were present.



The handing over of the Peace Light Flame

The evening was concluded with coffee and cakes.

The Mayor of Bergen, Marte Mjøs Pedersen, expressed a wish to take a flame home, a wish that we gladly carried out.

As of this evening, the Peace Light Flame is now permanently burning in Norway, well taken care of by six nuns in Marias Minde Nunnery.

Text: Knut Jorde, photo: Ivan Chetwynd

Flea market

Every year by the end of November, 2 Lier St. George's Guild arrange a flea market at Tranby Parish House in co-operation with the congregation at the local church.

During the year we receive all kinds of articles that we expect can be sold.

Since most of us are retirees we gather every Monday for a cup of coffee and a

talk before we start to sort things received during the last week. People know that goods can be delivered under a roof at the back door, which makes it easy to deliver at any time as long as it is smaller articles.

We also receive furniture and other bigger articles. People then call us, and by car and a trailer we collect furniture and all kind of stuff that people like to give away.

A quality check is always made before we stow articles for the next flea-market. We throw away things that we find to be of too poor quality, like defective toys or appliances or dirty clothes and bring them to the nearest garbage dump.

Fortunately, we have a large parish house with many big rooms in the basement. Thus, we have a large room for furniture, a smaller one for books, one for clothes, another for shoes and jewels, for sports, Christmas decoration and a large room with glassware.

At the same time as the flea market is open, people from the local community arrange a cafeteria in the largest hall in the building. Here they sell locally made handcraft and Christmas cookies.

On the market day, a great number of people are participating in the market to take care of all our customers that line up in front of the main door before we open. It is quite an exhausting commotion for some hours, but it is great fun too.

An odd item we had for sale at the last flea market was a very nice stuffed beaver that was not sold. We then made an advertisement in *Antique* magazine with a nice picture of the beaver, but unfortunately the text was incorrect

since it said "very nice badger for sale"! However, it was sold.

After closing we can start to breathe normally again, and are eager to hear the result of the income, and if it was worth all the struggle. Fortunately, we have received a fairly good result every year.

Quite a part of the sum goes to maintenance of the parish house, but we still have been able to support Scout and Guild projects in other parts of the world, such as the Pigeon Park scout and guide campsite in Kenya, scouts in the poor part of Nairobi and tents for refugees in Uganda.

Our local scouts have also received some contribution for equipment for hiking.

Text: Tore Strandrud, GM 2 Lier St. George's Guild

The Norwegian Stamp Bank Participate in Futura 18

The Stamp Bank shall participate in Futura 18, the National Camp of the Norwegian YWCA and YMCA Scout and Guide Association in Stjørdal in Mid-Norway in early July this summer. The Bank shall have its own post office adjacent to the exhibition of the Scout Museum.

The Stamp Bank shall have for sale philatelic articles made especially for the camp:

- A special envelope with the camp logo
- A special postage stamp with the camp logo, with postage for inland mail
- A special motif stamp will be used to stamp all letters sent from the camp

The Stamp Bank will also sell ordinary Norwegian stamps that can be used for letters from the camp.

The Bank shall also sell older, used stamps from Norway and from the rest of the World, both as individual stamps and in bulk.

Anyone who wants to buy some of the philatelic articles from the camp can contact the Bank on frimerkebanken@sogn.no



The camp stamp for sale in the camp has been printed in a very small number.

As usual, the Stamp Bank collects used stamps in various forms. Those cut off envelopes and cards are primarily sold in bulk to commercial stamp sellers. We also gladly acquire large and small stamp collections, which are looked over for more valuable stamps that can profitably be sold separately.

Text: Bank Manager Sverre Shetelig (translated by K. Jorde)

News from Sweden

General issues

In order to reduce costs, we have lately decided to halve the number of our fellowship magazine "Gillescouter" from four to two each year. To distribute information to our members, we also

annually issue 8 - 10 versions of a brief newsletter.

We have a co-operation agreement with the Swedish scouts and guides, but it has often been difficult to inform about the agreement and about what the Fellowship does. To remedy this, we have during the spring prepared a description paper in which we present ourselves and what we do. Most of the work has been done by Kristina Sundberg from the district of Dalarna. Thus, we now have a concise presentation of the Swedish Fellowship. We believe that the easily available information about the fellowship provided in this paper will contribute to improve the co-operation with the scout and guides.

Peace Light

Late last year we organised the transport of the Peace Light through Sweden. As usual, the Peace Light started with a big ceremony in Helsingborg in southern Sweden. Previously, we have received the flame from Denmark, but as of 2017, a Peace Light flame is continuously burning in the Carmelite monastery in Glumslöv, near Helsingborg on the western coast. This is a great advantage, as we can now send out the light a little earlier. We thereby reach more scout and guide groups, more guilds and more churches and other users in time for them to use the light for the First Sunday in Advent. In the northern part of the country we managed to deliver the light in time for St. Lucia's Day to our northernmost destination, the Ice Hotel in Jukkas-järvi, Lapland. In the meantime, the Peace Light had also been sent on its way to Norway and Finland.

Future Events

During the spring, we have continued our work for our two major events. The first is the biannual Fellowship Walk, which is organised in late May in Borstahusen outside Landskrona i Skåne, southernmost Sweden. A comprehensive description of the corresponding 2016 walk in Grövelsjön in northern Dalarna can be found in the December 2016 issue of the Newsletter.

The second major event is the Nordic-Baltic gathering in Göteborg (Gothenburg) in late August. Extensive planning is ongoing to ensure that all participants shall have their preferred excursions.

*Text: Mariana Ceder, IS Sweden
(translated by K. Jorde)*