



Nordic Baltic Sub-  
Region Newsletter  
June 2021

## News from Denmark

### *How we kept our Guild Life going without meeting face-to-face!*

In many guilds, it was a challenge when the Corona pandemic restricted the possibilities to meet. So, it was for the Baden-Powell Tribe as well although it is always the case for the 4 guild scouts living so far apart from each other that only weekend meetings are an option. In September 2020, we agreed to become an E-guild! Meaning meeting electronically once a month, plus when allowed again - meet physically 2-3 times a year when allowed.

During autumn and winter, we had our meetings by means of the Baden-Powell Tribe's own e-mail address giving access to a meeting platform (Google Meet). This gives some opportunities - and limitations! So now is the time to remember BP's words: "Kick the im out of the word impossible!" The first challenge was singing together - individually! We are lucky to have a "musician" in the Guild, so she would play the tunes on the clarinet. The other participants sing along - each on their own with mike on OFF!

We have agreed on an Opening and Closing ceremony at every meeting.

Then, we borrowed the candle lighting ceremony from Norway. Each participant has 3 candles ready and light them at the same time as the Guild Master, which can be seen on screen. This way we light our candles in unity whilst listening to the Guild Master explaining the meaning of the candles. If any other guild wishes to 'borrow' this ceremony for digital meetings, just let ask us.

We have subjects to work on at our meetings, and we take turns with the responsibility for the introduction for the meeting. Thus, the past six months our subject were: The Reunification of Southern Jutland with Denmark, as 2020 was the 100 years jubilee, and the UN Objectives for sustainability - focusing on what each one of us can do in our everyday life.

The District of Southern Jutland had luckily prepared tasks to do to earn a badge. One of the tasks, to find the local commemorative mark for the reunification and we were surprised to know that there are about 600 of them erected all over Denmark. We listened to 2 members who also belong to the Danish minority in Germany respectively the German minority in Denmark. Once

we meet again physically, we will be awarded the well-earned badges!

Working with the 17 Sustainability Goals made us look at what we each of us are doing in order to inspire one another to do more. We have learned to focus on limiting wasting food and learn how to 're-grow' vegetables on the windowsill! We have focus on collecting rainwater, and when we meet, we are all set upon building insect hotels! We have planned to join forces in a grand finale with a PowerPoint presentation about each of the 17 goals. We cannot wait to see the result of our efforts - but we will continue to make a difference every day.

We also wanted something special for St. George's day meeting. Guests were invited to join us. Each participant received a parcel not to be opened until the start of the meeting. Everyone now sitting in front of their screens excited to see what the parcel contained. A typical scout's activity with limited resources: Build a tower (look-out for dragons) using 20 raw spaghettis and 10 marshmallows! The tallest tower would reach 76 cm! Whilst constructing we would consume the goodies from the parcel: Dragon blood, dragon eyes, dragon claws and dragon worts! Pure dragon's delight!!!



*Spaghetti tower*

Are you interested in joining one of our on-line meetings you are welcome to contact us.

Yours in fellowship

*Rigmor Lauridsen, Guild Master Baden-Powell Stammen. E-mail: badenpowellstammen@gmail.com*

*Photo: Rigmor Lauridsen*

## ***Scouts' Flea Market***



7 Scout groups and the Sct. Georgs Guild in Farum (Copenhagen area) runs a large, permanent flea-market. Its roots go back to 1953, but from 2021, the

local authorities have made a site with sales halls available for the flea market. Over the years millions of kroner have been donated to scout groups and humanitarian purposes. In fact, Spejdernes Genbrug donated 25,000 DKK (about 3.500 euros) to the ISGF Haiti project.



*The Scouts' Flea Market*

The market has been affected by the corona lock-down, and yet they have had turnover of a very different kind. Film and TV producers have spotted the treasure trove. Even during lock-down they have generated an income of about 30,000 DKK / 4,000 Euros based on rent of different props for their productions. As the articles are returned after use, it's a double re-use. A true win-win situation.

The arts department also have had good activity during lock-down. With very few people let in they get the time to prowl about in drawers. So, it seems that the fewer customers actually bought more.

Others have become aware of this fantastic market. The department for embroideries and fine textiles has excellent contacts to museums on the look-out for items from particular weaving mills or those needing giant tablecloths for dining tables of sizes not found in normal family homes. It

fantastic how these items are restored to the favour they deserve.

Due to the lock-down income was so low that there were no donations in 2020 from the 2019 profit for neither the local community, the scouts and others. The market has slowly re-opened and there is hope for donations in the future.

*Text: Lissi Rasmussen and Astrid Wiig, Værløse Guild DK. Photo: Lissi Rasmussen*

## *The European Conference 2023*

At long last we are proud to show you the logo:



The tree to the right is the Tree of Life, Yggdrasil, and is the main feature in the logo of Ranum Efterskole, the venue.

Prepare yourself for wonderful summers' days close to Limfjorden 30<sup>th</sup> July till 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023.

*Birthe Ømark, IC Denmark*

## *News from Finland*

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the year has not followed normal routines either and few gatherings have taken place since the previous newsletter.

## *Peace Light*

The Peace Light from Bethlehem landed in Turku on November 20<sup>th</sup> and started to spread over the country. Despite the pandemic, the light travelled further over the country than ever before. There were many dedicated people taking part in the transports and keeping the light in their gardens.

## *Thinking Day*

This year Thinking Day could not be held indoors so the Guild in Espoo gathered outdoors with a campfire. They held their Annual Meeting at the same time and planned for future activities.



*The Espo Guild celebrating Thinking Day outdoors*

## *The Annual Membership Meeting*

The Annual Meeting was held on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Finnish NSGF made history in organizing the Annual Meeting online instead of onsite, the arrangement worked well, we even managed to vote with a voting machine online. The National President and two board members were re-elected, in addition were two new board members elected in place of one who was in turn to resign, thus the headcount of the board increased again with one.

A few changes to the Rules had been proposed and most of the proposals were approved. The most important ones are: <sup>1)</sup> in the future there will be two annual meetings, in the autumn (board elections) and in the spring (approval of the activities of the previous year); <sup>2)</sup> board members can only be elected for three two-year periods (previously four two-year periods).

## *Scout Week*

During the Scout Week (week of April 23), the board members posted a short notice on our Facebook pages each day. With this we hope to gain more visibility.

## *70-years Anniversary*

The Finnish NSGF celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, with a gathering in Tampere in August. The arrangements keep the working group busy.



*Text: Viveca Ståhlström, IS Finland.*

## News from Iceland

### *Gleðilegt Sumar - Happy new Summer*

Hope you are all well and coming back to normal life little by little. Here in Iceland at the moment we can come together 300 people and we can take down the masks. The volcanic activity is still ongoing and we don't know when it will stop. It is a ever changing scenery and the best way to follow up is on youtube - Geldingadalir.



*The volcanic eruption at Geldingadalir, south of Reykjavik, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The area where people are standing has been filled by lava*



*Close-up of the source of the lava flow*

The fellowship members have not met for a long time and the first big meeting for a year for many guilds were last May. During summertime the guilds don't

meet so much, but after summer vacations we look forward to get-together and a fresh start.

The committee for the NBSR meeting in May 2022 has been setting up the schedule and very soon you will get all information. Look forward to see you in Iceland next year.

Greetings from Iceland

*Kristjana Þórdís Ásgeirsdóttir, IS  
Iceland*

## News from Lithuania

*Sorry, no news from Lithuania this time.*

## News from Norway

### *General News*

The current restrictions on the number of participants in all sorts of indoors meetings and activities have limited the fellowship activities during the last half year to out-door gatherings and digital meetings. We have, however, tried to make the best out of the situation, as illustrated by our two reports below.

*Knut Jorde, IS Norway*

### *Outdoor meeting at Øvsttun*

After a long period with no guild meetings, we decided that we could not take it any longer, so we called for an outdoor guild meeting. We knew that that might exclude a couple of our members but did it even so. We

contacted 1st Øvsttun scout group, who has their meeting venue and an outdoor area close by our own meeting place, so finding a suitable meeting location was easy.

9th March was expected to be rather cold, so our members were advised to wear warm clothes, and bring a chair, coffee/tea and a light meal.

We spent the evening around the campfire, which burnt nicely throughout the meeting - a meeting that was greatly appreciated, not least because we had two new members who were to be initiated. Also, it was very clear that social contact had been missed, chatting was lively as soon as we met.



*Nice campfire and careful social distancing*

The first item after the formal opening was the initiation of our new members, Eli Lien and Karl Johan Jebsen who were welcomed into 5<sup>th</sup> Bergen Guild, the Guilds of Norway and ISGF, thereby giving the evening a festive character.



*The new members, Eli and Karl Johan*

The initiation was followed by singsong and hot dogs. The new members were immediately given their first practical tasks, distributing the hot dogs, wearing face masks and disposable gloves.



*The singsong was supported by our own musical quartet*

The traditional 5-minute St. George's talk was held by Jan Holdhus, who read the story about a seaman who sailed on a freighter that was torpedoed in the North Sea during the Second World War. In contrast to his two colleagues, who froze to death, he survived 15 cold winter hours on a small raft, ascribing his lucky survival to his new woollen underwear.

Following this edifying story and a formal meeting conclusion, 22 satisfied participants went home. With the

persistent, ongoing pandemic, we expect more meetings to be held out-doors.

*Text: Jan Helge Støve, photos: Jan Mangerud and Johannes Åkre*

### ***Cultural Walk in Våkendalen***

The Bergen fellowships traditionally organise Wednesday walks in and around the town - an activity that we have been able to continue. One of these was a walk along a cultural trail in Våkendalen.

Twenty happy walkers met at the trail start at Svartediket, Bergen's drinking water reservoir. Many of us had already done the walk earlier, but it is always interesting to repeat it, recognising new items that we have earlier overlooked.



*Having a stop in the proper Covid-19 formation*

One such item was Tarlebøgeilen, a dedicated cow path in the fringe of the forest. The path is some 400 metres long and was established a very long time ago to lead the cows to their pasture without having to cross cultivated land.



*The old cow path Tarebøgeilen*

We passed a series of remnants of farms that had been abandoned in 1941 to avoid pollution when the water reservoir was established. We spent the lunch break at the main farm of Tarlebø, sitting on the old foundations and enjoying the sunshine.



*Lunchbreak sitting on the old foundations of the Tarlebø farm*

At Nilsaplassen we crossed a small stream on an unusual type of stone bridge. While most stone bridges are constructed with an arch as the load-bearing structure, this bridge was made by stacking flat stones that upwards extended increasingly outwards from the banks of the stream.



*The old stone bridge of Nilsaplassen*

This construction principle was previously used not only for bridges over small streams, but also for larger bridges on the mail roads that were built in the western part of the country some 250 years ago.

*Text and photos: Jan Helge Støve*

## News from Sweden

The number of fellowship members has decreased and is now just below 500. This does, naturally, cause financial problems. Our National Assembly has been postponed from May to August. The economy shall be part of the discussions, with special emphasis on the costs of our membership magazine "Gillescouten". Our contact with the scouts is still not good enough, but we are working to achieve future co-operation.

The guilds have had few gatherings during the spring, mainly outdoors and with social distance during the meal breaks. Most of the activities have been walks.

In Göteborg (i.e. Gothenburg), the local guild has renovated the monument of Ebbe Lieberath, who introduced scouting to the town and to Sweden; also tidying up the surrounding area. Other guilds have held outdoor meetings or deferred their meetings to the future. Some guilds have held their local assemblies during the last two years, but most guilds have postponed their assemblies to a time when they can be held outside.



*Renovating the Ebbe Lieberath monument*

Our National Assembly has been moved from Skövde till Åhus in southernmost Sweden. The reason for the change is that we have planned a walk at Österlen in Skåne in August, staying overnight close to Åhus. Thus, moving the Assembly to Åhus allows members who participate in the walks to easily combine the walk and the Assembly in a single travel.

At the moment, however, we do not know whether the Assembly can be held as planned, it depends on whether the Authorities will allow indoors gatherings of the expected number of participants. We expect a decision on this issue on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

*Text: Mariana Ceder, IS Sweden*