

Chapter 17 | History of the Trefoil Guild

1909 - 2008



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- 1909** Girls appeared at the first Boy Scout Rally at the Crystal Palace, demanding to be allowed to join the Movement
- 1910** The Girl Guides Association now Girlguiding UK, was formed
- 1920** Ex-Guides began to form unofficial groups with the purpose of maintaining contact with their old Guide companies
- 1935** An organisation named 'Old Guides' was formed
- 1943** The Girl Guides Association amalgamated the various groups of 'Old Guides' and the name 'The Trefoil Guild' was adopted
- 1947** Trefoil Guilds were first registered
- 1950** Trefoil Guild Armllets available
- 1951** First issue of Notes and News - Trefoil Guild Bulletin
- 1952** The Trefoil Guild, while remaining part of the Guide Movement, was given recognition as a self-governing, self-financing body and became responsible for former Guides in the United Kingdom and Overseas Territories
- 1953** The office moved to 108 Cambridge Street, London SW1
- 1954** The first Constitution was ratified and Mrs Davies Cooke appointed as the first President. The Central Office was established and a governing body, consisting of a Central Council and a Central Executive Committee, was formed. The Girl Guides Association gave The Trefoil Guild an initial grant of £1,500 and it became financially independent. 15th World Conference gave approval for former Guides to join with former Scouts in an International Fellowship
- 1955** First Annual General Meeting. 'Notes and News' renamed *The Trefoil* and became quarterly
- 1956** The Guild gave a birthday present of £750 to Olave Baden-Powell to help re-house the World Bureau and Our Ark
- 1959** A new armllet was introduced
- 1960** HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother consented to become Patron of The Trefoil Guild
- 1961** The first Trefoil Guild Handbook was published
- 1964** First Trefoil Guild Conference was held in Wales at Broneirion

- 1965** A Working Party Report in 'Tomorrow's Guide' saw the Trefoil Guild as 'of very great value to the Movement and a helpful way of returning support'
- 1970** The Trefoil Guild launched a Holiday Fund for Guiders and Guild members in need of rest and recuperation
- 1971** The minimum age for membership of The Trefoil Guild was lowered to 18. The Trefoil Guild brought its administration into line with that of The Girl Guides Association. Country/Region Advisers, later known as Chairmen, were appointed
- 1972** Armbands were discontinued
- 1973** LINK International Fellowship was established to enable young adults to remain in contact with the Guide and Scout Movements. The LINK scheme was devised by The Trefoil Guild
- 1976** Trefoil Guild Central Office moved to CHQ
- 1979** Project for the year was to raise money for the Olave Centre
- 1981** *The Trefoil* was put on tape for visually impaired members
- 1982** LINK approached The Trefoil Guild about the future of LINK members, male and female, who reached the LINK upper age limit. The possibility of absorbing these young adults into The Trefoil Guild was discussed. A Gilt Cross was awarded to a Trefoil Guild member for the first time
- 1983** To celebrate 40 years the Trefoil Guild presented CHQ with a plaque commemorating the fact that the outer doors at CHQ were given by Lord and Lady Baden-Powell
- 1984** A resolution was passed to admit men into The Trefoil Guild
- 1986** A training scheme was introduced to help Guild members with planning and administration. The Trefoil Guild Handbook was completely revised
- 1987** The Trefoil Guild raised over £51,000 towards the appeal for Pax Lodge study bedrooms. Membership reached 20,000 for the first time
- 1989** The title 'President of The Trefoil Guild' was changed to 'Chairman of The Trefoil Guild'. A new office of President was created, the first holder being the Hon. Betty Clay, daughter of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell
- 1992** The Trefoil Guild Constitution and Handbook were revised
- 1993** The Trefoil Guild celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The Guide Promise was revised, and a new logo and design for the Promise Badge, now shared by all members of The Guide Association and The Trefoil Guild, was introduced
- 1994** Lady Juliet Townsend succeeded Betty Clay as President

- 1995** The Guide Law was revised and the Girl Guides Association was renamed 'The Guide Association'
- 1997** The Trefoil Guild started a scheme to give Starter Packs to help new units.
The Trefoil Guild took part in The National Memorial Arboretum Appeal
- 1998** A garden was created at the National Memorial Arboretum with funds raised by the Trefoil Guild. Lime trees were planted in an area near the Chapel
- 1999** The Trefoil Guild was registered as a separate charity
- 2000** A new handbook, entitled *Welcome to The Trefoil Guild*, was produced.
Trefoil Guild Day at the Dome was celebrated on Wednesday 11th October.
A team of Trefoil members took part in the Queen Mother's Birthday Parade.
343 members went on the Trefoil Guild's Millennium Cruise
- 2001** A new Trefoil Guild Brooch was instituted to be presented for outstanding and devoted service specific to the Trefoil Guild
- 2002** Death of our Patron HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.
The Guide Association adopted the working title of Girlguiding UK
- 2003** Diamond Jubilee of the Trefoil Guild.
A Service of Dedication was held for a new Trefoil Guild garden at the National Memorial Arboretum. The plot had been waterlogged and the original lime trees had died, and willow was planted and woven into the shape of a Trefoil.
Trefoil Guild website set up
- 2004** Death of The Hon Betty Clay.
Lady Juliet Townsend became Patron of the Trefoil Guild and Mrs Jane Garside became President
- 2005** A range of Trefoil Guild occasional wear was produced for sale through Girlguiding UK Trading Service.
The Trefoil magazine changed to three full colour editions a year with a new designer and printer
- 2007** The Trefoil Guild became a corporate member of Girlguiding UK
- 2008** *Welcome to the Trefoil Guild* was updated and renamed *Trefoil Guild Handbook*