



Sangelee Spirit

Welcome Monsoon

Did You Know ?

* *The Lady Ratan Tata Memorial hall was built only with Rs. 40,000/- in 1966.*

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Participants experience

I feel a very large accomplishment after completing the project and had a fantastic time.

says Lauren Bayley.

Our World Our Home '08

Wow! What a Monsoon season we have had! Full house for all events, two advocacy seminars, including one in French. Our seminars had the topics of adolescent health and peace – both very thought provoking and life changing seminars for the participants from 19 different countries, representing all five WAGGGS regions. During the Adolescent Health seminar we were fortunate to have a day of peer education with young women from the nearby community of Vishrantwadi – a low income area with few educational and social opportunities for those young girls. It was a real eye-opener for many of our participants who came from such very different

backgrounds, but it was interesting to see how many similar teenage issues there were! This Monsoon saw far less rain than usual which allowed much easier access as we travelled around Pune doing great community action projects. These included teaching crafts for income-generating projects for high density urban dwellers and village women, painting facilities, developing English skills with children and holding a children's camp. All in all, a very satisfying final Monsoon for me personally in India. I will depart Sangam in late November and so say farewell, fir mélange and thanks for the opportunity to have been a part of your lives.

Sally Thornton
 World Centre manager

"Our World Our Home"

'Our World, Our Home', the July event saw a good example of cooperation between countries. Groups from the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka participated in a variety of community projects and travelled to Sri Lanka to work on further projects there. Their itinerary was planned in conjunction with the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association (SLGGA). Worcestershire's connection with SLGGA started some years ago with a long-term development project for a few individual Guiders. Their enthusiasm to maintain and expand the links means that there is an ongoing cultural interchange and the opportunity to make a positive difference together. "It was really exciting to be together with the Sri Lankan group at last after so much fundraising and preparation. I am sure that the wonderful experiences of the Sri Lankan and the UK groups will create a long-lasting impression on both associations as the new skills and ideas acquired are passed on to other leaders in their home countries," said Gail Tatcher, the leader of the UK contingent. "It would be great if other countries could do the same to support those who have fewer opportunities to participate in such events," she adds.



Community Volunteer Program

The Community Volunteer Programme (CVP), started in September 2004, provides a unique opportunity for those searching for longer-term volunteer opportunities. Through CVP, adult members of WAGGGS have the opportunity to volunteer with social organisations in Pune for three months while participating in a complementary educational program at Sangam, which includes a two-week orientation, weekly language lessons, cultural lessons, and facilitated reflection.

In the last four years we have had participants from countries ranging from Denmark, Ireland and the UK to Australia and Korea. They have worked with local organisations like Akanksha, Anand Gram, Door Step School, Maher, Mobile Crèche and Rashmi School. This programme is run twice in a year - September to November and January to March and gives a great opportunity to explore Pune, a city where history and modernization go together.

"A fantastic way to experience the diversities of Indian culture, make life long friendships, really feel at home and much much more! I wouldn't have changed it for anything."
Susannah Hodge (UK) 05-06



The CVP was an incredible experience for me. Personally, the challenge helped me grow immensely as an individual, and I made meaningful lifelong friendships. Professionally, it opened doors - it helped me get into Law School and secure a human rights internship! I can now speak with knowledge and passion about women's rights in rural India.

Allison Sephton (Canada) 06-07

Allison A life changing experience! The tears on the teachers faces when we left and the children's cries for us to stay dug deep into my heart and have made me even more determined that one day, not too long in the future, I will return to India and work again in an organization such as Mobile Crèches which really needs and can benefit so much from people giving up their time to volunteer with them.

06-07

Rachel Mason (UK)



Rachel



If anything in my life has set to push me to do things that are outside of my safety zone this was it. CVP gave me an opportunity to develop in life with my career, friends that will always be very special to me and above all memories that will last a life time. The CVP was a dream come true."

Naomi Jeffs (UK)06-07

Naomi

"Sow a Seed" - Trefoil Scholarship

The project involves raising funds for scholarships to assist young women to take part in the Sangam Community Volunteer Programme for more details visit www.trefoilguilduk.org.uk

Programme is FIVE Years Old in 2009

Sangam's Community Volunteer Programme gave me the opportunity to experience everything I wanted and more, including the opportunity to visit one of the four World Centres and to immerse myself in another culture with all that entails - travel, language, food and customs.

My experience working within Door Step School taught me that teaching is about communicating and interacting with my students and colleagues. My students, teachers and their families opened their hearts and homes, thus enabling me to understand so much more about Indian culture.



Mary T

Sangam is that haven of support away from home. With the support of its staff and volunteers, you also get the opportunity to meet, live, work with many international Girl Guides and Girl Scouts learning more about their cultures and habits.

Following my time as a Community Volunteer, I had the chance to work at Sangam for a year as the Event Administrator. My self-confidence grew in communicating with others and I gained on the job experience in understanding the wider aspect of WAGGGS - advocating for the rights of girls and young women and developing a variety of leadership skills.

On my return home last April, I was fortunate to return to my job as a civil servant. Currently I am looking into returning to study at night, I can't wait to get involved again with Guiding within Ireland and to encourage more Guides and Guiders to discover Sangam.

Congratulations to Sangam and all its team for making this programme so special and I hope it will continue for many more years to come.

Mary Theresa Hally. (CVP 06-07 & Event Administrator 07-08)

In September we welcomed four volunteers from Denmark, Ireland and UK. They are working with Door Step School and Mobile Crèche.

"The perfect way of living in the International bubble of Sangam while being an active part of the surrounding society" Johanna Nyman (Finland) CVP September '08.

Next year the CVP will be five years old and our celebration time will be

Programme II from 20 August to 13 November.

Come and be part of this successful and growing programme. For information and application forms, visit Sangam's website.

Amazing experiences—volunteers wanted!

[Community Volunteer programme](#)

Application deadline for 2009 –2010

1 March '09

Full House During Monsoon.....

This Monsoon season we had three major events featuring community action at Sangam. At 'Action in the Community' we hosted 49 participants from Denmark, India, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the USA. There was great diversity, not only in the range of countries but also ages, which definitely added to the atmosphere of the event.

Participants joined in four different projects that aimed to make a difference in various fields: combat poverty by teaching quilting to women from a slum area with Deep Griha; provide teaching aids for children of migrant workers living on construction sites with Mobile Crèche; decorate a room for small children to use at Muslim Girl's Orphanage and paint the dining room of a women's shelter at Bahijay Hitay Trust.

The largest event of the season was 'Our World, Our Home' with 59 participants from India, England, Northern Ireland, Peru and Sri Lanka. One of the British groups sponsored the participation of six girls from Sri Lanka and after the event, they travelled to Sri Lanka together to join in a project, which was an added value to the event. We worked on two large scale community action projects: painting, gardening and crafts at Anand Gram (Leprosy Rehabilitation Residential Centre) and painting, health and craft workshops at Ishwari (a rural youth project for young women). The participants were very enthusiastic about their projects and keen to learn about WAGGGS and Sangam.

At 'You, Me, English!' our 51 participants enhanced their leadership skills through running two children's camps, as well as learning about Indian culture in this 12-day event. The girls worked in groups to provide local children from two schools with the opportunity to be more confident when speaking in English. Other highlights included a visit from local children, Bollywood dancing and swimming.



Sally Says..... Phir Melenge !

'Say when will, we ever meet again,
Say where and I'll meet you right there
Say why do, we have to say goodbye
Say when, say where, say why...

These are words to one of my favourite Guiding songs which is often sung at closing ceremonies at Sangam. As I prepare to leave this very special place, I think of all the memories, challenges and successes that have been part of my life here. The past six years have been some of the most amazing years of my life, as I have been involved in the lives of so many of you who have visited, volunteered, worked and stayed in our home in India, Sangam.

To all of you I say thank you for the experiences, your generosity and that fabulous spirit of Sangam that shines through and touches anyone who has been a part of this remarkable World Centre. It is truly a place where international Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting is at its best!

I wish all of you the very best in the future and that wherever our lives take us perhaps our paths will cross again.

Go well and safely

May Sangam be ever with you (as it will always be with me!)

Sally Thornton World Centre manager (2002 -2008)



*Amazing Sangam experience
Volunteers wanted at Sangam
Application deadline for 2009 -2010
31st December '08*

HURRY!
Book now!

It's never too late to consider booking for an event at Sangam. Why not attend one of the many exciting events coming soon?

Remember—groups, families, individuals—all are welcome!

It's a great opportunity to meet people from different countries.

WAGGGS Advocacy Seminar I — Women issues (7 days) March 3 – 9, 2009.

Develop skills in advocacy while gaining knowledge and experience of a global issue which faces women and girls today in India. Visit our community partners to learn about the work being done in India, and share your own experiences with participants from other regions of the world. Use the topic as a foundation for understanding WAGGGS' three key advocacy words –*educate, do, speak*. Create an advocacy plan to put into place and prepare to work with your Member Organisation back home. Celebrate International Women's Day with new Guiding, Scouting and Indian friends!

Sangam News

Sneha Patwardhan, a founding member of the committee to establish Sangam, passed away peacefully in June after a long illness. She will be remembered as a very warm and generous personality who loved Sangam.



Judy Harris from Australia has been appointed to the World Centres Committee as Sangam's Centre Team Leader

Girls worldwide say "Discover Sangam" has been etched in the new glass partition in the admin area of reception



Current Staff and Volunteers

World Centre manager - Sally Thornton - Australia

Deputy Centre manager – Darshana Pawaskar - India

Programme manager – Ezster Toth - Hungary

Event administrator – Priyanka Halunde - India

Assistant Programme manager- Kim Berman - USA

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**Watch this space for details of our
New Centre Manager.**