



Sangelee Spirit

Welcome 2008

Did You Know ?

- * Yahdei has a new look.
- * We have a new glow sign board next to our main gate.
- * We have a purple car.

Read more.....

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Participants experience

"Really enjoyed seeing local Scouts & Guides – gave us a feel for the movement in India".

Artistic Expressions 08 participant

As we come to the end of another event season, we look over all that our volunteers have accomplished during their stay with us over the past three, six and ten months. We are filled with admiration and appreciation for all they have done to contribute to the outstanding programmes held at Sangam. What amazing opportunities they and our Community volunteers have had to grow and develop as responsible citizens of the world and to discover their potential!

This is a season for goodbye's! We also very sadly say farewell to CindyLynn – CL, our very valued Programme manager of the past two years. She has been an incredible role model to the many volunteers and participants who have passed through our doors during her term. Also moving on is Mary T, our highly respected Event administrator for the past 12 months. Now where would we and all our participants be without her in-

credible patience and admin skills?

And from Anne Rise, our very supportive Centre Team leader for the past 3 years. From those of us who remain, we wish all of them well and hope that our paths will cross again some day. Read their goodbye's inside.

Now we move on to the lazy, hazy days of summer Indian style! Did I say lazy? First there is the annual painting and 'spring' cleaning of Sangam, repairing the retaining wall behind the dorms, then build the new kitchen shelter on the campsite, new air conditioning units for volunteer bedrooms and more! Lazy – I don't think so! However there is always the swimming pool which has recently been renovated and the mangoes – oh the mangoes! **Sally T—WCM**

Slan agus go raibh maith agut

Slan agus go raibh maith agut - Goodbye and thank you!!

As I watch the sun set around me with its amber glow, I think of the past year and a half with a wealth of happy memories. I remember all my sisters in Guiding from around the world that I've encountered; their memories and laughter echo in each room of Sangam especially my didi's and my choti bhene of Room 11.

This Limerick is dedicated to all whom supported me. Without you all this time here would have not been as memorable.

There once was a gal Mary T
 Who first came as a CVP
 Though Irelands her home
 She wanted to roam
 She worked at Door Step School,
 Dattawadi
 Her four and a half months went too fast
 A chance came up that couldn't be passed
 She decided to stay



Hence became the EA

For her Indian experience to last

She learned to swim in the pool

Monsoon brought the rains which were cool

Manisha she became

Her Hindi good name

For Sangam's Indian food she did drool

Manisha, her confidence did grow
 In front of large groups she would go

She helped all the guests

Took care of the rest

Now Leadership and Advocacy she knows

Many sisters she gained in Guiding

In Rickshaws she did lots of riding

Myriad of Saris she wore

To feasts and festivals galore

Now India she has explored, her horizons ever expanding.

Mary Theresa Hally (Ireland)

Phir Melange ! CL

"All my life's a circle, sunrise and sundown. The moon rolls through the night time, as the daybreak comes around ... Seasons spinning 'round again, the years keep rolling by..." Lyrics from an old favourite song seem to fit what I'm feeling these days. Sangam's 2006 and 2008 World Thinking Day events serve as the bookends of my time here. I have experienced enough in these 26 months to write a novel, and if I titled each chapter? Perhaps...



- A.** Advocacy seminars on refugees, trafficking, leadership, HIV and AIDS – and Aruna, of course!
- B.** Beginning... again, and again, and again, and again with each new group of programme and community volunteers
- C.** Calmness called upon to handle so many situations, even those involving (fire) crackers
- D.** Depth of differences between cultures, and Durga – who represents so many similarities
- E.** Endearing energy of Azoba-Datta, and entertaining English word exchanges
- F.** Fate in finding myself here (a goal from ten years earlier) and celebrating 40th and other birthdays of people, places, gods and goddesses
- G.** Ganesh's Ganapati, good tidings, gulab jamun, and giving gratitude for so much generosity
- H.** Holi, holiness, and whole happiness, plus 'Ha ha' & 'Ho ho' (Yes yes in Hindi and Marathi)
- I.** Incredible Indian food and ironing – neither of which I look forward to doing myself again
- J.** Juliette Low Seminars and Justine's Bollywood dancing while pregnant
- K.** Kathak dancing, Kingfishers – beautiful birds and great airlines too!
- L.** Learning how to be a true leader, and loving work at Pax Lodge in London
- M.** My marriage mangalsutra, monsoons, May mangoes, mosquitoes, managing manic situations, Manuski Centre meditations...
- N.** Nighwatchman Mangesh, Nivedita Guides and "...Na?" (my favourite saying of Minakshi, our sweetest new Guide!)
- O.** OB-PS, Outbound, and so many more outstanding opportunities – including Helen Storrow at Our Chalet
- P.** Panchgani, palak paneer, and providing memorable projects with community partners
- Q.** Questions, questioning, and queries from volunteers, myself, and so many participants
- R.** Rickshaws – no need to say more!
- S.** Sangam family: "Same-same, but different" – that really says so much...
- T.** Tarabai's new rooftop terrace, toe rings, "TK" with the ever-present Indian head wobble, and future travels...
- U.** Unique apartments' flat and our extended Jhaveri family there
- V.** Volunteers, 'voice of young women', values, "Veg?" always asked before "Non-veg?"
- W.** Working with wonderful women from around the world, around the world, and waving goodbye to our guests as they disappear beyond Sangam's gates
- X.** Xmas not equalling Christmas, which sparked valuable discussions about language, religion, and spirituality
- Y.** You, who are reading this, for without you I would not have had this amazing experience
- Z.** "Zed" and the many ZZZs in my future to make up for all the sleep I gladly gave to be Programme manager at Sangam for two years!

As my time here draws to a close, I wish only for more people to have the chance to share the Sangam spirit. In Anu Karkare's words, I hope that I have succeeded "to make others happier than when they found us." May our paths circle round and cross again at Sangam, or on other global adventures...

Advocacy Seminar: Voices Raised for Peace

September 6-12, 2008

Now a French Event only Scholarships Available

“Think About Water”



The arrival of 500 Bharat Scouts and Guides in all different shades of uniforms and bright costumes brought World Thinking Day to life at Sangam.

After a traditional ceremony and honouring of Lady and Lord Baden-Powell, event participants, Programme and Community volunteers from Canada, UK, Japan, Denmark, Korea and USA shared fun and friendship with the Guides and Scouts. The children shared performances from



states of India and event participants from their home countries. The Laughing Club, the presentation of national anthem.

After a well deserved siesta with birthday celebrations and with the WAGGGS Thinking Day 2008 the day with a reflective ceremony followed by a candlelit sharing circle means for each of us.



different participants sang songs and played games morning ceremony ended with the awards, and the singing of the Indian

break, participants had a fun afternoon tea games – in line with

theme ‘Think about water’. We ended in the Sangam Thinking Day courtyard, where we learned what Thinking

The Warwickshire group from the UK kept their own Thinking Day tradition alive by renewing their Promise. When the event came to a close, our non-Guiding participant from the UK-Warwickshire group was inspired by the Guiding spirit and made her Promise before leaving Sangam.

See you again Anne.....

Getting together about an important issue is living WAGGGS’ Mission.

When I was a very new Girl Guide many years ago, my Guide Journal told great stories of the new WAGGGS World Centre that was being built in India... very far away from Denmark and for a 11 year old girl. I read and dreamed that one day I would see that place... I visited Our Chalet, Our Cabaña, Pax Lodge, and finally in 2006 came the wonderful moment when I could visit, stay and work at Sangam. From the moment the car took me to the front entrance, I was sold. And the people that welcomed me spread the passion. This is also my place... Since then staff members, volunteers, surrounding Sangam supporters, and other visitors helped me seeing this place from different perspectives, and I will keep on advocating for my Girl Guide dream – that all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts will have the opportunity of sharing my thoughts and my Indian home. The message is clear – we all do have something to talk about and care for, because Sangam surely makes a great difference in the life of the participants, volunteers and staff. I have had a great opportunity of visiting Sangam and of following the programmes being carried through the world from this remarkable spot in India.

The journey continues, Sangam lives on, the participants keep on coming and leaving – and I realize that to a centre of advocacy, leaving is more important than coming. Coming means getting to-

gether and sharing internally, but leaving means spreading and sharing with the rest of the world, in the hope that this sharing has an impact of the development of our Mission: to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.



My own personal journey has made me leave the Sangam centre team

for another WAGGGS goal – to develop and advocate for the WAGGGS Leadership Development Programme. I will do this with my experiences from Sangam and the World Centres Committee in mind.

I will miss Sangam but as a friend told me: It is much better to miss something – that means you still care for it – than to feel ready to finish a part of your life.

So may I hope for everybody that you will all be longing for more Sangam – and that you will spread the messages your heart is burning for! And that you will be able to come back...

May Sangam be ever with you!

**Anne Rise, Denmark
Centre Team Leader—2006-2008**

HURRY! Book

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.

**Discover Your Potential I
(17 days)**

January 10 – 26, 2009

In this extended community action project, learn about and work with marginalised women and children in our community. Share with them the skills of advocating for their rights. Empower our community partners through hands-on activities about WAGGGS' three key advocacy words: *educate, do, speak*. Be inspired to make your own community a better place with memorable experiences in an Indian context. Get to know the colourful city of Pune during visits to cultural and spiritual sites. Enjoy local art, food, and styles – traditional and modern – as you share the spirit of Sangam and international Guiding and Scouting.

**SANGAM WORLD CENTRE—INDIA
WORLD ASSOCIATION OF GIRL
GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS**

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Sangam News

You can't miss Sangam even in the night as we have a new glow sign



Mummy Jhaveri, a very special friend to all at Sangam who sadly departed this life on March 23

Staff & volunteers with the new Sangam Car



Change over for Sangam's shop "YAHDEI"



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

Programme assistants:

Yuko Sagawa - Japan
Hilary Thomson -USA
Amanda Slade Binecz - USA
Denise Howden - Canada

Amazing experiences—volunteers wanted!
Community Volunteer programme
Application deadline for January—March 2009