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[obps@wagggs.org](mailto:obps@wagggs.org)



Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS)



# Olave Baden-Powell Society's Quarterly Newsletter July 2021 Contents

1. OB-PS President's Welcome
2. Together We Rise: OB-PS 2021 Event
3. OB-PS Supporter Recognition Awards
4. What's Happening in WAGGGS?
  - a. WAGGGS Giving Day
  - b. Your Virtual Engagement Opportunities
  - c. WAGGGS 37th World Conference and Global Campfire
  - d. Red Pride Week
  - e. Free Being Me
5. OB-PS News and Updates
  - a. Your Coordinators and Ambassadors
  - b. Janet Hopkins, In Memoriam
6. OB-PS Board Member Spotlight
  - a. Chris Burton
  - b. Lena Mitts
7. WAGGGS Staff Spotlight, Paul Bigmore, Head of Programmes

# OB-PS President's Welcome

Dear Friends, Welcome! Bienvenue! مرحبا! Bienvenido!

In the April newsletter I said “Being together matters”. Together We Rise, our first OB-PS virtual event, showed this to be true. We were thrilled that 339 women and men from 31 different countries registered to attend the event and were able to join us at all times of the day and night. The virtual platform allowed greater accessibility and flexibility to participate; with many supporters attending an OB-PS event for the very first time. We greatly appreciate everyone who was able to join us.



It is hard to pick a highlight - hearing from our inspirational young women and other speakers, the Gala, new and upgrading supporter's receptions, the excitement of the auction, learning more about WAGGGS or meeting friends old and new at the networking sessions. Over the three days we began by watching the sunrise and together we rose by exceeding our fundraising target of £50,000. Your generosity was extraordinary and every donation made a difference.

To the amazing planning team and all those that brought the event to life - volunteers and staff, we express our thanks.

The 37th World Conference “Walking Together, Walking Far” is upon us, and over recent days it has been exciting to see and connect with many OB-PS supporters through the conference platform. The discussions on the proposed motions and the orientation sessions have been enlightening and expertly run.

Of particular interest for me was hearing from the young women speaking to the motions aimed at significantly increasing the number of young women standing for governance and decision-making positions. These young women continue to inspire and are an excellent reminder of why we choose to support WAGGGS to be a Movement by, and for, every and any girl.

Susan Campbell OAM





# Together We Rise

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL SOCIETY  
VIRTUAL EVENT 2021

17<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021

June 17th – 19th saw over 300 OB-PS Supporters and Guests come together for the first ever OB-PS online virtual event, Together We Rise.

- → 339 Participants
- → 31 Countries Represented
- → £64,500 Raised through your Generosity

The event gave supporters the chance to connect during a time when for many of us travel was not possible. We heard inspiring stories from Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from each of the WAGGGS regions about the impact your support has had on their lives. We took a virtual trip to Bergen for the sights, sounds and stories from Norway, and we also got to hear from amazing women from around the world who shared their experience of rising to challenges (like climbing mount Everest!) and using resilience, and teamwork to overcome difficulties. We were joined by WAGGGS and OB-PS leadership, Heidi Jokinen, Anna Segall and Susan Campbell for timely updates of what is happening in WAGGGS and OB-PS and the vision for the future.

The OB-PS Board Events Working Group are now considering all event feedback and looking at the future of events and what these look like for OB-PS. Thank you to all participants for your engagement, support and generosity. It was **your** contributions during the event that helped make it such a success.

For anyone who was not able to attend the event, but would like to purchase a limited edition scarf, you can by clicking on the image to the right.



Date for the Diary, OB-PS Annual Event, Malaysia 2021:  
20 to 24 October 2022 (5 days , 4 nights)



# OB-PS Supporter Recognition Awards

During the Together We Rise event, we had the opportunity to welcome new Supporters to the Society, as well as acknowledge and celebrate those Supporters who have reached new Giving Awards through their ongoing generosity.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank two additional OB-PS Supporters for their generosity on recently reaching new Giving Levels.

## **Barbara Putney, USA, Global Award**

Barbara is a lifetime member of GSUSA and has been an active girl and adult volunteer for over 40 years. As a girl, her favourite Girl Scout activity was camping, be it in a troop house or at a primitive site and this interest has continued to present day. With a degree in microbiology and trained as an electron microscopist, she has delighted in girls' activities with STEM as a Girl Scout Gold Award mentor. Joining OB-PS has opened up even more opportunities for her to experience the impact of our world-wide Movement on the development of girls and young women, and she is very grateful for the ability to support these efforts.



## **Zaha Rina Zahari, Malaysia, Princess Benedikte Award**

A life time of guiding experience began when Zaha Rina joined brownies at the age of six in 1967 in Malaysia. When she went to college in the UK in 1979 she continued in the Girl Guide Movement and became a Brownie Leader at the St Chad's Church Brownie pack in Leeds from 1980 to 1984. Her mother Hendon, was Chief Commissioner of Girl Guides Malaysia for 13 years and gifted her with an OB-PS membership in 1992.

Zaha Rina first joined the OB-PS Board from 1993-1996 and in 1996 organised the OB-PS event in Malaysia. In 2008 she organised a trip for OB-PS Patron and Board to Sharjah, UAE. She has enjoyed over 50 years as a Girl Guide and believes in the positive impact that WAGGGS has had in her life and millions of other young women worldwide. Having a global career as a Financial Consultant and sitting on Multinational Boards, she was appointed a consultant to OB-PS Board in 2019, and is now a Princess Benedikte awardee and a major donor to Friends of Asia Pacific.





# SAVE THE DATE WAGGGS GIVING DAY

15-16 September 2021  
#YourGiftForHerFuture

YOUR GIFT  
FOR HER  
FUTURE



On the 15th - 16th September 2021, WAGGGS will run its very first Giving Day, hoping to raise over £100,000 for the Movement in just 36 hours.

A Giving Day is a digitally driven fundraising and engagement campaign with the goal of bringing together different supporter communities to donate to particular causes within a one day period. During this 36 hours, all corners of the global Movement will come together to support WAGGGS. The theme for the Giving Day is: Your Gift for her Future – we want to inspire and encourage supporters to give a gift to help build a better future for the next generation of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.



1. **Follow** WAGGGS social media accounts to keep up to date with the Giving Day excitement
2. **Share and like** WAGGGS posts to help with engagement



@wagggsworld



@wagggsworld



@wagggsworld

3. **Donate** - All Giving Day donations will be matched pound for pound, meaning your donation will be doubled!

4. Sign up to be a **Giving Day Ambassador!** We are currently looking for Giving Day Ambassadors to work with us to help with pre and on the day communications - use your voice and help spread the word. As an Ambassador you will access to a portal of resources which will help with your communications.

As a Giving Day Ambassador you will be the driving force behind the campaign, we are looking to have Ambassadors representing each WAGGGS region, supporter and volunteer group! We will work with you very closely and be there every step of the way in the lead up to the campaign. This Giving Day there will be a purpose built Ambassadors portal, to make communications, updates, and Ambassadors support as easy as possible.

To sign up as a Giving Day Ambassador and view the Ambassador's portal and resources available, please visit [givingday.wagggsworld.org/ambassador](https://givingday.wagggsworld.org/ambassador).

If you would like further information on what's involved being a Giving Day Ambassador, please email [kelly.taylor@wagggsworld.org](mailto:kelly.taylor@wagggsworld.org)

# Thank You!



# #YourGiftForHerFuture

## Giving Day Virtual Events

WAGGGS will be holding an online event series for all WAGGGS and OB-PS supporters for each of the projects that you can support this Giving Day. These events will show you the impact your support can have, and give you more information about the projects you can support.

### Capacity Building of Member Organisations

**When:** Thursday August 12, 2021. 09:00 - 10:00 (London time) and 15:00 - 16:00 (London time)

**What is it about?** The Capacity Building team helps deliver tailored support to WAGGGS Member Organisations to keep them thriving, united and growing. The Movement is fortunate to have passionate and committed volunteers and staff delivering this type of support and learning. During this webinar hear from the WAGGGS Capacity Building team about how they have had to adapt and manage through the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure they could continue to help support Member Organisations with the skills they need to be the best they can be for their Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

You will hear from one of our Member Organisations who is receiving capacity building support and how it has been crucial in helping them strengthen their operations to better serve their girls and young women. There will also be an opportunity to speak directly to the team and find out how with your help, the Capacity Building team can continue to provide Member Organisations with the practical support needed to rebuild the Movement.

[Click here](#) to sign up for 09:00 London time

[Click here](#) to sign up for 15:00 London time

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### Other virtual opportunities:

**WAGGGS Webinar:** Get to know the WAGGGS Leadership Framework

**When:** Wednesday August 11, 2021. 09:00 - 10:00 (London time) and 15:00 - 16:00 (London time)

**What is it about?** The Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement has been empowering girls and women as leaders for over 100 years. From the moment a child promises to “do their best”, they step into a values-based leadership development journey that nurtures and celebrates who they are, and what they can bring to the world around them. The Leadership Framework webinar will provide an overview of the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Leadership Model that WAGGGS designed in partnership with the University of Exeter. The Model is based on the “Five Minds of a Manager”; a well evidenced and internationally effective leadership model. The overview will cover the core concepts of the Model as well as the Leadership Mindsets.

To register your place, please email [obps@waggs.org](mailto:obps@waggs.org) with your full name, email address and which session you would like to join (either 9:00 or 15:00 London time).

# WAGGGS 37th World Conference



This week has seen the 37th WAGGGS World Conference taking place virtually, with over 1300 delegates joining. We hope all OB-PS representatives enjoy the conference, and congratulate those OB-PS Supporters who have been elected for the WAGGGS World Board: Jess Bond, Girlguiding UK, Fiona Bradley, GirlGuiding New Zealand, and Candela Gonzalez, Asociación Guías Argentinas, who is part of the newly formed Latin America OB-PS Coordinators team.

At previous World Conferences you will have had the opportunity to buy and swap badges with other attendees. To ensure you don't miss out WAGGGS have designed a badge to mark the occasion, please click on the badge above to order yours.

## Saturday 31 July, 15:00 UTC - World Conference Global Campfire

Connect with other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world to celebrate the Movement you love at this year's annual Global Campfire, where we will be Walking Together and Walking Far. Enjoy an online journey to all five World Centres and feel the diversity of our Movement. World Conference registered participants will join through the World Conference platform and everybody can join directly via the WAGGGS YouTube channel.



**Menstrual Hygiene Day** on May 28th saw a moment of celebration as Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world used their creativity, voices, and actions to advocate for better menstrual hygiene for all women and girls. The Movement came together for a week of activities to celebrate Red Pride Week 2021. The Ghana Girl Guides Association (GGGA) launched their #DontTaxMyPeriod social media and letter writing campaign, appealing to the government to fulfil its promise of making sanitary pads tax-free for young women and girls in Ghana.

Phase 2 of **Free Being Me (FBM)** has officially come to an end. The programme has spanned over 125 countries and reached over 6.5 million young women and girls with life changing body confidence and self-esteem education, and advocacy. Recent evaluations showed that 9 out of 10 Leaders would recommend FBM to other Leaders and that 88% of girls and young women felt the programme improved their self-esteem! WAGGGS have now entered the third phase of their long-standing partnership with the Dove Self Esteem Project, and the hope is that over 50 different Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Associations will take part allowing WAGGGS to support an additional 3.6 million young people. With the support of the British Film Institute, the 2020/2021 cohort of Body Confidence Advocates created some films about their personal advocacy projects which we are thrilled to be able to share with you today. You can view the films by [clicking here](#).



# OB-PS News and Updates

**Coordinator and Ambassadors updates:** since the last newsletter in April, we have had two changes to OB-PS National Coordinators. Hiroko Doi from Japan has now finished her term, and we welcome Kyoko Akiba as the new Japanese Coordinator. Ginny Radford has also now completed her term in New Zealand and Tracey Peoples has taken over the role of Coordinator.

**November 'Growing Our Network':** You, our supporters, are the essence of the Society! Only because of people like you, we have grown our network to over 1700 supporters and made a tremendous difference to the work of WAGGGS. Thank you for being a valued and generous supporter. There are many ways to support, many of you have showed your generosity during our appeals and events, but giving is not the only way to make a difference. Sharing your experience with others about the Olave Baden-Powell Society, and the role WAGGGS plays in lives of todays and tomorrows girls and young women can be very powerful.

This November, we will highlight our global network and the opportunity to join it. As you can imagine the global pandemic has decreased our growth and we need to come together to make a difference. The opportunities provided during the Giving Day celebration events, are a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends and family to learn more about the work and impact of WAGGGS. By inviting friends to join these virtual opportunities, you too can play a role in growing our network. Further information about the November OB-PS Recruitment Month and how you can play a part in its success will be shared in the coming months.

**The loss of Janet Hopkins, former OB-PS Staff Member:** We were all saddened to learn of the unexpected death in early May of Janet Hopkins, former OB-PS Executive for WAGGGS. Janet joined WAGGGS in the 1990s, from a senior administrative role in another not-for-profit. She became Administration Director, managing the work around four World Conferences, the Constitutions Committee, and the central office at the World Bureau. Later she took on responsibility for OB-PS.

As a colleague, she was always supportive and fun to work with, and her smile lit up a room. After retiring from her full-time WAGGGS role, she continued to support OB-PS and its Board, working mostly from home. With her keen mind, eye for detail, sense of humour, and absolute commitment to girls and young women through OB-PS, she was a strong influence on the structure and ways of work of the Society for over a decade. She was made an OB-PS supporter in 2009 to crystallise that commitment. Married to Norman Owen for over 30 years, their 'retirement' in the village of Keevil, Wiltshire, opened up a wide range of different volunteer roles that supported and enhanced the life of the village and its residents. That village and WAGGGS recently paid tribute to a special person, friend, and colleague. She will be much missed.

In Memoriam written by Ginny Radford,  
OB-PS Supporter, New Zealand





## OB-PS Board Member Spotlight, Chris Burton

I have been involved with Girl Guides of Canada since I was six years old. I went through the entire girl program, receiving the Gold Cord upon completing Rangers. I have held many different positions with Girl Guides, continuing to be a Unit Leader until I became Chief Commissioner of Girl Guides of Canada.

I joined OB-PS in 2015 and have been on the OB-PS Board of Directors for five years starting in Sangam, India. My twin daughters are also OB-PS Supporters. My mother never was involved with Girl Guides but wanted to support myself and my daughters in our Guiding journey, so when she passed away, money from her legacy paid for my daughter's memberships. We have been fortunate to have travelled to OB-PS functions together and shared the phenomenal experiences of meeting Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from other countries. My daughters are both heavily involved with Girl Guides as Unit Leaders and Commissioners at the Area and Provincial levels.

As Chief Commissioner for Girl Guides of Canada and later as Canadian International Commissioner, I had the privilege to participate in several World and Western Hemisphere Conferences and started to understand the impact that WAGGGS has on girls and young women. At these conferences we were able to support other Member Organisations (MOs) by providing funds to pay their membership fees and by supporting a country in becoming a Full Members of WAGGGS. This ignited my passion of supporting other MOs in their journey.

I think I truly started to understand the terrific impact that WAGGGS has on girls and young women and how important this work was for global communities when I heard Sister Lucy speak in India. I was overwhelmed by Sister Lucy's story and how her work has impacted so many lives. I also was inspired by the work of Green Tara in trying to improve the lives of girls and young women through education and apprenticeship skill training. These stories spoke to me and the need to provide financial support through OB-PS to continue the work that WAGGGS has started in so many countries.

Being on the OB-PS Board provided me with the background information to really see the impact of OB-PS funding. The funds raised through OB-PS are unrestricted funds that can be used for projects when the need arises. I heard how WAGGGS was supporting Girl Guides in Malaysia protesting Child Brides and due to OB-PS funding could send a team to help drive this movement.

I believe that WAGGGS has grown in many ways throughout this last pandemic year. We may have less members worldwide, less staff and less funding but as an organization, WAGGGS has made the necessary adjustments to step forward in become a leader in the global community. Much of this has happened due to the continued financial support of OB-PS members. Thank you!

# OB-PS Board Member Spotlight, Lena Mitts



Greetings from Helsinki, Finland. The story about me joining the Society resembles the story of so many of you. The decision is rarely made overnight but is the result of persuasion by active members of the Society.

Many of you may know Doris Stockmann, one of the founding members of OB-PS and former chair of the WAGGGS World Board. She kept inviting me to Finnish OB-PS gatherings and asked me to join the planning team for the OB-PS annual event in Tampere, 2015. To ensure that I understood the concept of an annual event, I registered as a guest for the event in Hong Kong, 2014. That event marked the beginning of my OB-PS journey. I must admit that in Hongkong I concentrated more on socializing with new friends than on the actual substance of the event, and what fun I had.

My OB-PS story continued with the election to the OB-PS board at the annual event in India, 2016. My daughter Ida Ringbom joined the Society at the event in Gilwell Park, 2017 and my husband Johan Ringbom in Tokyo, 2018. However, joining OB-PS is not only about persuasion, certainly not. It is not about payback either, as we do not owe anything to the Guiding and Scouting movement regardless of everything we have experienced. I joined OB-PS because I believe that WAGGGS is the guarantor of a uniform and international Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement with Member Organisations honouring the same mission and vision upholding our inherent values. Although the guiding and scouting activities differ depending on local circumstances, the educational programme of WAGGGS' Member Organisations contributes to achieving the vision of a better and safer world for girls and young women.

When Susan Campbell was elected President of OB-PS, the work and engagement of the Board rose to a new level. Thanks to Susan, the good mixture of personalities and skills on the Board, and the quick adaption to digital working methods, the Board has accomplished more during the last 18 months than during several previous years. As I am the head of a law firm in Helsinki and working very long days in my office, I am not able to devote as much time to board work as some of my fellow board members. However, everybody's contribution is important and I am convinced that the fundraising result of OB-PS will soon reflect the active input of many of the board members. And not to forget our staff – without Inga and Seren OB-PS would achieve very little. I admire their energy, devotion and patience.

Although the main focus of OB-PS is and shall be fundraising, the social aspect and all new contacts is an enjoyable spin-off. I do hope that we will be able to arrange the event in Malaysia in 2022. See you there!



# WAGGGS Staff Spotlight

## Paul Bigmore, Head of Programmes

I took my first job at the World Bureau as the Fundraising Manager in 2008. A few weeks earlier I had never heard of WAGGGS and was considering another role at London Zoo. I had been a Cub and Scout in the UK, so had some limited personal experience. At the point of starting my new role, I had a baby daughter. I thought, I would be happy to work for an organisation that helps girls reach their full potential. That baby is about to turn 14 and her younger sister is a Guide where we live in south London.



In my early years at WAGGGS Janet Hopkins and Annelise Pouliquen, both sadly no longer with us, were the staff team for OB-PS. For a time, Joanne Joyce was the OB-PS staff lead and a young intern named Inga joined us in the Fundraising team – I think some of you may know her. OB-PS members were important volunteers within the wider fundraising work. I worked closely with Helen Laird, together we successfully fundraised for the World Conference in Edinburgh. Elaine Paterson, Vibeke Riemer and Helle Bechgaard were key members of our first WAGGGS Fund Development Committee.

In 2016, I changed roles from Deputy Director of Fund Development to a new role – Head of Global Programmes. A year later, I had the pleasure of speaking at an OB-PS gathering in Gilwell Park about our global programmes. It has been such an honour to see our global programmes grow and improve over the last five years. The WAGGGS I joined had only a handful of organisational partners funding our programme offer. Now we have a strong list of donors supporting programmes such as Free Being Me, Girl Powered Nutrition, Surf Smart, the YESS Girls Movement and our Stop the Violence campaign.

Our global programme offer has evolved over time. We have got better at understanding what Member Organisations need from WAGGGS and how to work as equal partners with them and our external donors. We've developed ways to co-create programmes with girls and volunteer leaders, along with the world's leading topic experts. Our monitoring and evaluation of programmes is stronger now and all our programmes follow a vigorous results-based management approach.

The last eighteen months have been tough for girls, for our Movement and for the global programmes team. So much of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting has relied on in-person meetings that have been prevented by national lockdowns and pandemic regulations. I've been impressed with the innovative ways that activities have been adapted for online delivery. The new WAGGGS digital platform for learning and community will help us to continue embracing digital solutions.

Nevertheless, I am looking forward to Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting face-to-face activities re-emerging as the pandemic is gradually beaten. I know the girls will continue to bring their energy, creativity and resilience to the challenges around them. I also know OB-PS members will continue to bring your skills and resources, alongside ours in the staff team, to enable those girls and young women to develop their fullest potential. Thank you!