



SPOTLIGHT ON G.B. NORTHERN IRELAND

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COUNTRY

Our country is part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and is also known as Ulster. It is part of the continent of Europe

- Places to visit:** The Giant's Causeway: a natural rock formation of 40,000 huge basalt columns.
 Lough Neagh: the largest freshwater lake in the UK
 The beautiful Mourne Mountains.
 The Titanic Quarter: where the famous ship was built.
- Capital City:** Belfast
- Population:** 1,810,000 with 25% under the age of 16.
- Economy:** Agriculture and manufacturing
- Currency:** 100 pence = £1 one pound sterling
- Language:** English
- Flag:** The Union Flag
- Climate:** Mild and damp: temperatures range from 4° to 14° F

SPOTLIGHT ON A GB MEMBER

Hello GB friends

My name is Rachel, I am 12 years old and I go to GB in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is a beautiful country with lots of green fields and pretty scenery. The weather is very unpredictable because the sun can be shining in the morning and there can be snow in the afternoon!

I live in a semi-detached house with my parents and younger brother Isaac, who is 4 years old. Our house is near the beach. Our favourite meal would be spaghetti bolognese.

I go to school Monday to Friday from 8.40am to 3.10pm. I started school when I was just 4 years old. When I was younger I used to be able to walk to school but now it is an early start for me as I have to get the train at 7.50am and then a bus. My school was founded in 1785 and is the oldest school in Belfast. There are over 1400 pupils, so it is quite a big school.

Every Tuesday evening I go to GB. My GB is held in Newtownabbey Methodist Mission Church and I am a "Senior". I enjoy going to GB because I get to meet up with my friends who don't go to the same school as me and get to mix with girls who are older and younger than me too.. We do lots of activities in GB - scripture, badge work, crafts, squads, marching, dancing - but I really enjoy it when we do a physical activity, as I like doing any type of sport.

My leaders are great and always have something fun organised for us, they even take us to camp! We have a chance to discuss about how our week has been, we can talk about something exciting or fun that has happened to us or we can talk about any worries or concerns that we have. I like it at the end of the night (not just for the hot chocolate that we get!!) but because we get to pray together before we head home. The prayer makes me feel really positive about my week ahead.

Rachel



PHOTO GALLERY

Queens Award Brigaders in Ceremonial Uniform



Explorers Having Fun!



GEMS, the GBNI Youth Forum



The Union Flag





SPOTLIGHT ON G.B. NORTHERN IRELAND

the girls' brigade
girls' lives transformed
god's world enriched



Every GB country around the world has the same:

Aim, Motto, Principles, Badge & Vision

But, look at the GB facts here and spot the similarities and differences between GB in our country and yours!

Our History

An organisation called *'The Girls' Brigade of Ireland'* was founded in Dublin in 1893 by a lady called Margaret Little who was concerned about the physical and spiritual development of girls in her church. After the division of Ireland into two separate jurisdictions in 1921 Northern Ireland established its own national board. *The Girls' Brigade of Ireland* later merged with other organisations to become part of *The Girls' Brigade* as we know it today.

Statistics

Statistics: Number of Companies: 285
Number of Members: 22,000+ (2016 figures)

Age Groups & Sections

Explorers: 3- 8 years Juniors: 8-10 years Seniors: 11-13 years
Brigaders: 4-18 years Associates: 19+

Uniform

Ceremonial uniform is worn for special occasions and includes white open neck short-sleeved blouse, navy tunic or skirt, navy v-neck sweatshirt with metal section badges. The Explorers wear a long sleeved red jersey instead of a blouse. All sections wear black shoes with white socks or black tights. Officers wear a navy suit, white open neck short-sleeved blouse, black tights, and black shoes.

Programme

Our badgework programme is called PSALT which stands for Practical and Spiritual Applications for Living Today. The programme aims to help members of the organization develop holistically and offers a wide choice of subjects under the headings of Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service.

Awards

Explorers can achieve - Bronze, Silver and Gold Explorer stars.
Juniors and Seniors can each work towards Circle Awards one for each of the three years they are in that section
Brigaders: Girls have to attain 40 points from the PSALT Programme in order to earn their the Brigader Brooch
Older girls may also work for the Queens' Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

Activities

Apart from their weekly work in company members may get involved in competitions between different companies. These might include: 5 A-Side Football, Team Games, Choral Speaking, PE and Touch Rugby. There are even competitions for the leaders!! Lots of companies run residential events for their girls like camps and training weekends

Something Special You Should Know About Us!

Recently we have worked with Cinemagic a local International Film and Television organization. The young people had to design a promotional video for GB based around "Being a GB girl in a modern World". We also worked with Helping Hands supporting the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. Explorers decorated hands and the best were made into mobiles to cheer up the hospital where the sick children were.

And Finally An Idea To Share:

In Northern Ireland we eat quite a lot of potatoes. We are famous for our **champ!** Try making it!

You will need: 3 potatoes (per person), ¼ pint milk, a small bunch of chives or scallions (spring onions), butter and salt.

Method: Wash, peel and boil the potatoes until soft. While the potatoes are boiling chop up the scallions, put them in a small saucepan and add the milk, leave until the potatoes are ready. When the potatoes are cooked, mash and season them with salt. Cover and keep warm. Bring the milk and scallions to the boil, pour on to the mashed potatoes and mix well in. Spoon out in heaps onto plates. Make a well in the centre of the potatoes and add a knob of butter. Serve hot. Eat with a fork or spoon and dip the champ into the well of melted butter as you eat.

Find Out More

You can find out more about GB in Northern Ireland from:

web site: www.gbni.co.uk

facebook page: Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland GBNI1

Twitter: Girls' BrigadeNI@GBNI

