



# SPOTLIGHT ON G.B. ENGLAND & WALES

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COUNTRY

### SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COUNTRIES:

Our countries, England and Wales are both part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. They are also part of the continent of Europe.

#### Places to visit:

- Buckingham Palace in London: where the Queen lives.
- Cardiff Bay in Wales: with lovely restaurants, boat trips and attractions
- Tower of London; a medieval castle where the Crown Jewels are kept.
- The Yorkshire Dales: an area of outstanding scenery
- Snowdon: the highest mountain in England and Wales.

**Capital Cities:** London and Cardiff.

**Population:** 57.9 million in England and Wales.

**Economy:** Construction, services, administration and financial.

**Currency:** 100 pence = £1 one pound sterling.

**Language:** English and Welsh

**Flag:** The Union Flag or St Georges' Cross (England) & The Welsh Dragon (Wales)

## SPOTLIGHT ON A GB MEMBER

Hello GB friends

My name is Hannah and I'm 18. I was born and live on the Isle of Wight located in the English Channel. The Isle of Wight is the largest island in England. In 2010 we had a population of 140,500.

I currently live at home with my Mum (Sandra) and my Dad (Mathew). I am an only child and I get along with my parents and extended family really well. A typical day starts off with me getting up for 7:30am I usually leave the house at 8:40am either getting a lift or walking to college for a 9:00am start. I am currently studying Health and Social Care at the local college. I hope to spread my wings and go over to the mainland England as we don't have a university where I live on the island. After college I go round town with my friends or visit my family at the family business that we own here on the island.

My favourite food is anything that contains pasta. I love, love, love anything pasta from lasagna to stuffed pasta. I also like prawn and Marie Rose sauce sandwiches.

In my free time I enjoy playing the piano, reading romance and rom com books, spending time with my friends and family and watching YouTube (Zoella, and Tanya Burr are my favourites). I have attended Girls' Brigade since the age of 4 and I now help lead one of the age groups. I am also a Sunday School leader at the same church where my Girls' Brigade group is based.

My future goal is to become a paediatric nurse and try and make a difference in the care that children receive when they become ill and need medical help. My dream for the future is to eventually marry a great chap and have a family. I am a very happy, chatty individual who loves making a difference in other people's lives and making other people smile.

Hannah



## PHOTO GALLERY

An n:vestigate member taking part in a creative prayer activity



Fun with drums at a training weekend



An n:counta and an n:spire member



GB leaders at a national conference



A still image from a recent koko film





# SPOTLIGHT ON G.B. ENGLAND & WALES

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



Every GB country around the world has the same:

## Aim, Motto, Principles, Badge and Vision

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

### Our History

The Girls' Life Brigade was founded in England in 1902. Similar work was set up in Dublin in 1893 (The Girls' Brigade Ireland) and in Scotland in 1900 (The Girls' Guildry). In 1968 these three merged to form The Girls' Brigade (GB).

At that point the work in lots of countries around the world became known by their geographic areas of focus e.g. The Girls' Brigade England & Wales.

In 2009 GB England & Wales pioneered and became part of GB Ministries, a UK-based mission network, committed to raising hope in this generation of girls and women especially, through the provision of relevant, responsive and relational initiatives that transform lives and enrich communities.

### Statistics

Number of Groups: Around 650,

Number of Members: Around 14,000

... but our reach is much greater due to things like community and schools' outreach. (2016 figures)

### Age Groups and Sections

n:vestigate groups: 4- 8s    n:gage groups: 7-11s

n:counta groups: 10-14s    n:spire groups : 13-18s

We also have the Esther Collective Communities: 18-30s

Leaders: 18+

### Uniform:

Our different age groups wear different coloured polo-shirts with black or navy trousers or skirts – n:vestigate members wear red, n:gage members wear turquoise; n:counta members wear jade green, and n:spire members were purple. Leaders can wear any of the polo-shirt colours, a shirt, or a navy suit.

### Programme

Our badgework programmes are called the same as the age groups they're aimed at. They're all holistic and themed. Activities are varied and include craft, social action, Bible study, singing, prayer, and games. So, for example, if they were looking at the theme of FRIENDSHIP they might: make friendship bracelets (educational), hear stories about Jesus' friends (spiritual), plan a party to bring new friends to GB (service) or play a game that is about finding a friend (physical).

### Awards

Badges, certificates and lots of other awards are regularly presented to GB members as the young people complete n:vestigations, challenges, tracks and adventures. Older girls may also work for the Queen's Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Distinguished Service, Endurance or Hope Awards are presented to acknowledge special achievements .

### Activities

Apart from their weekly activities, GB members may get involved in competitions between different GB groups; attend a sleepover, residential event/camp or a training weekend. Many groups also get involved in social action activities like visiting old people's homes to sing, collecting food for a local food bank or bag packing to raise funds for a good cause.

### And Something Special You Should Know About Us!

One of our initiatives is a website called koko - an online place for teenage girls, and a great resource for youth leaders. Films, blogs, insights and support about living life to the full – enabling girls to 'keep on keeping on' in a hope-filled way. You can check it out at [www.thekokostory.com](http://www.thekokostory.com)

### And Finally An Idea To Share:

Here is one of the games our n:counta girls like to play. It comes from our FRIENDSHIP programme and is called Friendship Seat.

#### Friendship Seat

**You will need:** A chair for each group member and one spare chair.

Put all the chairs, including the spare one quite close together in a large circle and all sit down. One of the people sitting next to the empty chair is selected to begin the game. The person chosen moves to the empty chair saying 'I went to the park.' The person next to them then moves into the vacated seat saying 'And I sat next to..' The next person in the circle then moves into the vacated chair and says 'My friend (and chooses a name from the rest of the players e.g. Molly.)' Molly then quickly gets up, from wherever she is in the circle, and moves to the vacated seat. The two people either side of the newly vacated chair race to sit on it and the winner begins the chain again by saying, 'I went to the park.'

### Find Out More

You can find out more about GB in England & Wales from:

Web site:

[www.girlsb.org](http://www.girlsb.org)

Facebook page:

@Girlsbrigadeew

Twitter:

@Girlsbrigadeew

Instagram:

@Girlsbrigadeew

