



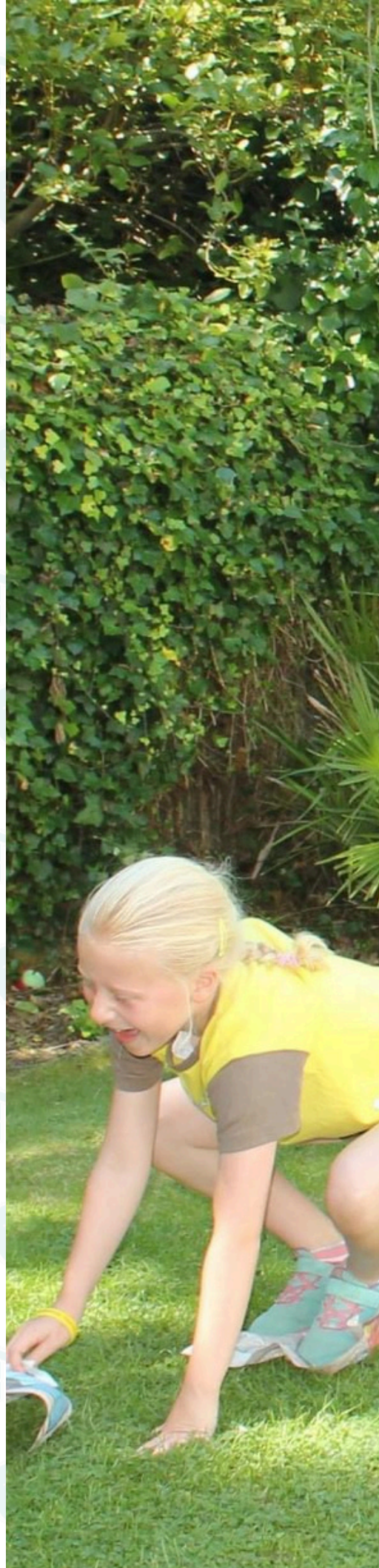
# PAX LODGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024  
BY LIZ TRANTER



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# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



## GUIDING AND SCOUTING GUESTS

Pax Lodge had 2.706 Guiding and Scouting guests in 2024 from 14 countries.



## EVENTS DELIVERED IN 2024

The Pax Lodge programme team delivered 10 events in 2024 to 585 participants.



## VOLUNTEERS

Pax Lodge hosted 17 volunteers from 14 countries in 2024. All 17 received a travel bursary.



## DAY VISITORS

Pax Lodge hosted 1.921 day visitors in 2024.



# 02

## OUR PROGRAMMES

# EVENTS

## **CELEBRATING US: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

5th to 13th November 2023 (Bilingual English and Spanish) 36 participants (all 18+) including facilitators, interpreters and WAGGGS staff.

## **FRIENDS OF PAX LODGE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

Saturday, 11 November 2023 from 11am-4pm. Raised over £600 for the Friends of Pax Lodge and included outside vendors, local Guiding units and crafts made by and on behalf of the Friends of Pax Lodge.

## **GLOBAL FRIENDSHIP EVENT**

26th November to 1st December 2023 15 participants from 3 Countries – USA, UK, and Pakistan all 18+

## **WORLD THINKING DAY**

24th and 25th February 2024 total of 311 participants across all the events, all from the UK Rainbows through to adults

## **INSPIRING SPRING**

11th – 14th April 2024 6 participants aged 18-30 from the UK.

## **JAMBROWNEE**

30th May to 2nd June 2024 30 participants aged 8-10 (with a few leaders too). 12 from Bharat Scouts and Guides (India). All others from the UK.





# EVENTS

## JOURNEY THROUGH LONDON

JTL 1 - 23rd to 28th June 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 36 participants all from GSUSA

JTL 2 - 30th June to 5th July 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 45 participants Canada and USA

JTL 3 - 7th to 12th July 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 44 participants Canada and USA

JTL 4 - 21st to 26th July 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 42 participants Canada and USA

JTL 5 - 4th to 9th August 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader. 43 participants Canada, USA, Korea, Faroe Isles, Scotland, Bahamas

JTL 6 - 18th to 23rd August 2024 girls aged 14 to 18 with their leader 32 participants Philippines, USA and Canada

## EF TOURS

Groups of GSUSA members led by external tour guide visit for 2 hours on various dates across June and July 2024

## INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURE DAY

Available throughout the year:

Friday 8th March - Middlesex East Trefoil Guild (24 participants)

Sunday 10th March - 5th Southgate Brownies (12 participants)

Sunday 14th April - Girlguiding Thrapwood Division (50 participants)

Tuesday 30th July - 3rd Bexley Brownies (15 participants)

# VOLUNTEERS

We would not be able to run Pax Lodge without the volunteers. During their time with us, they:

- Gain Leadership Skills
- Build Confidence
- Learn a variety of new things
- Make friends from around the world
- Grow as a Global Citizen

In 2024, we welcomed the following international volunteers:

- Sara (Canada) August 2023 to January 2024
- Tori (Australia) September 2023 to February 2024
- Sofi (Mexico) October 2023 to February 2024
- Sachika (Japan) September 2023 to January 2024
- Claudia (New Zealand) January to August 2024
- Shakira (Uganda) January to June 2024
- Lisa (Nigeria) February to July 2024
- Donatella (Ghana) February to July 2024
- Pearl (Canada) March to June 2024
- Kuke (Argentina) MCI May to October 2024
- Carol (Mexico) May to November 2024
- Karene (Uganda) June to November 2024
- Farah (Tunisia) June to November 2024
- Eshika (Bangladesh) July to September 2024
- Stacey (New Zealand) August to January 2025
- Jayill (Venezuela) September to November 2024
- Salina (Australia) September to December 2024
- Rezida (Azerbaijan) September to October 2024
- Abigail (Nigeria) October to February 2025
- Thayde (Venezuela) October to March 2025
- Tionge (Malawi) November to January 2025



# VOLUNTEER QUOTES

Pax Lodge is a location where you may give a little and get more, where you can witness the female donating their time to enjoy with various individuals for a few hours, or days but the impact lasts forever. (Amina, Tunisia)

"Volunteering at Pax Lodge was an incredible experience that placed me in a truly diverse environment, surrounded by volunteers and guests from all around the world. It reminded me that while I may not know every culture or country, being open-minded and adaptable is key. Respect always comes first, and in adjusting to others' needs, I also learned the importance of being kind to myself throughout the process." (Eshika, Bangladesh)

The whole team that makes up Pax Lodge is wonderful, it feels like a family. I will never forget everyone's effort to explain words I didn't understand or using Spanish; as I'm not a native English speaker this effort made me feel at home. I made great friends on this adventure that I hope will last forever. Living with different cultures and different customs even expressions can be a challenge but it felt great to share a little bit of my culture and my country with everyone else. (Jayill, Venezuela)

The friendships I made were priceless. From the staff's warm welcome to my roommate's constant care, I felt supported and valued. Swapping badges with Girl Guides from around the world was a daily highlight, and watching my first West End show was unforgettable. Volunteering at Pax Lodge has been a remarkable experience. I have learned, unlearned, and relearned so much, and I'm grateful for every moment. This experience has truly enriched my life. (Shakirah, Uganda)

Pax Lodge has shaped me in countless ways. It's where I discovered my passions, honed my skills, and built lifelong friendships. It's where I grew into the person I am today—someone who is confident, compassionate, and committed to making a positive impact in the world. I will always be grateful for the time I spent at Pax Lodge and for the profound and lasting impact it has had on my life. Pax lodge is indeed a place where strangers soon become friends. (Tella, Ghana)





# 03

## OUR OPERATIONS



# STAFFING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of September 2023, Vi was promoted from Front of House Coordinator to Operations Manager - filling a much needed gap. As she had already been working at Pax Lodge, her transition to this new role was a very smooth one.

In October 2023, we employed another full time Front of House Coordinator. Lily is a Girl Guide from Scotland and had been a short-term volunteer with us in Summer 2022. She soon fitted in with the Pax Lodge family and has proved herself to be a hard worker. Not only has she been an excellent member of the team, she has also taken on the Guide unit who meet here on Monday evenings.

At the end of December 2023, our weekend receptionist Loreta left us for a full time job.

At the end of June 2024, Chiska (Front of House Coordinator since January 2023) left to pursue work in the advocacy field. In March 2024, we were able to support her to be a WAGGGS Global Advocacy Champion for the Commission on the Status of Women for the United Nations in New York.

In October 2024, we were proud to support Lily to take part in the Juliette Low Seminar and attend the in-person event at Kusafiri World Centre.

At the end of September 2024, our long-term Front of House volunteer Jen made the decision to move on. She had been with us almost since our reopening in February 2022, first as a guest and later as a long-term volunteer. Whilst not herself a member of the movement, her dual nationality British and American made her a valuable asset to the team and her commitment to Pax Lodge was no less than any staff or volunteer who are themselves GG/GS members.

In January 2024, Amir, Vi and Liz travelled to Our Chalet World Centre alongside World Centre Managers and Programme teams from other World Centres to receive training from the Core Mission Team on the WAGGGS programme framework, discuss ideas and issues and share in the spirit of Guiding and Scouting at Our Chalet. This time together has given us some tools we can use to better explain the impact of our work in the future.

In March 2024, Amir, Vi and Liz took on additional Health and Safety training.

In July 2024, Amir and Liz travelled together to Sangam World Centre to participate in the Surf Smart 2.0 Summit Celebration: Empowering Generation Digital.

# FACILITIES

We continue to prioritise the maintenance and enhancement of the building's facilities to ensure safety, efficiency, and comfort for all occupants. Below is an overview of the recently completed upgrades and ongoing improvements:

- Rewired a faulty power line within the building to ensure reliable electrical functionality and enhance safety compliance.
- Safety water Isolation Valves Installation: Water isolation valves have been added to all basins, sinks, toilets, and radiators throughout the building. This upgrade allows us to isolate specific areas during repairs or leaks, significantly minimizing potential damage and eliminating the need to shut off the entire building's water supply.
- Bathroom Renovations: Three bathrooms have been fully renovated, modernizing their functionality and appearance.
- Security Floodlights Installation: Security floodlights have been installed around the building's exterior to enhance night-time safety and deter unauthorized access.
- Basement Flood Prevention: A new submarine pump has been installed in the basement, alongside a backup pump to ensure continued operation in the event of a main pump failure. This proactive measure prevents potential flooding and associated damage.
- Eco-Friendly Lighting Upgrades: All lights within Pax Lodge have been replaced with energy-efficient, eco-friendly LED lighting, aligning with our commitment to sustainability and reducing energy consumption.
- Technology Upgrades: All PCs and laptops have been upgraded, ensuring that our technology infrastructure remains reliable and capable of meeting current demands.

These enhancements demonstrate our ongoing dedication to maintaining a safe, functional, and modern environment for all building users.



# FACILITIES

Our dedication to sustainability continues to bear fruit. With the structural needs of Pax Lodge addressed, we turned our attention to enhancing the aesthetics of our space. These renovations create inviting spaces that reflect the guiding spirit, with themed decorations designed by our former MCI, Alice.

- New welcome mat with Pax Lodge logo
- Welcome boards outside and window sticker
- New washing machines and tumble dryers
- Small fridge for use by conference clients
- Transition to LED Lighting
- Motion security light installed in the back garden
- Additional CCTV cameras were installed in the main parking area and Pax Lodge entrance
- Installing Motion Sensors in the most common areas
- Planting a green wall alongside the front garden
- Eliminating Plastic Bags
- Introduction of Bamboo Pillows
- Eco-Friendly Products in Our Shop
- Replacing Paper Towels with Air Hand Dryers
- New bedside tables with bedside lamps equipped with USB&C charger.
- Painting the guest rooms and all communal areas – including updated pictures in guest rooms relating the area or country who sponsored the room and hand-painted decorations courtesy of Carol (volunteer from Mexico)
- Painting the Conference room thanks to money from the Friends of WAGGGS World Centres





# 04

## 2025 AND BEYOND



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2025

In 2025 Pax Lodge will celebrate it's 34th anniversary and there will be many ways that you can be involved and experience the place "where strangers soon are friends"

### **Events:**

From World Thinking Day to Inspiring spring, JamBrownee through our Summer Events, to STEMazing Guides and into our Global Friendship Event there's something for everyone.

Not able to make a full event? Then why not bring your group for an International Adventure Day or evening programme. Perhaps you'd rather take on the Pax Lodge Challenge and earn a badge?

We are excited to host two Friends of Pax Lodge meetings in 2025 plus the third annual Friends of Pax Lodge Christmas Bazaar.

### **Volunteers:**

It is always sad to have to say farewell to new friends, but always thrilling to welcome new volunteers to the Pax Lodge family. Our volunteers change each season (Spring, Summer and Autumn/Winter) and stay with us between 3 and 5 months bringing with them new energy, ideas and so much enthusiasm.

# Pax Lodge

## 2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>	 <p>22-23 World Thinking Day Activities</p>	 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>	 <p>17-20 Inspiring Spring</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p>29 May-1 Jun JamBrownee</p>	 <p>15-20 Journey Through London One 22-27 Journey Through London Two</p> <p><b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>	 <p>6-11 Journey Through London Three 13-18 Journey Through London Four</p> <p><b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>	 <p>27 Jul-1 Aug Journey Through London Five 3-8 Journey Through London Six</p> <p><b>FULLY BOOKED</b></p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>	 <p>30 Oct-2 Nov STEMazing Guides</p>	 <p>22 Friends of Pax Lodge Christmas Bazar 23-28 Global Friendship Event</p>	 <p>Independent guest bookings available</p>

# Pax Lodge

## 2026 CALENDAR

**JANUARY**



**Independent guest bookings available**

**FEBRUARY**



21-22 World Thinking Day Activities

**MARCH**



**Independent guest bookings available**

**APRIL**



19-24 Spring Friendship Event

**MAY**



28-31 JamBrownee

**JUNE**



21-26 Journey Through London One

28 Jul-3 Jul Journey Through London Two

**JULY**



12-17 Journey Through London Three

19-24 Journey Through London Four

**AUGUST**



2-7 Journey Through London Five

9-14 Journey Through London Six

**SEPTEMBER**



**Independent guest bookings available**

**OCTOBER**



29 Oct-1 Nov STEMazing Guides

**NOVEMBER**



**Independent guest bookings available**

**DECEMBER**



**Independent guest bookings available**



# 05

## MESSAGE OF THANKS

# THANK YOU

We are grateful for your continued support and friendship. We are incredibly proud of the progress we have made and the goals we have achieved. These accomplishments would not have been possible without your generous support and belief in our mission.

Together, we are making Pax Lodge a source of inspiration and a welcoming home for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world. We look forward to welcoming you to London in the future and sharing more unforgettable moments together.

- The Pax Lodge Team

## Get involved





**!Merci !شكرًا لكم!**  
**Gracias! Thank you!**



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Pax Lodge