



MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK



Fun, Friendship, Finding out and a Force for Change



CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Beryl Hales

National Chair

I feel very fortunate to be following in a long line of TG National Chairs who have helped to guide TG since 1929. There has been a huge amount of change during that time and each Chair has taken the challenges that this has presented them with to keep TG fresh and relevant. We are all, including the Trustees, members of TG in Guilds, TIGs, TAGs or as Associate Members. It is our TG to develop and we encourage everyone to play their part in this. The Trustees provide the scaffolding to build on and members can tell us what they think is going well and what we could improve upon, where we would ask them to give us ideas of what we could do instead. We say that TG proudly builds on its Suffragist roots and, from having had contact with many members, I feel like that TG women share their forebears' characteristics as they are caring, sharing, supportive, committed, campaigning and importantly want to have fun, make friends and find things out. They are all making a difference to other women's lives, including their own. Each TG member has a different variety of skills which they have gained through life, social and work experiences and we are very keen for them to use these in helping TG in their groups, Guilds, Federations and as Trustees. We ask them to take a step forward and not be shy about saying what they can offer to help to grow TG. Working together we look forward to making the changes needed and adapting TG to be ready to celebrate our centenary in 2029.

WELCOME TO TG

MISSION STATEMENT

Proudly building on our suffragist foundations, Townswomen's Guild's mission is to continue empowering all women to make their own lives, and those of others, better.

Welcome to TG! Having joined us as a member of a tradition Guild, or as an Associate Member you are now part of one of the UK's leading women's group and part of the TG Family

History



TG started in 1929 and we can trace our history back to the suffragists in the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, who wanted all women to have the right to vote and did this by taking action in legal and peaceful ways. When all women had gained the vote, those suffragists wanted to start an organisation which would provide women with comradeship, education and show their members how to voice their opinions.

TG Today



We continue to provide TG members with the opportunity to have fun, friendship, education in the form of finding things out through access to a variety of formal and informal activities, and to be part of a force for change by campaigning on local and national issues

What to expect from TG Headquarters



You can expect to receive from TGHQ two magazines and four newsletters a year.

Access to our Members' Area on the website. (You will need your membership number to do this.)

You will also have the opportunity to meet other members as part of less formal TAGs (Townswomen's Associate Groups}, by visiting other Guilds (who will ask for a small visitor's fee, at local and national events or through TIGs (Townswomen's Internet Groups) which are run through the Members' Area of our secure website.

TG'S TIMELINE

How Townswomen's Guilds have developed over time

Organised campaigns began for women to have the right to vote

1865



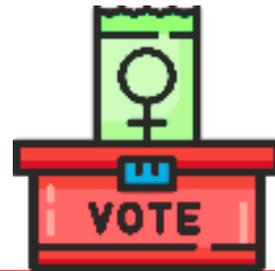
**COURAGE
CALLS TO
COURAGE
EVERYWHERE**

1897

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies formed, led by Millicent Fawcett. As a Suffragist she worked within the law to bring about change.

All women over the age of 21 were given the vote.

1928



1929

TG started in 1929 as The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies



During the war years the Government asked the NUTG to encourage married women who were not eligible for National Service to work locally, part time, to release others for war work.

**World
War II**



1950's

Guilds and Federations joined in the Festival of Britain celebrations. It was at this time that it was decided that Townswomen were able to campaign on national affairs



Members campaigned on issues such as environmental pollution, mixed-sex wards, nuclear power, food additives, prescription charges and carer' rights.

**1960's,
1970's
and
1980s**

TG'S TIMELINE

How Townswomen's Guilds have developed over time

The National Union of Townswomen's Guilds became Townswomen's Guilds.

1989



1990

Nearly £200,000 was raised to plant trees in 6 new woods, to help the environment and to replace trees lost in storms in the Late 1980s.

Members continued campaigning on issues such as single person supplements, human trafficking, banking, banning FGM and modern slavery.

1990's and 2000's



2017

A TG memorial was commissioned for the National Memorial Arboretum.

We celebrated our 90th Birthday.

2019



2020

Lockdown was a difficult time but TG rallied and started Townswomen's Internet Groups via the TG Website.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who runs TG

The short answer is TG is run by its members.

At the **Guild level** members volunteer to take responsibility for leading their Guild, looking after the Guild finances, membership and so on.

Guilds may also belong to a local **Federation**, which is a group of Guilds who work together to provide support and a wider range of activities than individual Guilds can do alone.

All members are invited to the **TG Annual General Meeting**.

They have the right to vote on the business of the day through representatives from their Guilds or Associate Membership.

The National Executive Committee

The role of the Trustees who form the TG National Executive Committee is to run the national organisation, which is also a charity.

All Trustees are TG members and are also unpaid volunteers

TG Headquarters

TG is based at the national headquarters in Birmingham and is supported by paid members of staff who undertake the day-to-day jobs which are needed to keep TG running successfully.

TG staff can also provide help and support to members.

Members



TG wants members to have the chance to **Grow and Blossom** as individuals. This can be achieved by taking part in what is on offer, taking action on issues such as climate change and volunteering.

TG relies on volunteers to make it run. You can find ways to volunteers in TAGs, TIGs, Guilds, Federation and as Trustees. We believe that everyone has skills they can offer and share as volunteers. They may be skills with certificates attached or life skills, which are equally important.

MANDATES & CAMPAIGNING

You may already be aware that campaigns are a core part of TG and something we do our best to uphold as part of our aims and objectives.

We would like to outline for you what we at TGHQ do and how you as a TG member can help us to further our causes.

Mandates



Each year at the AGM we raise mandates or topics for discussion to be voted on and approved by the membership so that we as a national organisation can campaign on them. These topics are suggested by the membership so if you have any thoughts on what TG should be speaking out about, please do write in and let us know. Topics are chosen in the January of that year's AGM and Rhiannon Batsford at TGHQ will be happy to help if you are unsure about any procedures.

Campaigning



Following the AGM the National Executive Committee (NEC) write to various Government officials and MPs as well as CEOs or other contacts at relevant charities and organisations to inform them about how our members feel about issues and ask if there is anything we can do to help.

Copies of the more interesting responses can be found on the TG website (www.the-tg.com), along with other relevant news and updates relating to our campaigns.

What we would like you to do



The NEC and TGHQ cannot do it alone; it is the actions our members take in pushing campaigns forward and raising TG's profile which will allow us to show that TG is passionate about the issues we campaign on.

TGHQ will always do what we can to help you; on our website you will find guidance on writing campaign letters and other hints and tips on how to further our campaigns.

Check these out and if you still need help email rhiannon@the-tg.com or call direct on 0121 326 1974

IMPORTANT CONTACT

We look forward to meeting you and are always happy to hear your views or suggestions about TG.

Name	Position	Contact
Jo Egan (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday only)	Marketing and Promotions Co-Ordinator	Joanne@the-tg.com 0121 326 1978 Hours 9.30am - 4.30pm
Sara Trayers	National Recruitment Officer	Sara@the-tg.com 0121 326 1973 Work mobile: 07521 502846 Hours 9.00am - 4.30pm
Rhiannon Batsford	Campaigns and Publications Contact Rhiannon with contributions for the Magazine or Newsletter	Rhinnon@the-tg.com 0121 326 1974 Hours Monday 9am till 2pm. Tuesday-Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm
Helen Collins (Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursday only)	Database administrator and Events Co-ordinator	Helen@the-tg.com 0121 326 1977 Hours Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm Thursday 9.30 am - 1.30 pm
Nancy Smith	Database administrator and Events Co-ordinator	Nancy@the-tg.com 0121 326 1979 Hours 9.30am - 3.30 daily

The National chair and Trustees can be contacted through TGHQ

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