

Pippa's Post

October 2022

How far we have come

I thought I should just write a few lines to introduce myself to you, our host families, and give you a small pocket version of how I started Pippa's Guardians.

I am Pippa, Ben's mother, and I started PG's back in 1990's with an idea scrawled on an old envelope. I was working as a prep school matron at the time (so I was free to look after Ben and his brother Tom during the holidays) and there were 3-4 Thai boys attending the school. At exeat and half terms I asked other boarder's parents to house these boys and it all worked pretty well, and they always went home for the long holidays which made it easier. However, in 1997 I changed job and went to work at Cheltenham College as Registrar, and the parents of these Thai boys went into a complete dive - who was going to look out for their boys, buy them uniform, get them to and from airports etc, sort out their problems. I assured them the new Matron would look after their boys, but it turned out as she didn't perceive it to be in her job description, and the kernel of an idea grew from that. I also quickly realised at Cheltenham College that

more and more children were coming from overseas, and that they all needed help.

This was all late 90's when there was no real reliable internet connection and most of the parents of these children were not international travellers themselves, and certainly didn't speak English. Everything had to be done by Fax and through an interpreter. I founded Pippa's Guardians in 1997, and never looked back. Slowly I discovered one or two others in the UK were doing much the same thing, and we used to meet once or twice a year to exchange ideas and pass on tips about how best to access visas and help these children.

I quickly came to the conclusion that I needed to find some good, reliable, kind host families recognising their importance to the business. When I visited them my only way of deciding if they were suitable was to think if I would be happy sending my own children to this family.

There was no official paperwork, inspections,

or anything but come the 2000's everything began rapidly to change.

Soon lots of Guardianship companies began to spring up and legislation soon followed. I became overrun with requests for help and I suddenly realised I couldn't do it all myself and I dragged my husband in to help with the money side of things and a friend started to help me sort out all the travel. At first, I stuck to schools in and around Worcestershire, but as children moved on from their prep schools I started to get requests to look after their children right across the country- and like Topsy it grew! I suddenly found myself running a sizeable company and it was all too much for me to run on my own, and by 2010 I realised I couldn't continue with the way things were. Then like a miracle Ben decided to come back from Australia and join me with a view to taking it over.

I loved almost every minute of it and met some wonderful people. I travelled to Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore

and Russia, but the bit I liked most was meeting the children and getting to know the host families, many of whom stayed with me for years. It always felt a great privilege to be asked to look after someone's child, and I knew that the most important thing was to get them settled with a good host family.

Although I no longer have an active role in the business I love to hear all about it, and the progress it is making, and although Pippa's Guardians is now a vastly different company from when I first started it, the fundamentals remain the same - and good host families are at the very heart of it.



Pippa Hughes

Founder of Pippa's Guardians

Host Family Portal

We have recently introduced some new pages on the host family section on our website. These include 'Host Family Recipes' with some tasty meal ideas for your family submitted by our staff and host families. We will continue to add to this page as we receive more recipes. If you try any, especially when hosting a student, please do let us know how it went and send us a photo. To submit your own recipe, please email jodie@pippasguardians.co.uk

The second page is back copies of our Pippa's post where you can also submit your own news and pictures to share with your fellow host families and the Pippa's team.

Lastly, a copy of the Host Family Handbook is now available on the website so you will always easily access the latest copy.

(Please note you will need to be logged in to view these pages.)

AEGIS Host Family Safeguarding course

Thank you so much to all those of you that have completed the AEGIS Host Family Safeguarding course recently. Your support and response to this initiative has been wonderful to see and I am most grateful to you all.

If you haven't received an email from me with the course details please don't worry. I am rolling this out area by area so I will be in touch with you shortly.

If you already have existing, appropriate and in date Safeguarding training then I am able to accept this as an alternative to the AEGIS course so please do just forward your latest certificate to me by email on

imogen@pippasguardians.co.uk
and I can add it to your HF record.

Thank you again for all your unwavering support with this extremely important initiative.



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Sharing is caring

Yoriko Kuroda, the Pippa's representative for Japan who holds a cooking certificate and Chef's diploma has shared one of her favourite recipes with us.



Japanese Deep Fried Pork

Ingredients :

Pork Chops x 2
Salt & Pepper
All-purpose flour x 1/2 Cup
Large Egg x 1
Breadcrumbs (Panko) x 1 Cup
Oil for Frying
Green Cabbage, Shredded x 1/4 Cup

Instructions :

1. Cut the string of meat and season with salt and pepper
2. Hit the pork with a stick or masher
3. Set up a breading station with 3 shallow dishes. Place flour in the first dish, lightly beat an egg in the second dish, and breadcrumbs in the third
4. Coat each pork chop generously with flour, shaking any excess off
5. Coat each pork chop generously with egg
6. Coat the pork with breadcrumbs (Panko) and set aside on a platter
7. Deep-fry breaded pork for 5 to 6 minutes
8. Traditionally, pork tonkatsu is served alongside a generous portion of finely shredded green cabbage. Often, tonkatsu sauce is drizzled on the cabbage as well

Gas Safety and Boiler Check Certificates

As part of our annual housekeeping of host family records we have noticed that some of our host families are missing gas safety or boiler check certificates, and some are out of date. Can we please ask that if you

have recently had a gas safety or boiler check done that you email a copy of the certificate to Alison Webb at alison@pippasguardians.co.uk. These should be renewed on an annual basis so if you have not had a check for some time could we please request that you arrange to have a check done and forward on the certificate. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Alison Webb on **07706 356127**.

Your hosting expense claim form *Top Tips*

Please complete one claim form per student and split all expenses and mileage if you have had multiple students staying. This really helps us to process your claim quickly.

The student's full name is very important as we have several students with the same or similar names, so having more than just a first name makes all difference.

Luggage should not be stored for students without the prior agreement of your Pippa's Area Manager. Storage needs to be for at least a week before a claim can be considered.

Day rate expenses should only include full days and not 'Shared Care' as this creates duplication. There is a separate section for 'Shared Care'.

For 'Shared Care' claims there are now 2 possible date entries, as requested following feedback from Host Families.

If you have any questions, please speak to Theresa Ollis

<https://pippasguardians.co.uk/hosts-families-expenses-form/>



Theresa Ollis

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Pippa's Opportunities

Chaperones

If you would be interested in accompanying Pippa's students on essential trips outside of school, please speak to your Area Manager today. These trips could include school/university interviews, medical/dental appointments, visa/passport appointments or journeys to and from the airport.

Chaperones receive an hourly payment as well as travel expenses.



Area Managers

We currently have vacancies for Area Manager positions in West Sussex and Surrey. For more information please visit <https://pippasguardians.co.uk/jobvacancy/> or email sally@pippasguardians.co.uk



Student Stories

Exam Success

Many of our students received their GCSE and A Level results recently. A very stressful time for them, their parents and many of our host families who have supported students through these important years at school.

We were delighted to celebrate with so many students who achieved outstanding results and were accepted to their chosen universities.

Hiroki, Haru and Shinnosuke who studied at Kingswood School, all achieved A*s in every one of their subjects and won university places to study at Imperial (Medical Biosciences), Oxford (Physics) and St Andrews (Theoretical Physics). We would like to congratulate them and wish them all the best for their exciting future ahead!



A Fantastic Achievement

We would like to congratulate Diana on receiving an award for her essay writing.

Diana studies at Cheltenham Ladies' College and has spent this summer with her host family who accompanied her to the 2022 NCH (New College of Humanities) Year 12 Essay Competition Awards Ceremony in London.

Diana was invited as her essay scored very highly and she was a finalist in the Philosophy category. The NCH said they were impressed with the quality of her academic writing. They receive thousands of entries to the competition, so this is a fantastic achievement.

