

Surrey East County in 2017.

There have been positives in 2017 but you know what it's like, when you want to remember them they don't spring to life!

However in 2017 we maintained our unit number of 210 units in the county so a pat on the back for all concerned. Well done to all. Well done all for grappling with Go and all its centricities and quirks and congratulations to all who have completed the leadership qualification and so invited here tonight. So 2017-

January saw Rangers presented with Octants and Chief Guide awards at their presentation evening, a highlight at a dark time of year!

Musicals, was keenly awaited by parents and guests including region chief, & her deputies The evening was a fabulous success & whilst all were excellent the night was stolen by three rainbows dressed as Queen Elsa with standing ovations for all.

We saw the demolition of Faurefold, not quite a phoenix from the ashes, but the resulting build that followed much brilliant, dedicated and sustained fundraising can be seen before our eyes.

Around the divisions Reigate visited the Priory Park after dark to celebrate thinking day.

Leith hill had a division weekend at Holmbury St Mary & Leatherhead division headed for Pax Lodge. Spring Downs went vertically to the top of the tower with a weekend at

PGL !

In the Tithe barn we saw a Brownie Bake off between two units with Mary Berry and other celebrities present in disguise!

And the two Surrey Guiding counties joined forces for a leaders walking weekend, in the Surrey Hills.

These occasions demonstrate face to face networking has a benefit to play in guiding's journey through its challenge's in the 21st century. And 2017 certainly was a year of change.

We saw quality pilot across the county with some of you here tonight invited because of your success in that project.

Rainbows celebrated being 30 in 2017. Guides saw opportunities in Baden Powell weekends with themes of chocolate to hammocks to curling.

Summer saw the return of Scoutabout the county was well represented and VIPs were suitably impressed.

September brought a division brownie sleepover inside and outside at Heyswood and preparations for the Lord Mayors show. Godstone division went to Blacklands, Epsom were as diverse as duck racing to Books & Netball. The county team had a morning away to hear about WAGGAS and how guiding was brought to Afghanistan recently.

International guiding saw two girls selected for Cambodia and Malawi. & further leaders selected for the Gold projects

In Surrey East we are changing with the challenges of the 21st century, so the digital strategy is being rolled out. During the Lord Mayors show took part in a live BBC broadcast & the girls waved alongside the Surrey Lion as we walked the well-trodden path of the show. Familiar faces lined the route and waved it was a fabulous day. On The return procession the girls chanted gaining audience participation- very Girl led!

So from pomp and pageantry the girls got down to bugs and insects at Nower wood and an open day at Faurefold and why not show off the result of the work?

But we ended the year with a weekend of international trainings and leaders enjoying the delights of Christmas markets and gluwein.

Thank you all for embracing the challenges of the 21st century, we change and evolve as the girls change. New challenges new experiences not always comfortable but positive.