

County Newsletter



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Surrey East County

Spring/Summer 2018



Welcome



Hello to all Volunteers in Surrey East,

Yet again we have proved that we are busy with many activities in Surrey East giving the girls the safe girl space Girlguiding offers to its members.

It's with many thanks to the new newsletter editor and her team on their first combined production.

The last six months has seen many events of all descriptions, do keep sending in your stories so we can shout out about all we do here in Surrey East.

With the new programme excitingly just around the corner, we look back at Bazzaz, Thinking Day, Quality Pilot presentations, Frost camp, Barn dances and many other local events and by no means least the official opening of Faurefold in May.

As we grow in opportunities I hope this will provide an encouraging peek to any new volunteer that there are many fun activities available to us in Guiding.

Thank you for all you do,
Lesley Bailey, County Commissioner





Newly Qualified Leaders

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have completed their Leadership Qualification or added modules to their qualifications since October 2017.

Reigate Division

Rebecca Branson
Selina Stone
Lucy Roberts

Epsom Division

Becky Collins

Godstone Division

Helen O'Connell

Leatherhead Division

Kate Roberts

Downs Heath Division

Emily Allinson

Leath Hill Division

Becky Trodd
Naomi Channing Pearce

A quick reminder to all leaders who are working towards their leadership qualification - please come along to the mentor meetings to get clauses and modules signed off. Check the County website calendar for dates of our next Mentor Group Sessions.

We thank all the mentors who help with group sessions, visiting units and supporting leaders in training.

If you feel you could help in any way, please contact Caroline or Lorna.

County Leadership Team

Caroline Leeson

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Lorna Smith

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Thank You!



*Here's to our volunteers.
The extra-milers
The dreamers and the doers.
Here's to our programme planners
and make-it-up-on-the-spotters.
Here's to our minibus drivers
and trailer-towers.
Here's to our give-it-a-goers.
Here's to our skills for lifers
and never-give-uppers.
Here's to our "here-when-you-need-us."
Here's to our amazing leaders.
Here's to our volunteers.*

Bazzaz 2018

On 23rd June around 2,500 Rainbows & Beavers took part in Bazzaz at Merrist Wood. Bazzaz takes place once every three years and 2018 was the first year the Rainbows were able to attend. The children got to take part in a variety of activities and had a brilliant day.



Epsom's Little Acres Lodge

Epsom's Little Acres Lodge becomes a reality

Over the past few years Epsom Division Girlguiding has worked extremely hard on fundraising and now building has started on our lodge in Horton Country Park! Currently we have a campsite at the Country Park which has very limited facilities and is hardly used but is in a beautiful countryside location. With the building of Little Acres Lodge, Guiding and Scouting groups will be able to camp all year round with indoor facilities in case of bad weather and it can also be used for sleepovers and events.

So far we have raised £120,000 which is enough to have built the watertight, secure shell of the building but we are now working hard to secure the additional money needed to complete the internal part of this project. Little Acres Lodge is a wooden frame building which will have a porch veranda and car parking provision. There will be a hall, kitchen, toilets and shower, storage rooms and full disabled access.

The Lodge will also enable Epsom Division Girlguiding to host events for the wider local community, by using the campsite and Lodge as a base for fun runs, cycle rides, community events and nature trails. We are really looking forward to seeing lots of Surrey East units coming to use this amazing facility which we are aiming will be open by Summer 2019.

For further details please contact Mary Zoeller Epsom Division Commissioner on: mary@maryzoeller.co.uk

Many thanks

Mary



Epsom Division

Epsom and Ewell Mayor presents awards to Guides and Rangers

On Friday 16th March, The Worshipful Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Councillor Liz Frost joined 7th Epsom Guides, Epsom Division Rangers and their parents to celebrate the achievements of the girls in the units.

During the celebration evening, we shared highlights from our exciting year which included a summer camp and Thinking Day sleepover, we presented girls with badges for their achievements and we welcomed six new members into our unit with them all making their promise as part of the celebrations.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation to two girls, Rachel Brewin and Scarlett Turner who have successfully completed their Baden-Powell Challenge Award. This is the highest accolade for Guides and requires the girls to complete 10 challenges from 5 sections (healthy lifestyles, global awareness, discovery, skills and relationships and celebrating diversity) and attending a residential adventure with other Guides from different areas.

Rachel and Scarlett have shown a wide range of skills including leadership skills, independence, self-motivation and it has been great to see them grow in confidence; they've learned more about the world around them and learned some new skills. We are all very proud of them. They were presented with their awards by The Worshipful Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Councillor Liz Frost. - Rachel



Bookham Brownies

7th Bookham Brownies Mother and Brownie Pamper Evening

Hand massage, nail painting, basket weaving, and face painting all with your daughter. Followed by a cup of hot chocolate and a cake. What more could a Mum ask for in preparation for Mothers Day?

On Saturday 10 March, 7th Bookham Brownies help a pamper evening for their Mums. The Brownies learnt how to do hand massages and paint nails from Emma a local beautician. We also had Julie from First Class Faces using her wonderful artist skills to paint our faces.

A raffle was held, raising £90 for our newly built residential building at our campsite Faurefold, Westcott. A great evening was had by both Brownies and Mums - Karen Sims



Thinking Day Service

On February 22nd Reigate Trefoil attended a Thinking Day service at Reigate Heath windmill remembering Trefoil events in particular. Before retiring to a local pub for lunch.



2nd Leatherhead Brownies

The 2nd Leatherhead Brownies celebrated the Royal wedding by enjoying cake and building shelters.



Faurefold

The Official Opening of Girlguiding Holiday House and Campsite - Faurefold

Last November we told you about the re-opening of Faurefold - Girlguiding Surrey East's holiday and campsite at Westcott.

During 2017, the residential house was rebuilt and we now have a fantastic brick building that is toasty and warm instead of the chilly wooden hut there for so many years. The builder, ADV(UK) of Dorking, has done a magnificent job.

On 12 May 2018, the Official Opening Ceremony was held with a great party for all those who have raised funds over the last few years. Over 200 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides came with their leaders and, despite the rain, had a great time having a go at crafts and trails around the woodland on site. One group excitedly commented on their surprise at finding a large Roman snail enjoying the rain. Others were delighted with their miniature 'hedgehogs' made from natural materials as they looked so real!

The 84 invited VIPs, many of whom had given sizeable sums to the building project, were able to see what Girlguiding can offer at an outdoor centre like Faurefold.

After activities, Westcott's Cllr James Friend was called upon to cut the ribbon on the front door and formally declare the new building open. Cream teas were served to everyone and everyone went home happy. We are very grateful to Unum who lent us their car park for the afternoon.

For the last 5 years, Girlguiding members have been fund raising to pay for the building but we would not be in the position we are now had it not been for the great generosity of the London Marathon Charitable Trust, together with that of Surrey County Council, Mole Valley Council, Reigate and Banstead Council, the Peter Harrison Foundation, the Weston Foundation and the Dorking Guide trust to name but a few. The £460,000 building was finished using loans so fund raising continues to repay these loans.

Residential opportunities are important in the development of girls and young people. They learn new skills, learn to manage their own possessions and to live with others. In such a beautiful setting at Faurefold, they also have the opportunity to learn about the world around them and to explore the natural environment in a safe setting. Hopefully the young people will develop a love of activity out of doors which will benefit health in the longer term. In a full year we expect about 2,500 visitors to use the site.

Margaret Frosztega - Chairman Faurefold Management Team





Barbara's 60 Year Award

Pre computers pre GO, and most certainly pre GDPR. Barbara, your GO record only covers from 2000, so what did you do between 1953 and 2000 when you took up the baton of County Awards Coordinator?

Barbara began Guiding as a Brownie and by the time she was a Guide patrol leader she was known for being knowledgeable and meticulous but also for having fun. In 1947 as a rival patrol leader, Barbara was unable to take up the Queens's Guide Challenge but showed herself to be a great supporter and friend for a younger member who took up the challenge.

In 1953 Barbara became as Lieutenant of 5th Reigate and in 1957 she became Captain of 5th Reigate Guides. Barbara gave the girls adventure, she organised trips on the tube in London, trips to Our Chalet and beds turned into apple pies just to mention a few ways she empowered members.

In the 1970's amid the three day week and postal strike Barbara managed to keep her hot line to HQ open as her unit was often used as a forum for discussion and consultation. Barbara was involved with the re-branding and the Jeff Banks uniform. With the whole country to choose from it was her unit who travelled to London to model the uniforms and meet Princess Margaret .

1980 saw the formation of Reigate Trefoil Guild, with Barbara holding many posts including Chairman of the Guild and then latterly President of Laser Trefoil Guild. Barbara was often heard to say "going the extra mile for Guiding", many of us see you as going the extra 'marathon for guiding'.

In 2013 Barbara was awarded a Glass bowl for her 60 years in Guiding in front of a packed audience at Dorking Halls in the counties first Musigals - Guiding has now produced its 60 year award so five years on it's a privilege to witness Liz Smith, Deputy Region Chief Commissioner, present this award. - Lesley Bailey



Spring Downs District Funday

I became Spring Downs District Commissioner in October 2017, and one of my first events was to organise the Spring Downs District Fun Day. As the date chosen was 17th March, I wanted to theme it around the Patron Saints. Brownies made edible shamrock hats, daffodil stained glass windows, fish sand art necklaces and decorated a dragon keyring. The Guides went on a letter hunt round the village to spell out a name of a patron saint, decorated fish shaped boxes and made cupcakes.

Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller said: "This was a great afternoon where the different age groups took part in lots of different activities before coming together for our popular parachute games and a sing song. We'd like to thank Ewell Castle School for kindly letting us use their Sixth Form block for the day". - Clare Graham



Epsom Division

Girlguiding goes quakers

The annual Ewell Court Residents Association Duck Race held in April was another huge success this year!

Each year Epsom Division Girlguiding helps with this community event both before and on the day. We sell ducks before the event that can people buy and decorate. Over 2,000 little ducks battled it out in the race down the Hogsmill River as well as a separate race for the big corporate ducks that were kindly sponsored by local companies. There were prizes for the first ones across the finish line and those that were the best decorated.

1st Ewell Village Guides ran a popular face painting stall at the event and leaders and girls from across the Division including our lovely Trefoil ladies helped on the day with marshalling, dressing up as a duck, checking the river and sorting all the ducks out at the end, many of which were claimed by their owners leaving the rest to be recycled for next year's event.

It was a fantastic group effort and we and the Scouts were a brilliant advert for the two uniformed organisations.

This year the event raised over £4,500 with £2,260 donated to the Casey Children's Ward at Epsom Hospital and £905 each to 1st Ewell Court Scouts and Epsom Division Girlguiding. - Mary Zoeller





Trefoil Guild

Recently 15 Trefoil Guild members from the Surrey East enjoyed the LaSER holiday at Hayling Island.

There were many activities on site including bowling, archery, rifle shooting, table tennis, swimming, learning to play the ukulele and evening entertainment.

Members also visited one of the following:- Uppark, Exbury, Beaulieu & Portsmouth. To celebrate the Trefoil Guild 75th Birthday, a Birthday tea was held and also Barbara Wing was presented with her 60th service award to Guiding, many congratulations.

During the week there was much laughter and plenty of good food & wine. - Janet Wheeler



Big Sleepover 2018

Brownies and Guides from across the Leatherhead Division took part in an international sleepover, to mark World Thinking Day. On 22nd February each year, guiding members globally think of each other and of their commitment to international friendship and understanding. World Thinking Day falls on the birthday of both Robert and Olave Baden-Powell, founders of the Scouting and Guiding movements.

Local Brownies and Guides were among 3,000 young people taking part in giant sleepovers across London and the South East on the weekend of 23rd and 24th February. Brownies from Leatherhead held their sleepover in Christ Church URC, whilst 50 Bookham and Effingham Guides and leaders braved the sub-zero temperatures in the Tithe Barn, Effingham!

To draw on the international World Thinking Day theme, 1st and 5th Leatherhead Brownies held an evening of international crafts and activities as part of their sleepover. Bookham and Effingham Guides choose to Skype Girlguiding and Girl Scout friends in Toulouse, France; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Houston, Texas and in Melbourne, Australia.

Judy Hope is the leader of the appropriately named Box Hill Guides in Melbourne and said: "Our girls thought it was great! They were really excited, and want to do it next year. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity!" Andres di Maio runs the Girl Scout Group in Buenos Aires which Skyped the Guides in Effingham and Bookham; "Thank you for the idea and for the opportunity, for sharing with us this nice and enriching experience! Without a doubt all of us, Scouts and leaders, had a great time and we learned a bit more about Girl Guiding! I hope we can keep in touch and prepare future connections."

11 year old Alice Coker from 1st Effingham Guides said "It was so exciting to be speaking to other Guides across the world! Charlotte Leonard, also 11 and from 1st Effingham added "We swapped information about each of our units, and were surprised at how many things we all share." The Australian Guides sang the traditional Guiding song "Taps" with the English Guides at the end of the evening.

As part of the weekend, units across the region fundraised to help the hundreds of Girlguiding members in the Caribbean who were affected by last year's devastating Hurricane Irma. So far Girlguiding UK members have raised over £23,000 which will help affected members take part fully in their unit activities once again - replacing guiding resources, uniforms, publications and equipment. - Christine Moss





Bunny Run 2018

25 March 1st Whyeleafe Guides took part in the Caterham Rotary clubs 1k Bunny Run. The girls were fundraising for the Rotary club.



Trefoil Walking Group

In May the Trefoil Surrey East walking group celebrated 20 years at Brockham.



Julie's 50 Year Award



On 17th March, in the middle of a fund raising quiz evening, the question, 'Who has been a Guide leader for 50 years?' should have been asked. The answer was 'The question master; Julie Woodland', but few people in the hall would have given that answer!

The secret had been well kept and a surprised Julie was presented with her badge by former County Commissioner, Margaret Frosztega. Many people in the hall that evening had no idea of the number of jobs Julie has undertaken in that time.

Cheers and party poppers rang out in the hall before we fed ourselves and returned our brains to the hard work of quizzing.- Meani

Bivouac Weekend

1st Whyteleafe Guides took part in a bivouac building evening on 8th June at Roverdene campsite in Chaldon, working towards their BP award. The girls worked together in pairs to create a shelter which they stayed in overnight. Following dinner and a campfire they headed off into the woods to sleep... they all had to be woken in the morning in order to cook their breakfast and complete their challenge. - Lorna Smith



5th Horley Brownies & Horley West District

If it isn't fun it isn't guiding and we have definitely had fun this term - Ruth Warren

Photos Include:

Outdoor cooking.

Horley Carnival on our Captain Underpants vs Gangster Granny float.

Armpit fudge adventures.

Guess the brownie when Sally Kettle visited.



5th Reigate Brownies

5th Reigate Brownies Sixers and Seconds joined with 6th Reigate Brownies in February for the Thinking Day Sleepover. We enjoyed a damp day for the opening of Faurefold and took part in lots of different activities. Our Commissioners were smiling although I don't think their umbrellas kept them too dry. Then we were off in June for a magical time at 'Magic and Mayhem' which took place at Blacklands Farm, where sleeping in a Big Top was definitely the highlight of the evening - the brownies are still asking me why Timothy can't have strawberry jam! - Rosemarie Belcher



3rd Merstham Brownies



3rd Merstham Brownies having a blast this term. Photos are from their sleepover at Faurefold in March and Pack Holiday at Blackland Farm in May.



Betty's 50 Year Award



Betty began guiding in 1968 as a Brownie leader before moving to Guides. She became District commissioner for Redhill then Division commissioner for Reigate followed by a lead in the training team in 1998.

Without Betty's enthusiasm and hard work the girls would not have had happy memories of pack holidays, international trips, and fund raising. Betty led a team of leaders in organising a County weekend trip to Disneyland in Paris in January 2000. Betty ensured that the organising team were fully briefed from the very early planning to the final stages of the trip. Even when the accommodation was destroyed by strong winds 3 months prior to our trip - Betty, unfazed arranged alternative accommodation. Not an easy task with over 300 girls and leaders to consider. The trip was a huge success.

Betty organised many County training events especially the County Days, usually held in Secondary Schools around the County. It became a standing joke that Betty could pack more into her fairly small car than anyone would have thought possible.

Betty was never afraid to tackle anything - One leader writes "More than anyone else it was Betty who showed me what enormous fun being a part of Guiding can be. She invited me to a Division weekend at Foxlease and enrolled me that weekend. I still remember the wide game she devised which we all played in the grounds on a frosty, moonlit night: there I was hiding in a bathroom with my District Commissioner, both giggling uncontrollably, before creeping out to go whooping about trying to capture members of the opposing team. It was like being a child again, and with that realisation came the understanding of how important it is for children to have the opportunity to be themselves with their peers in a fun, safe environment."

To celebrate the centenary of Guiding in 2010 she headed up the team who gave us such a lovely service at Guildford Cathedral what a wonderful touch to have a female priest preaching within the service. - Lesley Bailey

I just want to thank all the individuals who took the time to share their stories with me for this issue. I appreciate that everyone is very busy and finding the time to do so can be difficult. I hope in the next six months you will continue to share what you have been up to and that we can continue to see what each of the divisions have been up to - Charlotte

Weekly Update & County Newsletter

What is the Difference??

Weekly Update

- Comes out on a Friday evening/Saturday morning (deadline Tuesday 6pm)
- Contains up and coming events, training courses, unit opportunities etc
- Send info to officegirlguidingsurreyeast@gmail.com

County Newsletter

- Comes out twice a year
- Contains Articles about past events and general information
- Send info to newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com

The next County Newsletter will be published on Friday 1st February 2019

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is Friday 18th January 2019

All articles are welcome, from Units, Districts, Divisions or County. Any article is always better if accompanied by photos!

Please give a contact name, email and telephone no. with every contribution (even if you wish it to be published anonymously), and mention that it is for the County Newsletter.

Please email items to: newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com

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