

# County Newsletter



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

**Girlguiding**

**Surrey East County**

Autumn/Winter 2018





# Welcome



**Hello to all Volunteers in Surrey East,**

As we begin our journey into 2019 we look back at the latter part of 2018 from within this edition.

Its a huge well done to all of our volunteers and a snapshot of all the guiding actives you have provided in Surrey East for all our members.

This addition contains articles from all levels of guiding and will remind us to keep that camera at the ready to snap the moment - we may have many hoops to cover these days with the law but we can continue to grow, motivate and advertise the great opportunities you provide in Guiding.

Well done all, and remember ENJOY!!

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 July 2018.

### Reigate Division

Emily Bennet  
Jessica Stoye  
Kathryn Foskett  
Abi Philpot  
Melody Kavanagh  
Jeanette Ralph

### Godstone Division

Iona Anderson  
Zoe Clark

### Downs Heath Division

Lindsay Payne

### Epsom Division

Freya Selman

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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callie.leeson@btinternet.com

**Lorna Smith**  
07768 241717  
lornasmith99@sky.com



# Hawthorns Rainbows

We've had a lot of fun during our first term of Rainbows! We've had many adventures including a bug hunt in the woods to find creepy crawlies and learn about our wonderful environment. Thinking about others and learning to make decisions was at the centre of our charities week. The Rainbows thought about different types of charities and presented posters to persuade others to vote for them, each girl was allowed two votes for their favourite charity. Encouraging our girls to believe in themselves is very important and we felt the 100 year vote was the perfect way to celebrate this, we learnt about the suffragettes and what voting was all about. We decided to vote on which game to play at the end of the session - the votes were in, the girls were making a drum roll and it was announced that the winner was 'Bonfire, Bonfire, Firework' aka 'Duck, Duck, Goose'! One of our most memorable sessions was making care packages for MacMillan Cancer Support; each girl donated a few items and we decorated and packed the bags with love. The bags were delivered to our local hospital and were gratefully received. We can't wait for a super Spring Term!

- Karen Wyborn





# Westcott Guides

## Wellies and Wristbands

A weekend to remember by Abigail Butler.

This was my first camp with Guides. I really enjoyed sleeping in the tent with my sister and the other girls, they kept talking for a bit but that was ok. I went to the swimming pool twice but it was freezing and good fun. I enjoyed dressing up in my fancy dress on the Saturday night. The music was amazing! We went to watch the bands each night even in the mud! The best part about the mud was the ride on the buggy back to the house so we didn't get stuck with my wheelchair.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Brownies

In September we went to Icando on a 'Healthy Lifestyles' day out. We were lucky enough to be the only unit there and so we got lots of special treatment! We started the day with a little bit of sightseeing before heading to Icando for our 'Healthy Lifestyle' activities. We had great fun making sparkly soap and then a played beetle drive game to make fruit kebabs. The leaders from Icando took us over to St James Park for an active session with some sporty equipment and the girls all had to test their pulse before and after exercise. We then hired some deckchairs in the park to eat our lunch, before heading back to Icando for some more fun 'healthy' games. As we were the only group there, we had an extra special treat of being shown around the Icando building, and the girls were allowed to play in the Girlguiding Headquarters boardroom on the top floor!! This was such a fun and memorable day out.

- Elaine Rollason





In November we made poppies from the bottom of plastic bottles, and made a beautiful poppy display for our church to use on Remembrance Sunday.

Just before Christmas we went to the local Pantomime where some of the girls got to meet Ann Widdecombe for photos afterwards.

One of our Brownies- Megan- gave Ann her 'I've been to a pantomime' badge to keep!

- Elaine Rollason



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Brownies

3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Brownies had a sleepover on the HMS Belfast in July. They spent the afternoon touring the ship. Enjoyed a packed tea on the grass behind city hall and then hopped back on board for DVD The Greatest Showman and a sleepover . Brilliant time! - Elaine Rollason





# GOLD D of E



Emma McDonald recently completed her Gold D of E and she has written about her experience:

I started D of E Gold just after completing my Silver. I was asked if I wanted to continue and I said yes! What I needed to do was complete 5 challenges which were: Volunteering, Physical, Skill's, Expedition and Residential.

While I was taking on the challenges I was already volunteering at my Brownie and Guide unit, 5<sup>th</sup> Horley, so I decided to count my volunteering with Guides. The difference was I needed to gain an experience that I did not have before so what I did was teach the Guides their promise in sign language.

For my Physical I chose to challenge myself and learn to perform a crash dive. This is performed on a trampoline, which means I have to jump high and drive forward and then curve in the air to land on my back and stand up again.

For Skill's I designed a skirt and badges that I made for myself, because I was completing my Queen's Guide as well so I was able to link them both.

For my Expedition I first had my practise in Yorkshire with the group who I was completing my Gold D of E with. We completed our actual expedition in Wales. We all passed feeling tired and great knowing we achieved our Gold, which was very challenging. Each day had it's own challenges including the weather changing every 5 minutes, mainly raining, but I would happily go again on another adventure!

For my Residential, I chose to go to a National Trust. You have to stay there for 7 days and before I went there, I had no idea what to expect. I knew I would be working completing tasks given to me but when I started it was really interesting. We all travelled in a mini bus and we cut down Rhododendron clearing the area and it was exciting because we also had a day off, we chose to visit a National Trust and before we arrived there we got the mini bus to drop us half way and we walked a few miles before getting there, enjoying the lovely country side.

That is how I completed my Gold D of E and I have enjoyed everything about it. Even passing it! And being able to go to London to receive your award is a fantastic opportunity. If you ever get the chance to take D of E on, you will enjoy it all the way.





# Growing up Wild

(Brownies and Guides)

170 Brownies and Rainbows from Surrey East enjoyed a day outdoors in October at Nower Wood Educational Reserve. They took part in a wide variety of activities from fairy trails, to pond dipping, orienteering and fire lighting. The Rainbows were entranced when the fairy magic changed turned the potion pink, and everyone loved toasting marshmallows.

In November it was the Guides turn. They had an amazing day clearing holly as part of the conservation management of the reserve, followed by orienteering, fire lighting, making name medallions and finally toasting marshmallows. The Guides were particularly proud of their achievements learning to use bow saws and loppers to cut down holly. The pile of holly cleared by the end of the day was huge.

- Cathy McDonough





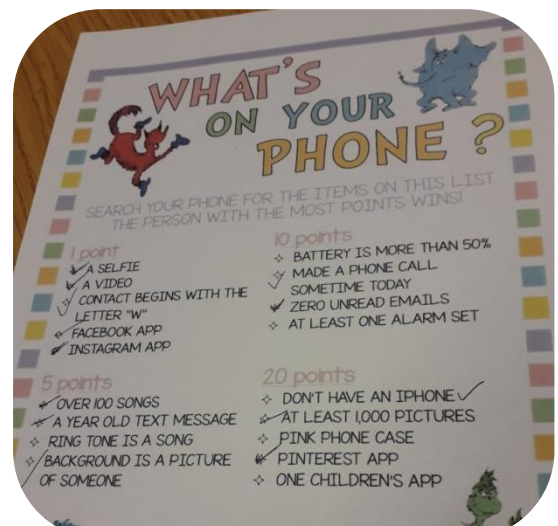
# Lorne Visit

Surrey East Flew to Lorne in September.

It was a county take over! Girlguiding Ulster welcomed us with wonderful food and entertainment as members embarked on a training weekend and some also took in sight seeing.

The training used resources that Ulster have available to them (<https://www.girlguidingulster.org.uk/resources>) including looking back and forwards as well as a fun game of 'what's on your phone?' Several members took the chance to make it a long weekend and visited local land marks prior to the training including the Titanic exhibition, Game of thrones scene and Giants causeway. The seasoned amongst us took to the zip wire or Gorge walking on Saturday as a break from training - not something on offer at Blacklands or Faurefold!

The end result was can we do it again? Yes we can - any offers to organise? - Lesley Bailey





# Epsom Division

## Girlguiding Lodge In Epsom Becoming A Reality.

Girlguiding Epsom Division is currently fundraising to build a lodge at their campsite in Horton Country Park, Epsom and have already raised over £120,000! The Lodge they are having built will provide much needed facilities including full disabled access plus toilets, kitchen and showers so the beautiful area can be used all year round, whatever the weather for a number of different activities.

The lodge would not only benefit Girlguiding and Scouting groups, Girlguiding Epsom Division would be able to host outdoor events for the wider local community by using the campsite and lodge as a base for fun runs, cycle rides and many other community events for all ages and abilities. The fundraising has already paid to have a watertight, secure shell of the building constructed but the charity is now looking for funding to complete the internal part of this project.

Epsom Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller said: *"We are absolutely delighted that we have managed to raise over £120,000 already for this project. We are continuing to fundraise by running many events and applying for grants but we still need just over £50,000 to complete the project so we've got a way to go! If anyone can help us with donations of items or help we would be delighted to hear from them."*

Please contact Mary at [mary@maryzoeller.co.uk](mailto:mary@maryzoeller.co.uk)





## 1<sup>st</sup> Epsom Brownies



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Epsom (St Martin's) Brownies who are the first unit in Epsom Division to reach their centenary! Unit leaders Ann Turnbull and Jackie Huitson hosted a lovely birthday party with lots of superb cake baked by Brown Owl!

- Mary Zoeller

## 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies

### Mayor's Garden Party

In July 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies got a taste of the high life as they were invited to Mayor Neil Dallen's garden party. But it wasn't all fun and games for the unit as they were in charge of running a tombola and helping serve afternoon tea to visitors as part of their pledge to help the community. Donations from the event were given to the Mayor's charities which this year are Epsom Division Girlguiding, Work Stress Solutions and Epsom & Ewell Talking Newspaper for the Blind.

- Mary Zoeller





## Capital Ring Walk

Members of Ewell Trefoil Guild joined the LaSER Trefoil Walkers and Talkers Group in July for the final walk of the Capital Ring to celebrate Trefoil's 75th Birthday. We had had a lovely day ably led by Pip McKerrow finishing at the Crystal Palace Maze for a celebratory picnic.

- Mary Zoeller



## Trefoil Guild turns 75

Ewell Trefoil Guild attended a special service at Southwark Cathedral in July to celebrate 75 years of the Trefoil Guild. A packed cathedral enjoyed the celebrations and gave thanks for the organisation. It was lovely to meet so many other members of different Trefoil groups and to bump into our County Commissioner Lesley Bailey!





# Epsom Division

## Epsom Young Leader Made Lord Lieutenant Cadet

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October at Loseley House in Guildford five volunteers of Surrey youth groups (Girlguiding, Scouts and Army Cadets) were officially made Lord Lieutenant Cadets by receiving sashes which were passed down from the previous year's cadets.

A Lieutenant Cadet has the honour of serving the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey for a year in many events such as Queen's award presentations in voluntary and enterprise and royal events. The Lord Lieutenant is appointed by HM the Queen to be her representative for that area. The current Lord Lieutenant of Surrey is Michael More-Molyneux who has a vast involvement in inspiring organisations and charities across the county.

Samantha Foster, 17 from Stoneleigh, a Young Leader with 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies in Girlguiding Epsom Division has been awarded the role of Lieutenant Cadet.

Samantha said: "I have been a part of Girlguiding for 10 years starting from Brownies when I was seven. I feel very privileged to have been nominated by my Division Commissioner to be a Lord Lieutenant Cadet. I am looking forward to the year ahead and am very grateful for this exciting opportunity."

The Lord Lieutenant has been around since Henry VIII the Sheriff had been responsible for maintaining order in the county and for using military measures when needed to defend Surrey and the people. In Tudor England, Henry created the role of Lord Lieutenant to take over those duties and to control the military forces of the Crown. The first record of a Lord Lieutenant of Surrey was in 1551 - William Parr KG, Marquis of Northampton. The Regulation of the Forces Act in 1871 that direct control of the military was transferred from the Lord Lieutenant back to the Crown despite this, the Lord Lieutenant still has army connections with the volunteer reserve forces and the army cadets as well as numerous charities.

-Mary Zoeller



*Pictured: Samantha Foster with Michael More-Molyneux and the other new cadets.*



## 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies

### Town Hall Visit

In November, as part of Parliament Week and learning about local and national politics, 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies were invited to the Town Hall by the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell Councillor Neil Dallen. The unit visited the Council Chambers and took part in a specially organised council meeting where they debated and voted on subjects including "should chocolate be banned?" and "should boys be allowed to join Brownies?" And the Brownies were allowed to hold the mace!

- Mary Zoeller



## 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies

### Helping The Community

In July 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies and Guides kept the "helping the community" part of their promise this evening by litter picking in the village. Thank you Councillor Clive Woodbridge for arranging the equipment and disposing of the rubbish. The village looks a lot better now!

- Mary Zoeller





# Epsom Division

## Epsom Christmas Fundraising.

Epsom Division were out and about busy fundraising over Christmas for their Little Acres Lodge project which is so close to completion. We attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ewell (Rainsters) Beavers, Cubs and Scouts carol service who kindly donated £161 from the collection at the event. We also raised over £500 carol singing at Epsom railway station and shook buckets on behalf of the Mayor's Charities (of which we are one) at the annual Ewell St Mary's Morris Men Boxing Day Dancing. We helped out the local Rotary club accompanying Father Christmas as he visited Ewell Court and bag packed for grateful shoppers at Asda Burgh Heath. We delivered fireworks programmes to local newsagents for the Epsom & Ewell Firework display working with the Scouts. Zarah, a 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownie raised £45 by completing a Duothon (running and cycling) and local retailers Quest and Total Look ran a fundraising evening on our behalf giving us £250!

- Mary Zoeller





## Di Sutherland's 30 year award



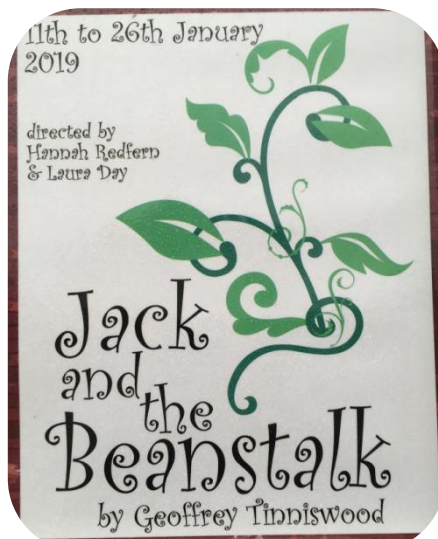
Di Sutherland received her 30 year long service award at her Brownie Pack. She was presented with her award by District Commissioner Nicola Brett. Joining Di at the celebration were Jane and Anne who were all in the same patrol at Guides. They are all still involved in Guiding, how good is that!

- Kate Fowles

## 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies And Rainbows

1<sup>st</sup> Burstow visited the panto this January to see Jack and the Beanstalk, at Archway theatre, Horley. The girls had a wonderful time. We had the whole local theatre to ourselves, organised by Helen Prosser and it was attended by Rainbows and Brownies.

- Jeanette and Mel





## 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies

1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies had a visit to Virgin Atlantic in Crawley and had a fantastic time. We had 2 girls who had never flown and part of the experience was to have a short simulation flight, the pod we were in did not move but there was some wind and vibration whilst noise and images were projected onto the windows. Our 2 went home delighted to have had that experience. All the girls got a chance to be an air hostess and give the safety demo... we have some girls ready to join the Virgin team! They also sat in a raft, went into upper class and sat in the pilots seat too. They took home a goody bag and certificate. All in all they had a fantastic time with lots of thanks from the parents - Jeanette Ralph





## Caterham on the Hill and Chaldon District



1<sup>st</sup> Chaldon Guides have had a particularly busy term helping out with no less than two different firework events, plus they went to Oxygen.

October saw Caterham on the Hill & Chaldon's annual District outing, this time to Kidzania where around 60 of our girls had a fantastic afternoon trying out different careers- and on 8<sup>th</sup> December we took 70+ girls on our popular annual district panto trip to the Harlequin, Redhill to see Snow White.

- Sue Corrance

## Janette Ralph Award Nomination

Janette Ralph was recently nominated for the Tandridge Voluntary Action 2018 "Lifetime Achievement" award; there was a lot of stiff competition and eventually the award was given to another very well-deserving lady called Maggie Price. To be nominated for such a prestigious award is such an honour and everyone is incredibly proud of Janette.

- Sue Corrance





## 5<sup>th</sup> Horley Units



All sections took part in the annual Christmas tree festival at the Methodist church. 5<sup>th</sup> Horley Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers all contributed to the making of the Christmas tree ornaments for our 8ft 'Christmas Dinner' themed tree. After many weeks of planning and sourcing crafting materials we all dived into the making and creating! The Rainbows made the crackers, the Brownies made the roast potatoes, pompom stuffing and Christmas puddings and the Guides and Rangers made the jaunty brussel sprouts and more Christmas puddings. With the leaders adding their own finishing touches. It was a real team effort!

When the day arrived to deck out our tree, we were heartily amazed and astonished with how much we had made... almost stuffed the tree, which caused the comment.. 'just like a proper Christmas dinner!' As you can see from our photos, we are still very proud of our Christmas dinner tree! Our turkey had pride of place at the top of the tree! - Claire Seldon

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Leatherhead Brownies

2<sup>nd</sup> Leatherhead Brownies decorated a Christmas tree in Leatherhead Swan centre. Their brief was 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' and all the decorations were made by the Brownies and made of recyclable things. - Christine Moss





## 5<sup>th</sup> Horley Brownies And Salfords Guides



5<sup>th</sup> Horley Brownies and 2<sup>nd</sup> Salfords Guides were busy before Christmas looking at giving without receiving and as such our unit helper Megan showed the girls how to make these beautiful Christmas decorations. Once made we hand delivered them to random houses during our meeting times. We didn't knock, we just left them on their front door steps with a note explaining the gift. We were overwhelmed by the comments from the local community and we had such fun that I'm sure this will become a much more regular occurrence in our district.

- Ruth Warren

## Horley West District

Horley West District came out in force over the two weekends before Christmas to take part in their annual Christmas wrapping stall at the Belfry in Redhill, Horley West are just at the beginning of their fundraising campaign to update Salfords Guide Hall and we all had a lot of fun together over the two weekends. We even had some little helpers come and wrap with us. Thank you to Cassie and Emily our fabulous Brownies who made our days sparkle a little more.

- Ruth Warren





## Banstead District

During Autumn Term 2018 - Banstead District ran a "District Day" at Park Farm in Banstead for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. It was organised by Anne Bowdery (2<sup>nd</sup> Banstead Brownies). True to form it had been dry every day running up to the event, and then on the event day, it rained solidly all day! We completed the LASER Growing Up Wild badge. Activities included Conker Art, Bark and Clay face making, Rifle Shooting (Guides), Geocaching, putting up tents, lighting fires and toasting marshmallows. We also invented new camping gadgets, and built these out of straws and then finished with an indoor "campfire" sing along. Minus the weather! It was an outstanding day and the girls and adults all really enjoyed themselves.

- Emily Sweeney





## Janet Wheeler's 40 Year Award



Janet Wheeler celebrated a special birthday recently and also received her 40 years of Guiding award.

Many changes will have happened in the last 40 years of service. The guide of 1960 will have been familiar with different words and phrases, a taste of which the county heard at our trip to Lorne recently- making it very clear why we need to keep reinventing ourselves to stay relevant to today's and tomorrows girl.

However, it is fun that is as central today as it was to the girls from 1960 and the years in between. We may be pre GO, pre GDPR pre computers, and pre mobile phones but it's the dedication of the volunteer which remains the same today as always.

Janet, as we celebrate the achievements you have witnessed in your guiding career we hear how you conquered your fear of heights on a trip to Our chalet, how you have gone on to travel widely, including New Zealand Australia and Canada - where you visited your pen pal of over 30 years and plan to return shortly to Newfoundland. Most recently you took part in the trip to the Dutch Bulb fields.

You have held various county, division and district roles, alongside your unit role. This took you to Windsor in 1957, which was probably a very different camp to Scoutabout in 2017 but confidence building for the girl none the less.

So, thanks to sorting out your record recently, ending on the high of the celebrations of 2018- including the wonderful service of thanksgiving at Southwark cathedral - we were able to award you with your 40 year long service award. With wonderful thanks for all you have done for guiding and a hope that you may now enjoy your allotment and walking more as now you can be away from the computer in due course!

- Lesley Bailey



# Gold Aruba 2018

Every year, since 1991, Girlguiding UK selects members (aged 18 - 30) to be part of a unique opportunity; GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development). In 2018, 48 young women travelled to 8 different countries, working with the local Guiding organisations to support and develop opportunities for girls and Leaders. In 2018, Surrey East Leaders, Sophie and Nicki, were selected to be part of the GOLD Aruba team. Here is their story...



*[Photo: Nicki and Sophie]*



*[Photo: Meeting the Board of the APG]*

In September 2017 we began our GOLD journey by taking part in a challenging selection weekend in Belfast. We were both lucky enough to be selected to be part of the GOLD Aruba 2018 project, which included 6 months of planning, training weekends and Skype calls preparing for the 3-week project in Aruba. It was the third year of the project in Aruba, building on the work done by previous teams working with the Arubaanse Padvindsters Gilde (APG). Aruba, for those that don't know where it is, (and we didn't!) is a small island with a population of 110,000 in the Caribbean, just 15 miles from the coast of Venezuela. The aim of the project in 2018 was to focus on youth participation and leadership, which we did by running training sessions with both girls and leaders, helping to develop the organisation and maintain their new WAGGS membership.

After acclimatising for a couple of days, we met with the Board of the APG to agree our timetable and aims. The project began with a session to meet the APG members, both Leaders and girls, which gave us the opportunity to get to know each other so that we could tailor our trainings. We quickly got used to Aruba being very hot and dry and the constant presence of wind meaning that all hands, legs and feet were often needed to hold down paper and blue tac became our most treasured resource!

*[Photo: Sophie and Nicki holding paper down in windy conditions!]*







*[Photo: Sophie with a small group making a spaghetti tower]*

Our first two training sessions ran on consecutive evenings and were aimed at Padvinsters (aged 11 - 16) where we introduced the girls to leadership, encouraging them to speak in front of their peers to present their ideas (this was a new concept to the Padvinsters so there was lots of giggling). We repeated this session with the Pioneers (age 17 - 21) and young leaders (18 - 30) who enjoyed the mix of activities and games.



*[Photo above: Nicki with a small group during a strengths & weaknesses exercise]*



*[Photo: GOLD Team Aruba during the camp weekend]*

The highlight of our GOLD project was a weekend camp (held at a school) for Padvinsters, Pioneers and Leaders. The APG asked us to plan and deliver the programme (complete with the girls 6:30am wake up call) and we decided on a "Best of British" theme. The weekend programme developed on the leadership skills we had introduced in the previous sessions, with Leaders focusing on facilitating youth participation and leadership within their units, which was a new concept for the APG. We designed a wide game helping them to put their skills into practice and gain confidence. Saturday's evening entertainment saw our very own version of "Aruba's Got Talent" and an indoor campfire (in true British fashion) where we shared songs. Camp also saw a surprise visit from a flock of sheep who clearly wanted to join in the fun by running through the site, much to the hilarity of all of us. The Arubans were completely unfazed by this 'normal' interruption!



## Gold Aruba 2018 continued



*[Photo: Sheep invasion!]*

The following week saw two more evening sessions for the Padvinsters, Pioneers and Young Leaders, focusing on how to use their leadership skills, including how to plan and run activities for their peers. The girls wrote session plans and ran games for each other, something they would have found very difficult when we first met them. It was incredibly rewarding to see even the shyest member be confident enough to run a game for her peers, a tribute to the effort of our GOLD team.



*[Photo: running a training session]*



*[Photo: At a training session]*

During our Leader training we informed them what we had done with the girls during the project and how they could support them moving forwards. Our final session was with the APG Board members and encompassed our joint evaluation of the project over the three years; everyone agreed there was a positive change and the project had had a real impact. We supported the Board in creating action plans for further Guiding development and the concept of a Youth Board.

On our last Saturday in Aruba, we did a tour of all five groups (who were having their first meetings back from summer) in our van - Vince Van Gough! It was fantastic seeing the girls in action and a real highlight for us. We enjoyed meeting the Beyisimas (aged 4 - 6) and Kabouters (aged 7 - 11) and playing some games with them. It was really encouraging to see some of the girls we had trained using the skills they had learnt including running games for each other or for younger girls, using the Girlguiding UK resources we had donated and Leaders getting ideas from the girls to make their programme.





Throughout, the members of the APG were extremely hospitable hosts, introducing us to their culture and showing us around their 'One Happy Island'. We all really enjoyed being taken to a local cultural parade complete with floats, food and dancing and a social meal so we could get to know each other. They also helped us plan our excursions and ensured we visited every corner of the island, including an off-road adventure in the National Park, snorkelling, paddle boarding, beach yoga, an island tour, trip to the AloeFarm, enjoying several sunsets and lots of ice cream! Aruba truly is One Happy Island, with its mix of European (Dutch empire) and Caribbean culture; it was great to feel so welcomed.

Sophie says: Being part of GOLD Aruba 2018 has enabled me to have the opportunity to give something back to the organisation, which I got so much out of whilst growing up. I have been encouraged to become more involved with Girlguiding again and am thrilled to be returning to Aruba this summer to lead the GOLD Aruba 2019 team. I can't wait to meet up with all my APG friends and continue to build upon the excellent work of the 2018 project with this year's team.

Nicki says: I feel very privileged to have been a part of GOLD Aruba 2018. It was rewarding to see the change in the girls and women we were working with in Aruba. On a personal level, I have grown in confidence and have gained friends for life. Following on from GOLD, I plan to become a Trainer with Girlguiding and am now looking at other international adventures.

We would like to thank everyone within Girlguiding who made this opportunity possible for both of us and supporting the project in becoming such a success. We feel privileged to have been welcomed into such a passionate organisation and look forward to seeing how the APG develops in the future. If you would like to read more about the GOLD Aruba, inspire your girls or support the 2019 project by buying a badge please get in touch via our social media pages.

Blog: <http://goldteamaruba.blogspot.com/>

Follow @GOLDTeamAruba on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



# International Opportunities



International opportunities come up, for both girls and leaders, throughout the year so make sure you follow Surrey East on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Ensure you read the County and Region newsletters as sometimes events will be advertised there.

**If you are under 18:** There are different ways you can get involved in international Guiding.

a) If you are aged over 13 years you can apply to go on a **Region International Expedition** in 2020. The applications will be circulated in spring 2019 and there will be a County Selection process in the summer. Those selected will then go to the Region Selection in October. These trips are far more than just a “holiday”. As you will go with a group of around 15 Rangers to a long haul destination, where you will complete a service project and have the opportunity to meet Girl Guides or Girl Scouts from the country you are visiting. For further information or an application form, contact Amy on [surreyeastinternational@gmail.com](mailto:surreyeastinternational@gmail.com).

b) You could ask your leader if they would be willing to take you on an international adventure. This can be anything from visiting Disneyland Paris to service project in Outer Mongolia.

c) You could ask your leader if they would be willing to take you to an international jamboree in the UK. You will get the chance to meet international guides and scouts from all over the world.

**If you are over 18:** There are many opportunities available both as a leader and as a participant. You just need to find out the right one for you. If you want to go as a participant, rather than in a position of responsibility, you can apply to do a **GOLD expedition**. The selection events only run once a year and participation is age restricted. Keep an eye here <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/international-adventures/gold/>  
**Applications open in the spring.**



If GOLD isn't quite right for you, there are still other options such as the Global Opportunities Pool, travelling with WAGGGs, International Service Crew at jamborees and working at World Centres.

The **Global Opportunities Pool** that gathers together exciting WAGGGS opportunities to represent Guiding at a range of conferences and seminars all over the world covers issues ranging from the global direction of Guiding, leadership, development and social action right through to the environment and women's rights. As opportunities arise, members who have expressed a specific interest and have the necessary experience will be invited to apply. The current registration and age restrictions are under review (and at the recent Region meeting we were led to believe that the age limit will be relaxed). For the moment, look at the opportunities at <https://www.wagggg.org/en/events/?page=1>.

You can go to a **Jamboree** as international service crew. Have a look at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/international-adventures/regular-international-events/>. Other jamborees and opportunities are advertised throughout the year so keep an eye on the newsletter and the Region website. There are international camps that take place in the UK for those who don't want to travel abroad but want a chance to meet Guides and Scouts from other countries.

If you are a member of the Trefoil you can apply to join a **TOPAZ** (Trefoil Overseas Partnership, Adventure with Zest) action team! Have a look here <https://www.trefoilguild.co.uk//TOPAZ>.



# International Opportunities (Continued)



In 2019, there will be some **Book and Go adventures** which you can apply to go on but there is no support on funding. There are only two at the moment - 10-12 days to Cambodia for Leaders aged 18+ and 10 days to Morocco. These opportunities will be advertised through Discover, Grow in January.

If you are a leader and hold modules 1 - 3 of the Leadership Qualification, you can apply to be part of a **Region International Expedition**. You do not have to be working with the Guide or Ranger sections to apply to be on the leadership team for these trips.

The expeditions involve over approximately 18 months of planning and preparation to provide an immersive cultural experience with a two to three week service project and an opportunity to meet Girl Guides or Girl Scouts from the country you are visiting. There are different roles available in the leadership team so you do not have to have experience in International Guiding. To apply for the 2020 trips, the Region selection will take place on the **16<sup>th</sup> March 2019** at CHQ. Email the Region Office for an application form on [international@girlguidinglaser.co.uk](mailto:international@girlguidinglaser.co.uk).

Applications close at 9am on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. To be the Leader in Charge of a Region Trip you need to hold a Residential qualification - full indoor or outdoor not just an overnight qualification: be prepared to work on any additional modules you may need and hold or be prepared to work on the Travelling Abroad modules.

If you are a leader with Brownies, Guides or Rangers and hold your Going Away with license, you can gain your travelling abroad modules and take your unit abroad. You can go for an adventure to the different world centres, enjoy a trip to Disneyland Paris, go shopping for a long weekend at a Christmas Market or go further afield. The opportunities are endless.

**Want more information? Contact Amy (the international advisor) on [surreyeastinternational@gmail.com](mailto:surreyeastinternational@gmail.com) or contact me via the Surrey East website.**

We are excited to offer an opportunity to represent Girlguiding LaSER at the Juliette Low Seminar (JLS) - WAGGGS' flagship leadership development event for young people. Each event provides participants with adventures, cultural experiences and the opportunity to make friends for life. Sounds amazing, right?

**When:** The six and a half day programme takes place 14 - 20 November 2019. Participants are expected to arrive on 13 November and can depart from the afternoon of 20 November.  
**Where:** The JLS programme will run in up to 20 'hub' locations at the same time. Successful applicants will be notified which 'hub' they have been allocated to attend - it may not be a UK 'hub'.  
**Who for?:** Applicants must be between 20 - 30 years old on 30 November 2019. We will be allocating one participant and one reserve.

**How much?:** Participant fee is £600 - this covers meals, accommodation, programme costs and will be covered by Girlguiding LaSER. The fee does not cover return travel to the allocated 'hub' seminar or Visa fees, but LaSER may be able to make a contribution.

You can find more information at the WAGGGS website: <https://www.wagggs.org/en/what-we-do/lead/jls/>

To apply for this inter-cultural, inspirational and international experience please email [international@girlguidinglaser.org.uk](mailto:international@girlguidinglaser.org.uk). The closing date for applications is **Sunday 3 February**. A paper selection will then take place.





# Reigate District

5<sup>th</sup> Reigate Brownies and Meadvale Guides have enjoyed getting out and about. The Guides met at Faurefold on the Friday night for a sleepover before the District day and each patrol enjoyed cooking a three course meal, which was truly delicious. At the District day we took part in various activities from outdoor cooking to bird feeders, muddy activities to wooden birds and had a campfire finale.

5<sup>th</sup> Reigate Brownies enjoyed finishing their fire safety badges and visited the fire station where the hose pipes were turned on for a damp end to the evening.

We all went to the panto at the Harlequin to see Snow White and the Seven Drawfs. Anne Widdecombe was the wicked stepmother and met the Brownies and Guides afterwards for a photo call.

- Rosemarie Beltcher





## Reigate District (continued)





# 5<sup>th</sup> Reigate Guides

## Growing Up Wild

We took 11 Guides to Nower Wood for the 'Growing up Wild' day in November. We had no idea what to expect from the day or indeed, what kind of reaction we would get from the girls. It turned out to be great fun and the girls were superstars, working really hard to clear areas of unwanted holly. So many smiles and laughs, our favourite bit was overhearing a Guide say "this is SO much fun, I want a saw for Christmas!" Thanks to all who organised the day and the great volunteers at Surrey Wildlife Trust, we will be back to see the Bluebells in the spring.

-5<sup>th</sup> Reigate Guides





# Local Hero's Young Volunteer Award

## Tandridge Voluntary Action – Local Hero's Young Volunteer Award 2018

Sarah has been involved in Girlguiding since the age of 5. After progressing through Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Sarah made the decision to become a Young Leader and work towards the GGUK Young Leader Qualification, which she knew would be a challenge, but one which she was confident, with the correct support, she could achieve. Sarah has come back to help as a Young Leader with the 1<sup>st</sup> South Godstone Rainbow Unit, 1<sup>st</sup> South Godstone Brownies Unit and is developing her skills with the older girls by starting to help at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Oxted Guides. She is currently volunteering for at least three and a half hours a week and has been for 18 months. Sarah started helping to provide the same positive experience she received whilst in the Brownie unit. She is such an enthusiastic young leader who is always bubbly, cheerful and reliable. Sarah is supportive of all the girls, and is a positive role model for them to look up to.

Sarah works incredibly hard and gets involved in all activities. She throws herself into all opportunities and has taken part in lots of events including The Big GiG, Scoutabout and being part of the Lord Mayor's Show. Although she is dyslexic, this has not stopped her completing her Baden Powell Award, the Young Leaders Qualification and she is looking towards completing her Adult Leadership Qualification when she is old enough. In her own words being involved in Girlguiding has "pushed me and taught me that being dyslexic won't stop me doing things I love". In addition, Sarah was badly bullied when she was younger and being a young leader has enabled her to use her experience to help the girls that she volunteers with.

Sarah is a young carer for her brother, who has autism and a sensory processing disorder and for her uncle who also has special needs, yet she is always reliable and organised for meetings. Being a Young Carer has meant that she has a unique insight into additional needs which enables her to connect with all the girls.

As a unit team we are so proud of what Sarah has achieved and honoured to see that she was awarded Young Volunteer of the Year 2018.

- Tracy Lovell





# Warlingham Seniors

Warlingham District Senior Section helped at Race for Life in Lloyd park, Croydon back in July. Supplying runners with much needed water and setting up the water stand.

- Lorna Smith





# Westcott Guides

Last year, with lots of help from the Trefoil, family and friends, we taught the Westcott Guides to knit.

We gave them the option to either make a blanket out of knitted squares, or make “Bonding Squares” for use in baby units. They chose Bonding Squares. These are paired squares, with one square being held close to mother, and the other close to baby so the scents of each aid the two to bond.

Two of our Guides recently delivered the completed squares to East Surrey Hospital Neo-natal Ward. The nurses there were so pleased to receive them, as they rely on volunteers to make these items.

**BIG THANK YOU** to the Trefoil for all their help!

- Naomi Pearce





## BP Weekend

Ello ello ello - what do we have here then? 72 girls achieving their BP award with thanks to the team from Leith Hill, Reigate and Downs Heath. Well done ladies. Lots of team games, an escape room and a visiting forensic team lead to an enjoyable couple of weekends. Faurefold was the fantastic venue, Val, Margaret and Nicola the accomplished cooks and a few dodgy looking coppers ran the weekend. Well done everyone!

- Rosemarie Beltcher

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. We just want to say an extra special thank you to Jodi for all of her hard work in arranging three fantastic events.



## Ashted Guides

Ashted Guiding held a party in November for the Guides to mark the start of their 100 year celebrations and enjoyed a lovely cake. They are planning on having a bigger celebration in 2019!





# Leatherhead Division

## Leatherhead Division goes Christmas Crafts!

60 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Leatherhead Division spent a Saturday in the Tithe barn in Bookham, enjoying making lots of Christmas crafty things to take home. Dax Patel organised the day and was helped with all the unit leaders throughout the day.

The things they made included cookie mix in a jar, mini coupon album, decoupage coasters, calendars, decorated baubles, candy cane reindeer, paper angels. Lots of glitter, tinsel, glue and mess!! We also ran a Christmas Craft Competition, which Lesley and Caroline judged in the afternoon. - Christine Moss





# 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Guides

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Guides celebrated the completion of the Egham Rangers/LaSER Liberteas challenge badge in style. The hall was resplendent in green purple and white and the cakes piled high as we welcomed invited guests to our “You are our Inspiration” tea-party.

We had had an amazing term working towards this badge, with expert-led activity sessions on Yoga and Judo, a workshop on effective conversations and our very own soap box debate. We learnt about the suffragettes and suffragists and held lively discussions about the role of militant action in the past and today.

Almost the whole unit participated in a trip to London, with a tour of the Houses of Parliament, a fascinating guided visit to the Emmeline Pankhurst and Millicent Fawcett statues and a fabulous sleepover on the HMS Belfast. It was incredible how much we could do and learn in 36 hours!

One of our BP challenge girls led a full half-hour of discussion on gender equality, with an impressive grasp of the facts and issues and we thought about and experienced what it means to be part of such a supportive movement as Girlguiding, where we experience sisterhood, friendship and fun.

And so our tea-party truly was a celebration of the journey we had been on. We were honoured to welcome our commissioners from District, Division and County; Baroness Sheila Hollins; Mary Branson - creator of New Dawn artwork at the Houses of Parliament; and Charlotte Potter of GB Judo, together with a host of strong and inspirational women from our local community that the Guides had chosen and invited.

We were also joined by Ursula Clayton from Royal Holloway who worked with the Egham Rangers to develop the challenge badge. What a fabulous resource. Thank-you to all involved in making it available to us.

- Clare Coker







## 1<sup>st</sup> Stoneleigh Rainbows

1<sup>st</sup> Stoneleigh Rainbows ended their term with a fundraising party for Little Acres with their parents, including the girls all serving hand-decorated biscuits. Well Done Rainbows!  
- Nova Macdonald





**Feel inspired by all you have seen ?**

**To find out more please explore the below links.**

This could be you volunteer at :- <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>

County website: <https://www.girlguidingsurreyeast.org.uk/>

National website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>

You can also follow us at:

<https://twitter.com/GGSurreyEast>

<https://www.facebook.com/girlguidingsurreyeast>

<https://www.instagram.com/girlguidingsurreyeast>



### **Weekly Update & County Newsletter**

What is the Difference??

#### **Weekly Update**

- Comes out on a Friday evening/Saturday Morning (cut off Tuesday 6pm)
- Contains up and coming events, training courses, unit opportunities etc
- Send info to [officegirlguidingsurreyeast@gmail.com](mailto:officegirlguidingsurreyeast@gmail.com)

#### **County Newsletter**

- Comes out twice a year
- Contains Articles about past events and general information
- Send info to [newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com)

**The next County Newsletter will be published on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

(both paper and digital copies will be available)

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

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

Please do email me whenever your Unit, Division or District has done something that they have really enjoyed or benefited from. It is also great to hear stories of the units when they are out in the community fundraising or helping in any way. If someone in your Unit, District or Division has done something particularly outstanding then please do email and it is a good way to acknowledge their achievements! Please never feel like we wouldn't want to hear your story because it is so fantastic to see what everyone has been up to and see how vibrant the Surrey East County really is. I look forward to hearing from you!

**Please email items to: [newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com](mailto:newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com)**

**<https://twitter.com/ggSEcountynews>**