

# County Newsletter



Spring/ Summer 2019



# Welcome



**Welcome to all in Surrey East Girlguiding.**

This edition is really a showcase of what fun you are all having in Guiding every week.

Really, it is only left to me to say a huge Thank You for all you do. What more can I say as I look through the evidence of activities we create in the county?

Congratulations one and all!!

It's stunning to see the achievements you present to the girls. All that is left to say is that Charlotte deserves the highest praise for creating a great newsletter. We have produced two editions this time, one (60 pages long) is only in digital form and the other is a shortened version which is 40 pages!

Thank you all and congratulations again.

**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 January 2019.

### Reigate Division

Lucy Adams  
Helen Brennen

### Epsom Division

Charlotte Hill  
Shannon Courtney

### Godstone Division

Anne Pilkington  
Sarah Pratt

### Downs Heath Division

Abi Latham

### Leith Hill

Ellie Glenn  
Caroline Hollands  
Erica Edwards  
April Chitty  
Ali Godwin

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

07860 383918  
callie.leeson@btinternet.com

#### Lorna Smith

07768 241717  
lornasmith99@sky.com





# 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Guides

10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Guides had a lovely day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February visiting Sparkle and Ice. Helen and I took 21 Guides and fun was had by all - food / fireworks / and activities were great and it stayed dry in spite of the snow. The activity in the first photo is called Nightline and involves the girls being blindfolded and led around a mini assault course, the girl in the front can see. They went through tunnels, spiders webs of rope and over obstacles etc. All simple obstacles if they could see but the blindfold adds a different dimension to it.

- Amanda Rayner





# Epsom Division



## EPSOM DIVISION THINKING DAY SLEEPOVER

On Friday 22 and Saturday 23 February history was made in Epsom. Nearly 300 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and their leaders from Girlguiding Epsom Division held a sleepover at Epsom Downs Racecourse. This landmark event was to celebrate World Thinking Day. Every year since 1926, on 22 February everyone who is part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) celebrates international friendship across 150 countries involving 10 million girls.

Epsom Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller said: *"We were delighted when Epsom Racecourse agreed to let us use the Duchess Stand for our Division sleepover and give these girls a unique experience to celebrate Thinking Day in an unusual and memorable way. The event was opened by the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom and Ewell Councillor and Mrs Dallen and the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enjoyed a whole range of activities including a glow stick campfire, line dancing, remaking the Girlguiding promise and getting up early on Saturday morning to watch the sun rise and see the racehorses out on the Downs. We created a massive trefoil shape with coins and the money from this has been donated to WAGGGS Thinking Day charity. We also created a fingerprint tree which will be displayed in our new Lodge at Horton Country Park which we are currently fundraising to complete. It was wonderful to celebrate being part of this worldwide organisation at this stunning local landmark and I would like to thank the wonderful Girlguiding Leaders and staff at Epsom Racecourse for making this happen."*



## Leatherhead Division

Leatherhead Division braved the snow and ice for the weekend at Faurefold in February. Only 1 car got stuck on the ice in the car park - not bad! We had the morning spent doing new programme training, 30 ladies attended, and all are feeling positive about starting the new programme with their units. We spent Saturday evening having a great time, and had many laughs with Ray, from Drum With Us. Sore hands and wrists by the end! Snow had gone by Sunday morning and a group of us went for a walk up onto the North Downes behind Faurefold. Dax Patel was presented with her camp licence. Had an incident with a cow - but Eileen dealt with it!!!

- Christine Moss





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



With 2 of our Guide leaders being Met Police officers and one of the leaders Fiancé, we had a lot of girls showing an interest in the emergency services. So, we decided to set up an Emergency service night at Guides. Our leaders came in their police uniform, we had someone from the London Fire bridge, someone from the London Ambulance service and also one of the Surrey community responders. We got to try on the fire uniform, practice CPR, check our blood pressure, try on police uniform...and at the end, our Guide leaders handcuffed us all! They aren't very comfy!!

We had lots of fun and have a number of Guides who would like to join the emergency services when they are older. And we can't wait to complete our LaSER Police challenge next term!



So the girls were asked what they wanted to do this term...they said roller skating! Leaders first thoughts, 'where on earth am I going to get 25 pairs of roller skates from?' Powers of Google led us to a fantastic man, Barry who runs roller discos and classes. We all got together and had our very own roller disco party at Hawthorne's school in Bletchingley to celebrate the end of term! Girls and leaders all had great fun, with only a couple of bumps and bruises!

- Kayla Pearce





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



Braving the cold we ventured outside for a sensory safari in January. We explored the woods using our senses to be at one with nature; the items collected were transformed into beautiful collages.

Thinking Day was a special event for our girls, it was the first one we had celebrated being a new unit. We thought about all our sisters around the world, looked at the World Centres and the wider family we are part of. The girls decorated candles holders and we renewed their promise by candlelight.

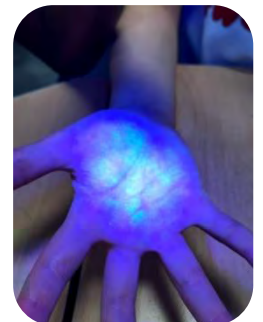


Give us an R-A-I-N-B-O-W-S, what does it spell? Rainbows! Everyone had a super time choreographing a cheerleading routine to funky music – I'm not sure who had more fun the girls or the leaders!

We have been learning about staying healthy and included a session about germs. The girls were very surprised about how many germs there were on their hands - yuck! Everyone is now very thorough when they wash their hands.



Roll up, roll up, come to the best circus in town! We had a hilarious evening learning circus skills including juggling, spinning plates and walking on stilts.



One of our most successful sessions was sharing our talents; each Rainbow brought something in that they are good at, they shared their talent and then taught others how to do it. We had everything from trampolining to Irish dancing to magic to hairdressing!

Our first big outing as a unit was to KidZania – it was fantastic! The girls were super excited and found it hard to choose their first career. Highlights included the maternity ward, fire station and dentist; yet by far the most popular career was the vets. We had a wonderful Spring term and our girls were full of super ideas for the Summer term!

- Karen Wyborn





## Hawthorn Rainbows continued



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashted Rainbows

In the Spring Term 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashted Rainbow unit decide they wanted to gain the Make Change skill builder and Helper interest badge.

Individually the Rainbows went home to research charities and present to the unit one charity they thought was important to them. They voted at the end of the evening which charity they wanted to raise money for and produced a poster. During the term they completed small jobs at home in exchange for some money to fill a smartie tube and returned it at the end of term. Epsom Special Care baby unit was chosen by a Rainbow who's mum works there and arranged a very special visit for us to present our donations.

-Denise



# Commonwealth Service

"To serve the Queen and help other people" – The Commonwealth Service 11 March 2019

LaSER were seeking volunteers to usher guests at a service at Westminster Abbey in March. It was years since I last visited, put off by the crowds and the entrance fee. The chance to go in for free, plus I wasn't working that day so I signed up.

Eventually the day dawned, bright and extremely chilly. I put on my best uniform and set off early, dropping in at HQ for a spot of shopping. Badges bought – and a GG waterproof in distinctive blue as the wind was bitterly cold – I still had an hour to kill and the reception team showed me to the members' area for free tea and coffee – and Wi-Fi! What a lovely facility we have access to, and one I'm definitely going to use again. Thanks team!

As I left there was another leader heading for the Abbey so we walked together, chatting all the way. What a fantastic sisterhood we have, that gives us so much in common, making conversation and friendship so very easy! We soon reached our designated entrance and found our names "on the list" so security let us through the fencing, barriers and gates, where we met a few more uniformed sisters braving the chill. The blue of those waterproofs is visible a mile off! As I saw the sniffer dogs and the ranks of police and security guards, and TV broadcast vans, it was starting to dawn on me that this service was going to be a bit of a big deal.

Our group grew to 15 and we were welcomed by the Royal Commonwealth Society team. We were given a few minutes to familiarise ourselves with the seating layout (and take a couple of pictures at the Baden Powell memorial) before a stewards' briefing in the impressive surroundings of the wooden panelled Jerusalem Chamber. The directory of instructions and timings ran to 40 sheets – thankfully we didn't have to absorb all of the intricacies – and once the security briefing was over, we took our places. I was stationed with the team in the south transept. The guests started to filter in soon after 1.30pm and the cameras went live at 2.15pm. My team's responsibility was to check tickets for the seating area behind the Royals and the Diplomatic guests; this included the faith leaders and representatives of the press. We also seated the flag bearers – including four Brownies and Cubs who were to escort the actual Commonwealth Flag. It was fantastic to see Girlguiding and Scouting represented so significantly at such a prestigious event.

By 2.30pm the seats were almost full and our team expected to take empty places behind pillars. Yet at the last minute our allocated steward placed us in seats just a few rows behind the Diplomatic Corps – almost the best view in the Abbey. What a treat! The procession began: honoured guests from around the world, athletes, representatives from faith communities and churches, and the flags from the countries of the Commonwealth, and then the Royal family – the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the Prince of Wales, Duchess of Cornwall, and Her Majesty the Queen accompanied by the Duke of York. We were metres away. Singing the National Anthem has never felt more poignant and I longed to make my promise hand at the same time, but wasn't quite brave enough.





## Commonwealth Service continued



This 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commonwealth in its current form was truly a joyous celebration of all that it embodies. The Dhol Foundation performed an impressive drum reel, the tantalising beat echoing round the ancient structure of the Abbey. Then a distinct move to the modern, ringing sound of Symphony by Clean Bandit. Lewis Pugh, the Arctic swimmer, shared what drives him as he dives into the icy waters; namely, the importance of commitment to an aim. We were audibly shocked as he told us how the temperature of those polar waters has risen from 3 degrees to 10 degrees on his last swim. For those who still doubt that climate change is a thing, the thermometer doesn't lie.

And then the didgeridoo, an instrument I had never heard played live. William Barton has a fascinating technique, combining vocal sounds, vibrations, and knocking to create a deeply mystical resonance; when the full force of the sound waves were pointed directly at you, it was easy to imagine how it became a spiritual experience to the Aboriginal people.

Alfie Boe followed with an unaccompanied rendition of Snow Patrol's "Run" and, after a hymn (aptly, "Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways") and prayers from Jewish, Shia, Sikh and Catholic leaders, we pledged to uphold the values of the Commonwealth. How reminiscent of our own Girlguiding promise. "We affirm our belief in the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world, and pledge ourselves to its service, now and for the future". Whatever happens with Europe, we can all stand behind the kinship of Commonwealth, its respect for nature, justice for everyone and peace between peoples and nations.

The service began to draw to a close with a gentle yet powerful and passionate performance of "Rise Up" by the B Positive Choir, finalists of Britain's Got Talent 2018., many of whom have blood-related conditions. Another hymn ("Lead us, Heavenly Father") and a Blessing, and the Queen and her family processed to the Great West Door where they received posies, including one from a Rainbow (although the tabloids described her only as "a little girl all dressed in red").

Once the Royals had left the building, photos were allowed and we snapped away, soaking up the atmosphere. After tidying up our transept, I stopped to talk to one group of guides and their leader who had come from Wiltshire to attend the service; this is the sort of event that none of us will ever forget. I floated through the rest of the week, absolutely buzzing and telling anyone who would listen about the amazing opportunities that Girlguiding gives. I am so fortunate to have a job that allows me to swap my working hours around, so I could say "yes" when LaSER asked for volunteers. Thank you to Girlguiding for days like this. Yes, I absolutely promise to do my best. Yes, I will continue to develop my beliefs and yes, I will willingly serve my Queen and help other people. And I'm definitely keeping an eye out for the next request for help!

– Susan Corrance



## 8<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies

### Hospital Comfort Bags

Inspired by Girlguiding North West's comfort bag scheme 8<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies had an outing to Sainsbury's to make a few bags for the teenagers and parents staying on the children's ward at Epsom Hospital. The comfort bags scheme is a heart-warming initiative to provide handmade bags containing small toiletries and care items, to people in their times of need when they aren't expecting to be away from home. In their sixes based in the Sainsbury's café; Brownies came up with a wish list of items for a bag. They then went off with a leader to find out the prices, upon returning to base the final shopping list could be made with their budget of £10. The girls favourite part was then the actual choosing of items and shopping. All the items were finally put into canvas bags decorated by the girls and a small tag attached explaining who it was from.

Ruth (Badger) dropped the bags off at the Children's ward in Epsom, where the staff were very appreciative and thought it was a great idea. It was lovely to hear a few days later that 2 bags had already been used by teenagers whom had unexpected stays and were very well received.

- Charity Nicholls



## 8<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies

### Brownie Hen Party

8<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies Tawny Owl, Shannon recently got married. To celebrate we held a surprise Hen Party at Brownies, which the girls managed to keep a secret for weeks! We made loo roll dresses in sixes (as well as for the bride of course), designed wedding cakes and had an energetic game guessing all about the elements of the wedding. We all had a great time celebrating and loved getting a special badge to remember the night.

- Charity Nicholls





# Surrey East Trefoil

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March members from the 12 Trefoil Guilds in Surrey East gathered at Reigate Park Church for their Annual Review. The subject of the meeting for this year was 'World Travel'. Along with talks from young leaders within the County who had visited Cambodia and Aruba with GOLD, Trefoil members had been asked to send postcards to our President, Janette Walls, of places they had visited in the past year; both in the UK and abroad as a celebration of Trefoil being 75. What a vast number of places Trefoil members managed to visit last year! Within Britain, all Regions and Countries had visits to castles, stately homes and gardens, cathedrals and churches along with museums.

In Europe, 12 countries were visited while for the rest of the world we went West to North America, East to Asia and North to the Arctic Circle. The most distant places for 2 members were Taiwan and Hong Kong. The most countries visited must go to the member who, on a cruise, visited many islands in the Caribbean. For all the distances travelled by sea, air, train, coach and even walking, the star member must be the one who accompanied her grand-daughter to Buckingham Palace when she received her Gold DoE Award. The member having worn her Trefoil badge found herself talking to the Countess of Wessex and the Princess Royal.

Keeping up with this theme, 9 intrepid members from Surrey East travelled to the Southport Convention Centre in early June to attend the National Trefoil Guild Annual Review chaired by the National President, Liz Burnley CBE and Chairman Pat Downer. They joined over 1,500 members from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, the Channel Islands, TGIFC (Trefoil Guild in Foreign Countries) and invited guests to hear from Pat on development and changes in 2018 and the launch of the new STARS challenge Award. We said goodbye to Pat who has completed her term of office and welcomed the new National Chairman, Eileen Martin from Scotland Region. Amanda Medlar, the Chief Guide spoke of the challenges facing Girlguiding over the coming years and the adventures of her Guides on their visit to the Czech Republic. The Guest speaker, Jim Wright, the son of James Herriot, the Yorkshire Vet (although he practised in the Wirral) told amusing anecdotes, stories and memories of his father. In the evening, members were entertained by The Houghton Weavers, a northern country and western trio and a short rendition from the Wigan Ukulele Club.

We look forward to meeting up with our many Trefoil friends at next year's Annual Review in Southend.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> Surrey East Trefoil held a Fun and Friendship day at Faurefold where, during the morning, members participated in geocaching, orienteering and cooking dampers. For the less active there was seated yoga and making bird feeders. After a typical Trefoil lunch and much chatter, members made felt purses, checked a jigsaw for a member, stress-free colouring and reading about the New Programme. The rain finally stopped enough for a couple of members to walk down the lane to play pooh-sticks. Definitely much fun and friendship with the different Guilds of the county.

- Jenny Powell





## Leith Hill Division

In March, Leith Hill Division Leaders spent a lovely weekend together at Foxlease. We had a full training weekend which included the new programme, residential forms and risk assessments. Several leaders completed safe space training and first response. Abseiling, archery and zip wiring was also on offer. Saturday afternoon saw us walking into Lyndhurst and enjoying a delicious cream tea. The hi-light of the weekend was Saturday night when George Ede and Di Sutherland received their 30 years Service awards. Prosecco and cake on the menu. Huge thanks to George Ede for organising.

– Kate Fowles





# Czech Scout Visit

## Visit of Czech Scouts : September 2018.

These exchange visits have taken place every other year since the first, which followed Capital Jig in 1999, when a group of Trefoil Guild members stayed, post Prague, with Czech Scouts in Tabor, an ancient town in the Czech Republic. And so it was that 10 Czech Scouts and 10 of us came together last September for the 2018 visit. We followed the well tried and successful format of previous years; A week in self catering holiday accommodation in Dewlish in Dorset for the entire group with 5 Czech friends staying on afterwards for home stay in Reigate.

It's hard to believe how mutually beneficial these exchanges have been. We've shared the many and varied experiences which come with living together for a week in each other's countries and 2018 was no exception. In particular, the Czech Republic being a land locked country, trips to the seaside were very popular; Swanage by steam train; shell and fossil collecting in Studland; Kimmeridge dinosaur exhibition and the RSPB Reserve in Arne, looking across to Brownsea Island, which brought back happy memories of our visits there in previous years. The more hardy actually went swimming! Further inland, we took in other places of interest e.g. Dorchester, Tolpuddle and the Bovington Tank Museum.

Our evenings together were very special. Singing and music were much in evidence, as several in the Czech group are talented musicians. We shared crafts and games and, not least, a traditional Czech meal, which we had helped, or more accurately observed, being prepared and cooked....no shortage of dumplings! A poignant moment occurred one evening when we remembered Lida, the inspiration behind these exchanges, who had died earlier in the year.

All in all, we had a great deal of fun and further cemented the wonderful friendship we've built over the years. And now, with thankful hearts, we are looking forward to our time in The Republic in 2020.

- Sheila Jones





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

Annabel, Harriet and Olivia from the 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Brownies, achieved the highest award available for Brownies, by winning interest badges in Jobs, Mindfulness, Painting, Grow your Own, Collecting, Inventing, Local History and Baking. All these badges are part of the new programme of activities being rolled out for Brownies (aged 7-10) across the UK, as part of the biggest overhaul of activities in Girlguiding's history.

Annabel, Harriet and Olivia also organised an "Ask a Guide" session with members of 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Guides, as well as planning and running a special meeting for their fellow Brownies on Bonfire Night 2018. They arranged activities including edible campfires, a bonfire photo hunt and chocolate toffee apples!

- Christine Moss



On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Brownies had a very successful fund raising evening for Comic Relief raising £215. Included in this amazing total was £35 from 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Guides mufti evening. The Brownies made and decorated red nose themed cakes which counted towards their baking badges. There was also a raffle, face painting and other fun filled activities.

- Clare Mahony





# Leith Hill Division

Leith Hill Division Guides spent the early May bank holiday at Blacklands camp site. This was a back to basics camp with the girls completing the eggy bread challenge and two skill builders. The girls cooked their own breakfasts and prepared elements of their lunch and dinners. They went kayaking, rifle shooting and went crate stacking. The weekend was however the coldest early May bank holiday on record, which did provide a challenge for both girls and leaders. We had strong winds, rain, hail and frost and some sunshine. Despite the challenges of the weather the girls had a fantastic time and the camp leadership team should be congratulated on providing a fabulous weekend for the Guides.

– Kate Fowles





# Epsom Division

## LONDON MONOPOLY RUN 2019

Leaders in Epsom Division took part in Monopoly Run 'Live', a real-time version of the popular Monopoly board game. It was played in a single day in central London and involved visiting the actual sites that the board game is based on. After a gruelling day covering over 30,000 steps each, the team "Guiding Soles" (Jackie, Clare, Mary, Bernie, Charity, Laura and Elaine) won their game competing against six other teams and raised over £900 for the Little Acres Lodge project at their campsite in Horton Country Park, Epsom.





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

1<sup>st</sup> Stoneleigh rainbows, Epsom, recently celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday by having a tea party. Rainbows and their parents from the last 5 years were invited along with ex leaders of the unit and ex district commissioners. The ex leaders told everyone about what Rainbows was like when they ran the unit and how different it was from today. During the party we had a couple of enthusiastic rounds of the balloon game before everyone wrote a message to be included in the commemorative album we made for the event. We also announced the winner of the design a badge competition we ran for the existing rainbows and awarded that rainbow with a framed print of their original design and the finished product along with a voucher for a local toy shop. Everyone who attended got their own badge for the occasion. We rounded off the party with food and drink and a fabulous rainbow cake.

- Maria Smith



# Leatherhead Division

In Leatherhead Division - Quinn Le Brun, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fetcham Rainbows, has achieved her Young Leader award and Louisa Kassell, 1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Rainbows, has gained her Adult Leadership. Some good points this term, but we are still needing more volunteers! We held a "taster session" at Leatherhead Leisure Centre. Thank you to Jeanette, Amy from HQ, and my lovely Leaders for coming to help run activities and chat to people.

- Christine Moss





# Epsom Division

## LITTLE ACRES UPDATE

We've now raised a magnificent £137,500 for our lodge at Little Acres Campsite but still need £38,000 to complete the project. The lodge is now constructed and we are now starting the next phase of the project and the builders are currently working on the electrics and veranda. We have cleared the site so we are now open for camping bookings. If you would like to book the campsite you can do so by visiting our brand new Epsom Division website at: <https://www.girlguidingepsom.org.uk/little-acres/> Recent fundraising events have included a chocolate tombola in The Ashley Centre, Epsom and we were delighted to be presented with a cheque for £1,800 from Toyota.

- Mary Zoeller





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

## Westcott Guides Goes International!

Two of our Westcott Guides have been selected to take part in LaSER International Opportunities. This summer, they will be working with project volunteers to support the on-going development work in helping to improve conditions for the communities in Argentina and Uganda.

Both are very excited about these trips and have been working hard on their fundraising. They made some innovative crafts for a Christmas Craft Fair, including Debate-a-Baubles and Snowman Tea Lights and together they raised over £600!

They hosted a Quiz Night that was supported by family, friends and the Guiding family, and this coupled with a raffle raised over £1000!

This summer, their fundraising will conclude with them promoting their badges and selling crafts and DVDs at the local village fair.

Preparing for this life changing experience has been almost as exciting as their trips will be. It has reinforced the value of teamwork and highlighted to them that fundraising is hard work! It has also enabled them both to make new friends and turned them into true Girlguiding Ambassadors.

-Naomi Chaning Pearce





## Epsom Division

### MOTHERING SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE

1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies played an important role in the Mothering Sunday service at St Mary's Church, Ewell. Not only did they carry the flag in the church parade, they also helped with the flowers, did a reading and helping Russell the vicar give out the flowers to mothers and for mothers. A wonderful community service that we were proud to be involved with.

- Mary Zoeller



## Epsom Division

### FAUREFOLD WOODEN BEARS

Roo Harmer kindly came to 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies this Spring and showed us how to make these amazing wooden bears! Everyone had a great evening hammering and proceeds from the night went to Faurefold where the wood originated from.

- Mary Zoeller





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

We have been following the new Brownie programme again this term, and one of their favourite activities was the 'In a Fix' UMA- girls all brought along their own hammers and spent a good hour hammering in their nails into wooden blocks before decorating with loom bands. We also enjoyed making Butterfly Feeders for our 'Growing Up Wild in the Summer' badge.

In March we went had a blast at Kidzania! Girls got to try their hands at being check out girls, police and radio presenters among many other things. They particularly enjoyed counting up their hard earned money at the end!

We made Promise Bunting to celebrate our new starters at the beginning of term. On a recent sleepover we had a brilliant time playing and dancing in the dark with glow sticks attached to us! This was followed by a pizza delivery and movie night before bed.



In May we had our annual 3 night pack holiday. Girls chose Disney theme this year- we did onsite adventurous activities such as crate stacking, as well as having a Mad Hatters Tea Party where everyone wore own-made hats. We also made Lion King cakes, painted Genie Lamps and had a Disney dress up talent show!

- Elaine Rollason





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

Continued



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

Each term, 1<sup>st</sup> Ashted Brownies' try to help the community as part of their promise.

In March, we decided to collect food items for the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank.

A big thank you to all the Brownies for bringing in bags of food donations that will make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry.

- Sarita Amin



# Epsom Division Awards

Three amazing Girlguiding Epsom Division girls were honoured at the Mayor's Young Champion Awards held at the Town Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Congratulations to Lucy Brick (1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Court Guides) who won Young Fundraiser, Grace Dawson (1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies) who won Young Hero and Emily Zoeller (1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies) who was highly commended Young Volunteer.

We are immensely proud of you!

- Mary Zoeller



## Epsom Division

### OLD UNIFORM

A 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownie mum kindly let her daughter wear her original uniform to our unit meeting where we enjoyed comparing the differences and similarities to today's uniform!

- Mary Zoeller





## 3<sup>rd</sup> A Reigate Brownies

### **Brownies Pack visit Squires Garden Centre to learn more about the importance of bees and other insects in all our gardens**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> A Reigate Brownies visited Squires Garden Centre in Reigate to learn about how to encourage bees and other insects in gardens by creating their own summer garden pots on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019, using pollinating plants, as well as taking part in a mini garden quiz.

Mark Morley, from Squires Garden Centre with his team stayed late, so the brownies could visit the garden centre with Kirsty Spurrier and Wayne Herbert on hand to show them how to plant out their own summer flowering pots, using pollinating plants, that they could take back to their own gardens.

The team explained that pollination is important because it leads to the production of fruits we can eat, and seeds that will create more plants. They had a choice of different pollinating plants, which included heathers, lobelia and alyssum.

Jane Garland and Angela Diggins, leaders of the Brownie pack, helped the girls with planting out pots as well as running a mini garden quiz which will help the Brownies achieve their Summer Growing Up Wild badge. The evening was rounded off with refreshments, which included cupcakes. Thanks to Squires Garden Centre for explaining in a practical way the importance of pollinating plants and how to encourage insects, including bees into our gardens creatively as well as letting the 3<sup>rd</sup> A Reigate Brownies use the Squires facilities.

-Jane Garland



## 6<sup>th</sup> Banstead Guides

During the Spring Term at 6<sup>th</sup> Banstead Guides we completed the Mixology Interest Badge by tasting, designing and making mocktails for everyone to try. We also attended the local Banstead pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, which the girls always enjoy.

We introduced the girls to the new programme so started working through the Be Well Skills Builder theme, as this was a perfect fit for the new year. Into the summer term we will be completing the Into the Surrey Hills badge, created by Stella in our district with the Surrey Hills Society, and will be going for a walk and picnic in one of the areas of Natural Beauty within Surrey. We will also have an outside speaker who is the Marketing Digital Lead at Unilever to talk to the girls about the power of brands, and their brand to prepare them for completing the Personal Brand Interest Badge.

- Laura Simpson



## 4<sup>th</sup> Bookham Guides

In June 2019 4<sup>th</sup> Bookham Guides had a brilliant science evening all about sound.

It was run by the parent of one of our former Guides. The girls did all sorts of interactive experiments, made a mess, and had a great time in the process!

- Jennifer Sibley





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

1<sup>st</sup> Tadworth Rainbows took part in the Walton on the Hill May Pageant on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. The pageant had the theme “all that glitters”, and the Rainbows’ costume “every cloud has a silver lining” won the prize for the best dressed group. The Rainbows really enjoyed parading through Walton carrying their umbrellas!

1<sup>st</sup> Tadworth and Walton Brownies also entertained the crowds with some maypole dancing.

- Abi Latham



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

2<sup>nd</sup> Tadworth Brownies also won the best dressed uniformed group in the Walton on the Hill May Pageant, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, for dressing up as glitter balls. One of our leaders Vicki is amazing with costumes and puts a huge effort into it very year. She designs a costume that the girls can help make.

- Rachel Holmes.



## Godstone Division

**5<sup>th</sup> Caterham Rainbows and Guides and 11<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies** had a talk about STEM. They also entered a table exhibit into the Horticultural Society's Spring Show of Easter handicrafts that the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides made and won joint First Prize.

Brownies entered the handwriting class 7 – 9 years old. Elvie came first and Amy came second. For the Guides handwriting class 10 – 14 years old Chante and Noa came joint first, Amy came third.

Guides also entered the painted picture of fruit, with Chante coming first, Anna-Mei second and Poppy and Noa came joint third. Chante also won the Tesco Caterham Cup for her painting of an orange. Congratulations to all the girls that took part in this event.

- Julia Bennett



## County Training

### **County Residential Training - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 19**

For many members of Guiding, residential experiences are the most treasured. Whether it's an overnight spent somewhere unusual, at an organised activity weekend or a week long camp in a field - we all remember fondly these magic times together.

Leaders from across the county from all sections attended the Residential Training day at Faurefold to find out about the Going Away With Scheme and everything they need to do to arrange a residential event. We were also joined by Guides and Rangers planning to do their camp/senior section permit.

The County Residential Advisers are looking forward to visiting their events to assessing them during the year.

- Beverly Heywood-Jones





## 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Brownies

6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Brownies spent a wonderful evening at the Little Seeds Forest School in Gatton Park, Redhill on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The girls had a great time doing many different Forest School activities. We did bug hunting with equipment such as magnifying glasses, nets and identifier charts. We found worms, centipedes, wood lice and many other bugs under tree stumps, in damp soil and even by shaking trees and catching the bugs that fell out. We built dens with big branches of wood, make wooden necklaces and even used learnt how to use hacksaws. Then to end the evening we had a camp fire. The staff were amazing and the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Little Seeds Forest School is bookable by uniform groups at a really good price. Email [education@gatton-park.org.uk](mailto:education@gatton-park.org.uk) for more information.

- Lucy Adams





## 4<sup>th</sup> Stoneleigh Brownies

We are very proud of 2 of our Brownies who completed the Gold award just before going up to Guides a few weeks ago. We had a celebration evening on the 28<sup>th</sup> February and Neve Gardener and Jade Birch were presented this special award by our DC Denise Gould.

They had both completed the adventure badges, Go for it and then 3 of the new badges including Baking, Jobs and Performer. As part of the badge Neve went to a Rainbow pack to talk about Brownies and Jade went to a Guide evening to learn more.

- Sarah Edwards





# Godstone Division Campfire

## Godstone Division Campfire

On a very windy Saturday in April Godstone Division held their division campfire at Cudham Shaws Campsite. Luckily the campfire circle is in a ditch and the wind was not a factor and no one minds a little bit of rain, right!

The evening was split into 2 parts with Rainbows getting their very own event. Approximately 30 Rainbows and their leaders and parents joined in with favourites such as Baby Shark, Penguins and Cuddly Koala. During this event Anne Pilkington was presented with her 30-year Long service award. The Rainbows walked back up the hill to the waiting leaders who served them hot chocolate to keep them going for the journey home.

The Brownies, Guides and Rangers arrived next with approximately 70 girls and their leaders. They enjoyed singing some old favourites and leading a few songs and verses themselves. Particularly memorable moments include 'Oh you'll never go to heaven' and 'ain't no flies on us'. The girls then headed back up the hill to the waiting hot chocolate before heading home. Our thanks to Monkey for organising the event, to Monkey, Janet, Lorna and Stephanie (Young Leader) for leading songs and to Badger, Hedgehog and Phoebe (Guide) for the fire.

- Lorna Smith





# Stella Cantor 30 Year Service Award

## Stella Cantor is awarded 30-year long service award

Stella Cantor was presented her long service award by County Commissioner, Lesley Bailey at her Rainbow meeting for exceeding 30 years of service to Guiding.

Stella has made a significant contribution to Guiding in Surrey East. She was Guide leader for 9<sup>th</sup> Dorking Guides in the 70s and returned there for a further 10 years after being Ranger Leader and Guide leader in Brussels. She has also been Dorking District Commissioner and Downs Heath Division Commissioner and played a key part when GO was first introduced.

More recently Stella is the County First Response Co-ordinator providing first aid training and refreshers to leaders across the county and is the leader of 1<sup>st</sup> Nork Rainbows.

Congratulations to Stella and sorry it was awarded late!

- Beverly Heywood-Jones





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

Evie, a 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Brownie, recently received her speaking out badge after writing a letter to the BBC about an episode of Horrible Histories.

Evie was asked, in a recent Girlguiding blog, what made her want to write to the BBC and she said "I heard them say that Vikings were like great big girls because they wore make-up, had baths and picked on easy targets and that made me cross because it sounded like they were saying that girls weren't strong. I thought if we wrote to them, they might stop putting lines like that in shows and acknowledge that it was wrong".

So she wrote to the BBC and they agreed to change the episode! When asked how she felt when she got a letter back Evie said "I felt excited when they wrote back because it showed that they acknowledged it and did something about it. When I got the letter, I felt like I had a voice and I could use it to change things. Even though we're just kids, it's important to know we have voices and can use them".

She also recently appeared on an episode of Sunday morning live to discuss the issue. Great job Evie!



Horrible Histories  
CBBC  
PO BOX9989  
Salford  
M5 0DP

Dear CBBC,

My name is Evelyn and I am 8 years old. I like bugs, cats, archery, yoga, and Horrible Histories but I didn't like what I saw today. I was watching Series 2 Episode 8 of Horrible Histories on the iPlayer and the rat, Rattus Rattus, said Vikings were basically just "great big girls" because they wore make-up, had baths and liked to pick on easy targets. I don't think it's right for him to say that, because girls can do anything and what he said makes it sound like girls are weak. If he calls the Vikings girls, it makes it sound like it is a bad thing. It's not a bad thing to be a girl because girls are strong. Please can you make sure that the characters don't say anything like that anymore because it's offensive to girls and all people.

I loved the song at the end of that episode about the history of music. I think Horrible Histories is a good show because it teaches me about the past in a really fun way but I hope I don't hear any more jokes about girls like that.

Sincerely,



Dear Evelyn

Reference CAS-5184795-LJMNT1

Thank you very much for getting in touch with us.

We've just received your letter and are glad to get your feedback about a recent episode of Horrible Histories.

We spoke to Melissa Hardinge who is the Senior Commissioning Editor for BBC Children's television who has asked us to pass her response on to you.

"Thanks very much for contacting us about "Horrible Histories", and highlighting your concern about the description of Vikings as "great big girls".

I have to say I completely agree with you, and I'm sorry for any offence caused. This was from an older episode, that pre-dates me, and I am arranging for this show to be edited to take that line out.

Thanks very much for bringing this to our attention. I do hope that you will continue to watch the show, as we aim to feature lots of strong female role models. In the upcoming Series 8, that we've just filmed, and which will air next year, we have shot a "Ferocious Females" special, which I think you might enjoy!

Very best wishes,

Melissa"

We really value your feedback about this and would like to thank you once again for getting in touch with us.

Kind regards

Donal Rainey  
BBC Complaints Team  
[www.bbc.co.uk/complaints](http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints)



# Epsom Division

## SPRING DOWNS DISTRICT PGL ADVENTURE

Brownies and Guides from Spring Downs District in Epsom Division had an exciting weekend at PGL Marchants Hill in Hindhead. The girls braved the giant swing, zip wire, abseiling tower, aeroball and many more hair-raising activities. All the girls pushed themselves to have a go and were very brave trying out some great new activities. Thank you to Spring Downs District Commissioner Clare Graham for organising this great weekend.

- Mary Zoeller





# Reigate Division

450 girls from Reigate Division recently enjoyed a day out to Kidzania in London. We hopped on coaches and arrived to take part in all sorts of activities from cleaning floors, to making chocolate, printing a newspaper to being a bus driver. The girls had a fabulous time and a number of leaders managed to finish their Safe Space 2 training over a coffee and chat with various DCs. Thank you ladies for spending your Sunday with us to give the girls this opportunity.

- Rosemarie Belcher

Reigate Division DC





# 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 16 excited Brownies, 4 leaders and 2 mums boarded the train at Redhill Station to go to London Bridge. 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies were off on a weekend adventure, Kip in a Ship, aboard HMS Belfast. On arrival we left all our luggage on the ship and found a little park area to eat our packed lunches. In the afternoon we split up into groups and did a treasure trail around the St Katherine's Dock area before going for an early dinner at the Café Piazza at Hays Galleria, where we were well looked after.

Then it was back to HMS Belfast for 6.00pm when we had booked some evening activities. This included an informal learning session about mess deck life, discovering the realities of life on a warship and learning about all the different jobs on board. We also had a tour of the Captain's Bridge. We were able to look out over the London skyline at night and saw Tower Bridge being raised to let the Dixie Queen sail through. Then the Brownies made their own mini flag poles on which to raise a flag signal. They also designed their very own mess mug, before having hot chocolate, a sailors' favourite drink. Then it was off to bed below deck, immersing ourselves in the ship's history by sleeping in real sailors' bunks.

On Sunday after breakfast we had another learning session and then there was an opportunity to explore the ship in small groups. Our final activity of the weekend on leaving HMS Belfast was to climb The Monument, all 311 steps of it. Then back home with lots of weary but happy Brownies. All in all a fantastic adventure for adults and children alike and we will definitely do it again in the future.

- Elaine Crooks





# Mary Gooding 40 Year Service Award

Congratulations to Mary Gooding for 40 years of Guiding. Mary was thanked for her contribution to Guiding at Reigate Park's District Day in April by her Guides and her Commissioners. A hundred girls enjoyed an afternoon of skipping, crafts and outdoor games at the Colman Redland Centre to celebrate Mary's achievement and the joining of Reigate Hill and Reigate Priory. Reigate Park District welcomed Bridget Denley as their District Commissioner.

- Rosemary Belcher





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

1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies recently joined over 2000 girls creating Magic and Mayhem at Girlguiding's biggest event for girls aged 5 to 10. We took part in some adventurous activities including Archery, Circus Skills, Magic Tricks, Science Experiments, campfire sing along and we also got to have fun on a variety of inflatables.

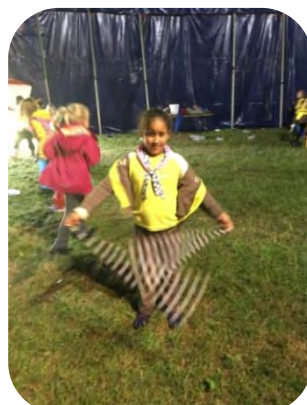
After adventuring all day, the Brownies camped together under a giant big top tent. For many girls this was their first night away from home as part of Girlguiding.

Kara, age 9, from our unit said "This was my first ever guiding camp and it was amazing, we got to do so many activities, can I come again"

The festival also welcomed the RAF to the site to celebrate the start of an ambitious three year partnership. The RAF lead an activity to make rockets with the girls. Last July, Girlguiding launched its updated programme of over 800 new badges and activities. The RAF will be supporting the development of new activities to engage girls in STEM.

Girlguiding gives girls opportunities to have fun and adventure, develop new skills and make friends.

- Melody Kavanagh





## 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Guides

7<sup>th</sup> Horley Guides have run a topic on periods this term. They have told their unit about different sanitary protection options (teaching us leaders about a few new products we hadn't come across) with songs, cheerleading and debate. They also made reusable heat pads, tried out yoga moves that might help with period pains and collected donations for the Horley Red Box Project. This got good feedback from parents, who mentioned it was helpful for their daughters to have open discussions about periods.

We also had a great 'Superhero' themed weekend at Faurefold. The weather was kind, and the girls had loads of fun doing superhero challenges and enjoying the beautiful site with geocaching, a campfire and wide games. It was our first weekend there since the refurbishment, and we would highly recommend it, the new layout made for a really straightforward trip, and the kitchen meant all the girls got a turn at cooking. We were really lucky to have Jeanette Ralph join us from Brownies - she spoilt us all with her brilliant catering.

Whilst enjoying the new programme we made sure we kept to our unit traditions and finished the term with chocolate piggies - such creative Guides!

- Annabel West



## Horley East District

At a District level we held a Thinking Day event this year, attended by almost 60 girls, which was based on the WAGGGS challenge of an adventure through time. We tried to adapt the activities to suit the different sections and the girls enjoyed it, albeit the Rainbows needed quite a lot of support but they all seemed to enjoy it. Sadly our photographer had camera problems so there aren't any pictures.

Later this term we are once again running an all-sections District event at Cherry Lane Adventure playground in Crawley; last year the event was attended by just under 100 girls. The girls love this adventure playground with its climbing frames, water play area and fire pit for toasting marshmallows.

-Anne Thomas



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

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Guides had Caroline from Pony Pals visit our unit. Caroline came with Noodles the pony and 8 guinea pigs. She talked to the girls about difference careers working with animals and about the different places she takes her animals to visit and why small animal therapy makes a difference to the lives of elderly people in care homes, children that are long term sick or even visiting relatives in prison. The girls learned about the anatomy of horses, how to brush horses and even had some fun plaiting and putting bows in his mane and tail. They also did some pony agility and learned about how they way they position themselves as they run helps to show Noodles what to do. We then enrolled our newest member Esmè alongside Noodles in a pony enrolment ceremony.

- Katie Mitchell





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

We had a super evening recently making a scarecrow to enter the RHS Wisley scarecrow competition. The theme was Spectacular Plant Discoveries and we chose to make our scarecrow in our vision of Charles Darwin.

The Brownies deciding for themselves which part of the scarecrow they wanted to create, adding lots of crafted flowers, bugs houses, map for his plant expedition, fabulous beard (and we know not quite the point of a scarecrow) birds and a birds nest.

RHS Wisley gave every girls a free entry ticket and many visited over half term to see the competition and of course the gardens.

The winners were announced after half term and we were delighted to win!

-Wendy





# Guides at Faurefold



## Giant Art Day for Guides at Faurefold

The Giant Art Day at Faurefold was organised for Guides and took place on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The idea was to have projects that would be created in the woods for future groups visiting Faurefold to enjoy. Lots of new skills were needed as well as imagination. The blue shed was transformed with four colours to create stripes and patterns as well as learning how to paint. Some lovely boxes were decorated by the Guides painting beautiful birds, flowers and other things from nature on the sides. These boxes have been put around the site with activity cards inside to help groups to explore. A giant woven panel was created by everyone learning how to weave on a giant scale. Mud sculptures popped up all over the place. A lovely spiral mosaic made of broken crockery and flower pots makes a colourful surprise in the woods. They also built a log cabin which will be great fun to play in. In the same area of the woods they let their imaginations go wild to wrap trees in colourful materials, it's a fantasy forest.

The day was a great success with everyone being inspired by nature to create "art installations " for everyone to share. We plan to organize a similar event next year.





# Brownies at Faurefold

## Brownie Activity Day at Faurefold

19<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Another lovely day with nearly 70 Brownies and their Leaders. The day was aimed at a relaxed atmosphere for everyone so none of the activities had been timed giving the girls time to look around the site and decide what they wanted to do.

The activities available to try were planting succulents in different shaped pots, make a bug house out of a tin can, den building, decorating bags, sawing and drilling wood to make a charm, planting a sedum roof for the bug house, (looks amazing) easy tracking and cooking bread on the camp fire (girls thought that was the best), but best of all were the MUD sculptures, where the girls copied the Guides from the day before and got a bit grubby!!!

Towards the end of the day we all met around the campfire singing camp songs and finished with Brownie Bells before heading off home. Overall a great day.





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

Back in May 1<sup>st</sup> Chaldon Guides went to Downe Camp for an overnight. The weekend was very busy with lots of great activities. The girls smashed it on the aerial trek. They also had a go at pedal karting and also completed amazing teamwork on Jacob's ladder. Our wonderful leaders celebrated their birthday on camp. One thing was guaranteed - there was never a dull moment all day! All those activities lead to some hungry Guides who enjoyed a bit of backwards cooking.





## 7<sup>th</sup> Bookham Brownies



7<sup>th</sup> Bookham Brownies had a great Bear Hunt Brownie holiday, at neighbouring Surrey West site, Herons Wey, Weyside. We visited the woods, made rain sticks, went grass sledging, did lots of mud activities, including chocolate (mud) eating, and zip wiring home after finding the bear - our Leader Barn Owl in a bear outfit! Everyone made great memories and new Brownie friends. The retiring DC, Dax Patel, has been DC of Fetcham and Leatherhead for the past 5 years and is now handing over to Wendy Amer.

-Karen Sims





# 1<sup>st</sup> Walton-on-the-Hill Guides

## Five Walton-on-the-Hill Guides complete their BP Challenge

Congratulations to Alice, Annagail, Freya, Grace and Jasmine from 1<sup>st</sup> Walton-on-the-Hill Guides who successfully completed their BP Challenge Award. This is the last group we will have as sadly this prestigious badge has not been continued into the new programme.

Their journey included running a Celebrating Diversity evening looking at relationships, national cultures, disabilities and religion. Another evening included cooperative games, raps and sketches with the theme of anti-bullying. The girls loved their patrol cooking making home-made burgers and chicken goujons, that were simply delicious. Two girls attended the BP Adventure in January themed 'Cops and Robbers' where a real forensic scientist showed them how to look for evidence at the scene of crime and the other three joined last week's 'Greatest Showgirl' BP Adventure and tried their hand at circus skills. They all enjoyed meeting other older guides from across the county, sharing their own guiding experiences and are really grateful to the leaders who organised these events.

Over the years we have seen the BP Challenge help the older Guides to grow and transition into young leadership. They are all now keen to continue their guiding journey and become young leaders. Avril Farley, District Commissioner attended our meeting and presented the awards. Thank you to everyone who supported them.

- Beverly Heywood-Jones





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

1<sup>st</sup> Chaldon Guides have been to London to see Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and Palace Of Westminster. We even got to go into Parliament and visit the House of Commons and the House of Lords! Two of our Guides then made their Promise under the Churchill statue outside Houses of Parliament.

Of course, our trip finished with a mandatory trip to Girlguiding HQ where we brought lots of badges and our newest Guide brought her camp blanket ready for Summer Camp in July!

- Kayla Pearce





# Surrey East Trefoil

## MEET THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Surrey East Trefoil has a new chairman. Janice Posner from Ewell Trefoil took over from Janet Wheeler at the County Annual Review in March. She is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that her new role will bring.

Janice came from a Scouting family and started in Guiding as a Brownie then as a Guide in Scotland. At 16 she joined the Cadets and gained her Guiders Warrant at 18. Having moved South and got married her family settled in Stoneleigh. When her daughter joined Brownies at 7, Janice was persuaded to come back into uniform as Tawny Owl of 5<sup>th</sup> Stoneleigh Brownies. Later she went on to lead 3<sup>rd</sup> Stoneleigh Guides for 15 years which renewed her passion for the outdoors.

In her working life she was a Civil Servant and a Personnel Officer for the Civil Service Benevolent Fund. In 1998 she went to work at LaSER Region Office – a dream come true as she now got paid for her hobby!

She has 2 daughters who were both Brownies and Guides. Her elder daughter was also a member of Warspites. Her only grand-daughter soon followed in the family footsteps and became a Rainbow, a Brownie, a Guide and finally an Explorer Scout.

Guiding has been a big part of her life although she enjoys most sports and still actively plays badminton. She also belongs to Surrey East Get up and Go group playing table tennis and taking part in Tai Chi. Janice loves travelling and has been to China, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and America and latterly a Caribbean cruise last year. One place still on her bucket list is Canada.

High points of her life were her first Pack Holiday, as a Brownie she had never been on a Pack Holiday; walking over Sydney Harbour Bridge which furthered her desire to visit every high building in cities and countries she visited.

- Jenny Powell





# Epsom Division

## Duck Race

The 10<sup>th</sup> Ewell Court Resident's Association Duck Race was another huge success with hundreds of ducks swimming (and being helped) down the River Hogsmill from Green Lanes to Ewell Court. The aim of this much loved community event has always been to raise money for Casey Children's Ward at Epsom Hospital but Girlguiding Epsom Division and the local scouts are heavily involved with the running event and were each given £815 towards their fundraising too as thanks for their help.

- Mary Zoeller





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

In Summer term 1<sup>st</sup> Whyteleafe Guides completed a three week rotation of activities. We split the Guides up into three groups and each week they got to do something new. One week they got to go on a scavenger hunt in Whyteleafe, another they completed team building at Frylands Wood and thirdly they got to go Horse riding at Tandridge Priory riding centre. The team building activities were a lot of fun, where the girls had to work on communicating, listening and problem solving. This included completing giant tanagrams and racing on wooden skis in teams. The best activity was watching the Guides get a ping pong out of a tube covered in holes by filling it with water. Everyone got soaked but they were all very pleased once they completed the challenge. Each term the Guides request horse riding so they thoroughly enjoyed this activity. They also had the opportunity to lead the horse as well as ride them and for some of them that was a bigger challenge, .

- Charlotte Ellingworth





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

We held an all day event for 15 Rainbows on Saturday 8 June called Teddy Adventure Day. The Rainbows and their teddies visited Australia, Mexico and India and made some brilliant crafts – a poncho for their teddies and a Mexican God's Eye, from Australia they did aboriginal dot painting and made a fly-catcher hat and from India, Mandala painted stones and a decorated papercraft elephant. In the afternoon we went swimming, put up a tent, toasted some marshmallows and had a surprise visit from our own Exciting Explorer – Sally Kettle. We then had a cooked tea and finished with a sing-song around the camp fire. It was a brilliant day thanks to the enthusiasm of our Rainbows and of course our brilliant helpers and leaders!

- Anne Pilkington





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



This term 2<sup>nd</sup> Salfords Brownies have been busy working on their First Aid Skill Builders. We were lucky to have a parent who is a nurse in the local Intensive Care Unit who came and talked to us. They enjoyed roll playing at being the casualty and learning what to do if they ever come across someone that needed help. We were really impressed that they remembered what DR ABC stood for when we asked them the week after. They found it really interesting and fun listening to the heart beat through a stethoscope.

We have also been making the most of the lovely weather and getting out of our usual meeting place and meeting at Earlswood Lakes where we took part in the Bird Box trail. The Brownies loved looking and finding the 23 different bird boxes. While looking for the bird boxes we come across some wigwams that had been made in the wood area. The Brownies decided to see how many of them could fit in to one of the bigger wigwams. The answer is the whole unit, 18 Brownies. Some of our older Brownies decided they wanted to try and climb tree. They did not climb up very far but they did find it a little tricky getting down. They youngest Brownies wanted a go and there was a tree that had fallen so they all walked along it and then balanced on the end.

- Megan Billin





# Downs Heath Division Commissioner

## A Day in the Life of a Division Commissioner

I woke up on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June. There was the overwhelming odour of campfire from the night before all around me! The Guides had managed to dodge the rain and cook a meal on an open fire. Using the Have Adventures Skills Builder Level 4 – Camp – they had planned their meal the week before and the results were simply delicious.

After a quick shower, I set off for the **Safe Space Training level 3** at the Banstead Guide HQ as the host, Division Commissioner and supporter. We were in the capable hands of Lorna Smith (County Safe Space Trainer) who can apply her professional experience in education and passion for Guiding to help us all understand how we ensure we are offering a safe environment for all whilst still having adventures and fun.

The attendees completed the Safe Space Level 2 chat first and then moved on to their responsibilities as leaders with Level 3. Through a combination of presentation, activities and discussion, we were able to understand what providing a safe space really means, recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse, what we need to do in planning activities and in the event of any issues arising.

Everyone was able to reflect on their own experiences and apply the learning to the case studies provided. The feedback was extremely positive. Our thanks to Lorna for taking time to come to us to provide this training.

In the afternoon, I attended the **Surrey East Associates get together**. This annual event is hosted by Stella Cantor (previously Division Commissioner and County First Response trainer) and brings together members who hold/have held county roles in Girlguiding Surrey East. Everyone is invited to bring a plate of food and unsurprisingly it was a beautiful spread of delicious sandwiches, scones and cakes. Stella welcomed everyone and shared feedback from members who were unable to attend. It was a relaxed, sociable event in the beautiful setting of Stella's home in Buckland. Guests included current and former County Commissioners, Division Commissioners, Trainers and Advisers sharing stores of the fun and adventure they have enjoyed in Guiding in the UK and internationally, where sometimes things simply do not go to plan and how times have changed. And yet...the essence of what we all have in common is the same: having fun with the girls in a safe environment and sharing great guiding experiences that enrich lives, build resilience and life-long friendships. Thank you to Stella for hosting a lovely afternoon.

**Beverly Heywood-Jones**

**Downs Heath Division Commissioner**

Please see the following link for training information :<https://www.girlguidingsurreyeast.org.uk/leaders-in-Training/>





# Greatest Showgirl BP Challenge weekend

30 guides from Surrey East and Surrey West spent the weekend in the beautiful Tithe Barn in Bookham, completing the Baden Powell challenge. The theme was The Greatest Showgirl, and they made their circus hats, learnt the skills in a circus workshop, and ended with putting on a show to their parents on Sunday morning. Many girls came on their own, and it was amazing to see them make friends quickly, and work together in groups to achieve what they did.

Well done Guides. and thank you to the team of leaders who ran it - Dax, Katie, Ann, Clare and Vicky!  
-Christine Moss





# Rainbows at Faurefold

On 16<sup>th</sup> June Rainbows gathered at Faurefold for an activity day. The day started off rather wet but by the time the 36 Rainbows and Leaders arrived at lunch time the rain had just about stopped and held off all afternoon.

The activities available were; making a bug house, planting a pot with succulents, den building, decorating a bag, fairy door trail and the nature trail, they also decorated trees (twigs) to make a home for little koala bears.

At the end of the afternoon we all met around the camp, said our goodbyes and finished with Rainbow Song before gathering all the things they had made and heading off home. There were some very happy but tired little girls by the time the parents collect them. Another good day.





## 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Brownies

I became a leader in training with 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Brownies last September. Our unit had not had a sleepover for about 2 years, so this was something we wanted to prioritise. We saw the adverts for Magic and Mayhem and thought it seemed very easy and great fun, so we booked onto it.

The planning was straightforward. You have to do a Residential Event Notification - Magic and Mayhem give you help with this. We had to reply to various emails from the event organisers and communicate with parents about the kit list (provided by M&M) and travel arrangements, but that is just about it. Also, one of your leaders needs a First Aid certificate. We car shared and parked there, which was very straight-forward, as just about the whole event is in one big field and the car park is along-side it.

When we arrived at Magic and Mayhem there was a meeting point for each Brownie and Rainbow unit. Our excited Brownies played games with the pack next to us while we registered. Then there was a small welcome ceremony with some dancing in the big top. This was followed by an action-packed day of activities: circus skills, inflatables, archery, a science show, and many more. We even got to make slime in the science tent. Our favourites activities were the inflatables and the Bungee Trampolining (and the slime!).

None of our Brownies had tried archery before, so that was a new skill learned. At 5pm there was a closing ceremony for the girls with day tickets and we said goodbye to some of our group. A select few of us chose to stay overnight. We really enjoyed the disco, which was quite surreal with the disco lights shining on a sea of little yellow people. A camp fire and the amazing staff led a competitive sing song around what must have been about 400 Brownies, Rainbows and leaders. Then they told us some brilliant stories which really go the imagination of our girls going. After that it was time for bed. None of us had slept in a big top before so that was a pretty exciting experience by itself, albeit a bit cold! The next morning the staff ran the inflatables and bungee trampolining again, so the girls got plenty of extra time on their favourite activities.

Overall we had a really fun time with girls having plenty of freedom to try out different activities in a safe environment. Everything was very well organised and the staff and volunteers were so happy and helpful. Make sure you take plenty of warm clothes or blankets if you are staying the night and you'll have an amazing experience!

-- Lucy Adams









## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

(both paper and digital copies will be available)

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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)

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