

County Newsletter



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Surrey East County

Autumn/Winter 2019



Welcome



Welcome to all in Surrey East Girlguiding.

As we browse our way through these pages of girls and members experiences, we find that Guiding offers such a varied programme, we wonder what we will do next.

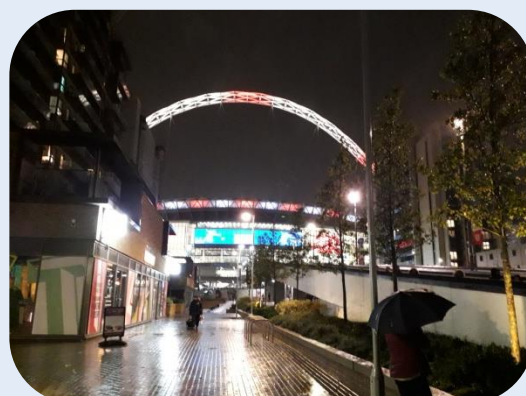
Guiding has survived by reinventing itself and not standing still. We are all open to new ideas and new experiences - even if they terrify us at times!

Why? The look on the girls' faces reminds us of the memories we are creating for the future. We may have more red tape to deal with than generations past but some things are priceless. So do enjoy the events recorded in this edition, take a good idea and embrace it or share your great idea with others.

In the last term the girls had a great evening flag waving and cheering on the Lioness' at Wembley, watching the women's international football match. At half time they were presented with an opportunity to see past members of the team and despite the weather and the wait to get out of the car park it was a great night. Thanks to all who were involved in organising this.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition and also to our wonderful editor Charlotte. It's team work that sees us grows stronger both as individuals and as a whole organisation.

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 June 2019.

Reigate Division

Tanya Holt
Lesley Bailey
Simone Duncan
Ann Hellyer
Sarah Limb

Epsom Division

Michelle Sharpe

Godstone Division

Wendy Pritchard
Molly Knight

Loretta Brooker
Tina Hawkes
Di Ross

Downs Heath Division

Kathryn Budd
Lauren Ellis
Stephanie Peazold
Rachel Heard-White

Leith Hill

Kate Fowles

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 Janet.

County Leadership Team

Janet Coninx

janet2718@yahoo.co.uk



1st Fetcham Rainbows

GUW Chessington visit:

We had a fabulous day with 8 rainbows attending and even the soggy weather couldn't dampen their enjoyment of the day. The girls saw so many animals and had loads of fun. Among the animals we saw were gorillas, lions, sea lions, penguins, zebra, giraffes, impala, golden monkeys, giant tortoises, a bearcat, skunk, meerkats and all manner of things in the SEA LIFE centre. They climbed aerial walkways through the monkey enclosure, fed lorikeets by hand and stroked a starfish! All while being kind and thoughtful to each other and being wonderfully behaved. They all tried something new and were very adventurous. It was a fantastic day.

- Louisa Kassell



Walkers and Talkers

LaSER's Walkers and Talkers organised a coach trip to the battlefields of WW1 in Flanders last September.

Most of us met at Victoria Coach Station for the drive to Dover where we picked up more members at Ashford International for our ferry crossing. We arrived at Diksmuide for our stay at the very comfortable Pax Hotel. Diksmuide is a delightful village and we were able to do a walk following the tourist signs. Diksmuide had been completely destroyed in WW1 but thankfully rebuilt to its original beauty. The invitation for the trip went to all members of Trefoil and it was lovely to meet up with ladies and gentlemen from across the country as well as from our own Region.

After breakfast the following day we set off for Sanctuary Wood where we walked through the trenches (Hill 62), British Front - Line 14-18 and visited the museum. After a short coach trip we visited Tyne Cot Cemetery (just outside Passendale) and then on to Ypres and a tour round the Flanders Field Museum. While in Ypres some of us visited St. George's Chapel where Sally Dart, from Reigate, found the kneeler made by Janet Porter a passed member of Reigate Guild in memory of her brother who was lost during the conflict. At 8 o'clock we were all at the Menin Gate for the Last Post Ceremony where 3 of our members laid a wreath and we all renewed our promise. A very moving and reflective day. Beautifully decorated stones were left in the area as well as many memories.

The next day we visited Bruges, famous for its canals, cobbled streets and medieval buildings with a short canal trip and walking tour. Some of us enjoyed the culinary delights of Belgium, beer, waffles and of course chocolates! The following day we were able to enjoy a leisurely morning before making our way back to the ferry and home.

Our thanks to Pip and her team for a brilliant few days meeting up and making friends with some lovely ladies. During our visit an ongoing quiz took place in which we found out some very interesting facts about our fellow travellers. Trefoil certainly have some amazing members.

A not to be forgotten trip to where so many brave soldiers lost their lives for our tomorrow.

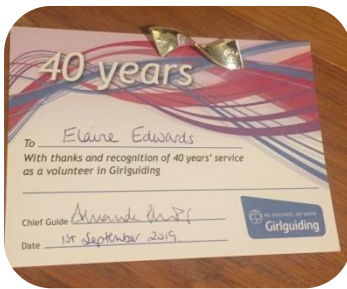


40 Years Service

Many congratulations to Guide Leader Elaine Edwards for 40 years service to Girlguiding.

Spring Downs District Commissioner Clare Graham presented her with her well deserved award in October where the district celebrated with a beautiful cake made by Ewell Court District's Alison Shaw. Elaine has held a number of roles over the years including being our County Commissioner.

- Mary Zoeller



Three Girls In Three Sections In One Division

Epsom Division is very proud to have three sisters in their Division at the moment! Libby has just started at Rainbows, Isabelle has just moved from Rainbows to Brownies and Erin has been a Guide for the past few years. Enjoy your Girlguiding journey girls!

- Mary Zoeller



LASER Ambassadors

HAVE YOU MET OUR NEW LASER AMBASADORS YET?

GirlGuiding LASER has some new ambassadors who are enthusiastic and ready to inspire our members! Recently Charity and Samantha from Epsom Division along with Lesley Bailey, County Commissioner had a great evening at the LASER ambassadors reception. Getting to meet and welcome all the ambassadors to the region, as well as hearing all their brilliant stories.

Their backgrounds are varied and include:

Vice-president of the Magic Circle

Professional adventurer

Biomedical scientist

CEO of the British Youth Opera

The first female College Commander at the Royal Military Academy

Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Special Envoy for Gender Equality

The ambassadors are raring to go, so if you would like someone to attend your unit meeting, district event, camp or really any GirlGuiding event, requests can be made via the GirlGuiding LASER website: <https://www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/what-we-do/ambassadors>

- Charity



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's)

Well done to 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies Leader in training Samantha Foster for representing Girlguiding as the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey's Cadet for the past year. Sam has been helping Michael More-Molyneux, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey for 12 months and in that time has undertaken many high profile engagements around the county including royal visits! Congratulations on your appointment Sam and thank you for doing such an amazing job.

- Mary Zoeller



LaSER International Trip

In the summer, I took part in the LaSER international opportunity to Thailand, which was a life changing experience. We spent 2 weeks in Singburi, teaching and painting at local schools, a weekend in Bangkok meeting the Thai Girl Guides, a weekend in Chiang Mai visiting an elephant sanctuary and the final week in Chang Rai staying with a hill tribe! It was a very busy and exciting trip, packed full of highlights and challenges.

The bulk of our service project was painting at a school. When we arrived at the school on the Monday, the walls had old, cracked paint and were pale and unexciting. We had the joy of taking charge of the project and changing the walls from old and plain to bright and exciting. We scrapped all the paint off, varnished the walls, painted them white, then blue, then got to design our own bright patterns and pictures. The heat helped as we were able to do about 5 coats in one day! We did an under the sea themed wall, a garden themed wall, an alphabet wall and a caterpillar with numbers on and a fruit wall. It was great to leave our amazing designs with them and see their excitement- we also painted the trefoil to leave our Guiding stamp with them.

I think the most rewarding experience of the trip was teaching and spending time with the children. They loved playing games with us and were very eager to learn. Teaching the children at the hill tribe was particularly challenging because many of them were the same age or older than us and they already knew some English, we had the task of working out what they already knew and attempting to fill in the gaps- it helped that they were so keen.



LaSER International Trip

(continued)

My favourite day of the trip was probably the hike whilst we were staying with the hill tribe. We hiked through the thick jungle for 5 hours and it was very hot and tiring. The views were absolutely incredible, the green mountains stretched on for miles. We stopped for lunch at the highest point of the range and we had fried rice wrapped in bamboo leaves that we carried with us. Our tour guide chopped down a bamboo stem and carved us all cups for us to have hot drinks. All in all it was a really great day and one that I will remember forever.

Another highlight of the trip was meeting the Thai Girl Guides in Bangkok, it was lots of fun talking with them and getting to witness Guiding in different countries, which was inspiring and overwhelming.

An unexpected highlight of the trip was when our accommodation flooded! It poured with rain for ages until there was a river up to our knees outside our rooms and the water had started running under the door! Eventually we got to evacuate to a nice hotel for the night!

As well as our service project we were able to spend time visiting temples such as the reclining Buddah and Wat Pho, as well as feeding and washing elephants at an elephant sanctuary.

I made many memories that will stay with me forever and I would like to thank LaSER for providing me with this incredible experience!
-Emily Rayner



5th Reigate Guides

5th Reigate Guides celebrated their 100th Birthday with a tea party to which they invited previous members going back to the 1940's, including Anne Gatland who made her Guide promise on 12th November 1948, later became a Leader and stayed with the company till the 1960's. Anne and the youngest Guide cut the birthday cake.

5th were first registered in 1919 just nine years after the official start of the Guide Movement. We know there have been Guides in Reigate from the very beginning as the Reigate Ravens gate crashed the Scouts Crystal Palace rally in 1909 demanding "something for the girls". Members of 5th recreated these early uniforms at Guiding's centenary celebrations in 2010. Sadly no early records exist for the first 20 years, but Kathleen Lutman was Captain from the early 1940's, and over the last 66 years there have only been three teams of leaders, surely a unique record. Members of all three teams were at the party.

There are records of the Guides camping back as far as the later war years, using old army bell tents and cooking in army surplus dixies that were white washed in the mistaken idea this would help with the cleaning! Travel to camp was in a furniture van, sitting on top of all the equipment and singing loudly, much to the surprise of passers by. No health and safety in those days! The annual camp was one of the year's highlights and remains so today, and a reason so many girls stay on in Guides. There have been annual camps each year for at least the last 70 years.



5th Reigate Guides (continued)



Reminiscences were shared and log books eagerly scanned for memories of so much that has happened over the years, including County, National and International events. Thinking day services in the snow at Westminster Abbey, pageants, displays, and more recently Big Gigs, at Wembley, Crystal Palace, and in the Albert Hall, modelling the Jeff Banks new uniforms for Princess Margaret, winning a song competition and appearing on TV in Songs of Praise, and celebrating the Guide centenary with a Thinking Day trip on the London Eye ahead of it's opening to the public. Plus more recently, trips abroad by individual Guides to represent the U.K at international events.

Uniforms and badges have changed dramatically over the years. 32 5th Guides achieved their Queens Guide award before it was moved from the Guide section, and an impressive number have gained their Baden Powell awards. Guiding is a movement so, of course, there needs to be change, but core elements remain, a revised version of the Promise is still an integral part of belonging, and at the party the current girls demonstrated that the patrol system remains a vital part of how Guiding works, and that having fun remains central for the girls and the adults. The girls were amazed by their visitors powerful singing of well loved and remembered camp fire songs.

One hundred memorable years — what will the next hundred bring?

Barbara Wing. November 2019.



Journey to Mongolia

Before I start, thank you to anyone and everyone who helped me get here today and assist in me going on this extraordinary adventure. I have spent a year fundraising doing many events, that many people helped me with. For example, I did a sponsored swim, many Mongolia badge pack evenings (with Brownies and Guides) and a coffee morning with my neighbours to name but a few. Now after a long year of planning I have finally completed the trip to the strange country of Mongolia. I began my journey on Saturday 27th July, at Heathrow airport and after a sad goodbye to my family we were off.

We began by boarding my first long haul flight. It was a very large plane going 2,4,2, across, much larger than one I had ever been on before! We were seated in the rows of 4 and we all had TVs, my wish had come true. 10 hours later, from when we had taken off, we arrived at the Beijing airport. It was a very pretty airport however not much to do and with an 8-hour gap between the first and second plane we quickly got bored. Many card games and diary entries later we got on our second plane to Mongolia. This plane was only small and was only going to be a two-hour flight. I fell asleep as soon as we sat down and slept for most of it, I even missed the safety brief! Then in Mongolia we headed out of the Chinggis Khan airport (Chinggis also known as Genghis) where we met our guides (two volunteers to help with translation), who then took us to the guesthouse where we would be staying. The guesthouse was amazing and we were in rooms of 4. We would also be swapping around every three weeks so we could be with different people. Even the bathrooms were incredible, and the shower could be converted into a steam room or even a sauna!!!! It was nothing to what we expected! My first impressions of Mongolia were that even in summer there was still a lot of pollution which was clear as we went past large industries on our way to the guesthouse, however inside the city it seems like a different place with more buildings and more technology and living conditions. Although there is lots technology you could tell the difference between Mongolia and here from what I believed was where majority of the population lived. Our very first day we were introduced to the project and our itinerary, which would include us caring for and teaching children from the age of 2-15 at both a centre and a school. We would also be getting the chance to renovate the centre we were at later on during the trip. The centre we would be visiting has the intention of helping single mothers, by looking after their children so they could go out and work. Later that day we also had a chance to meet our new Mongolian peers, which was a great way to help break the ice before the sessions throughout the next couple of weeks. It was then back to the guesthouse for lots of planning.

Throughout the rest of the week I spent my mornings in the Child Smile Centre. They had two groups that we were to educate/play with. These were 2-5-year olds and 6+. Each of our activities with them we had planned as a group the night before and from crafts to lessons we managed to fill the time. The Child Smile Centre has been built up over time, it began as a single room. It now has another, and a second story has also been made on top. Another key part to the place, which shall always be remembered is the toilet. A small shack surrounding a deep pit with two planks of wood over it. I spent the first week with the 2-5-year olds, 6 girls and 1 boy, whom were adorable and even though I wasn't supposed to have favourites I certainly did! We did head shoulders knees and toes and ring a ring a roses, which were definitely loved and to keep them, and us, entertained we did lots of crafts including paper chains and finger printing, which we used to decorate the room. Not many of them had disabilities like we were told, or very obvious ones anyway but one of them, who was 2, had a heart deficiency. They were great fun and I'm sure they enjoyed it too. In the afternoons we taught at a school, called school 40 (they label their schools with numbers), our intention; to help them improve their English. We were split into two groups and each group was given a small class to teach. We chose many topics to teach them, from time to body parts, making it fun with games like 'Fruit Salad' and 'What's the Time Mr Wolf'. We also did two on one conversations so we would go around and sit down with two of them and ask them questions so they could practice speaking and we could learn more about them and they could learn more about us, I was petrified, however it got easier as we went further into the week as we got to know them more.

It was then the weekend, our first two days of sightseeing. Saturday morning, we were picked up and taken to the Gur district where we would visit and see the owner of the Child Smile's home.



Journey to Mongolia

(continued)

She had bought some land and had two Gers where her and her 7 children live. It was interesting to see the way they live as they had a large TV and working electricity however, they don't have a toilet as sanitary isn't considered as important.

We also went to the international intellect museum where we saw a man's giant collection of puzzles covering a whole 5 floors! I didn't even know there were enough puzzles to cover one!! After lunch we went up the Zaisan memorial and as it is up the top of Zaisan hill we got the most mesmerising views of the city. To finish off we also went to the Bogd Khan Winter Palace. It was a very eventful day!

Sunday was great fun as we spent it with some of the Girl Scouts of Mongolia. It was very interesting to find out the difference in the number of members, as in England we have half a million members however in Mongolia they only have 2000. With the Guides we went to the International Children's Complex and taught each other our different ways and played many games. Sunday was a good day where we met many good friends. That evening we also got the opportunity to visit a karaoke bar where we were given a private room. It was hilarious and from singing our hearts out to cheering each other on we all had a great time. The second week came around fast. My morning group had swapped with the others, so we were now with the 6+ instead of the 2-5s enabling us to teach the older children a bit like in the afternoons at school. Like our school sessions we covered different topics however as we had more time to fill, we played even more games as well as singing many songs. We also created a new game called word man, which is the same as hangman, but we didn't know anything about capital punishment and we didn't want someone going 'Hey, that's how my Uncle died!' But it was all okay and most of our sessions ran smoothly and the kids enjoyed themselves. In the afternoons we were still with the school children however we also swapped groups as apparently one group didn't listen as much. But we found them okay and by swapping groups we also didn't have to plan as much as the other group had covered different topics. At the end of the week however we had to say goodbye as it was our last day, it was sad to say goodbye however you could tell we had made a difference as their English was so much better.

On our next weekend we went to the Terelij National park. We went to many attractions like the Genghis Khan statue and a Buddhist temple where we took amazing photographs. I even got a selfie with Genghis Khan after walking up the statue to where you can see amazing views. We also visited Turtle rock where we rock climbed up the side to see a small cave inside. We then spent that night inside Gers (also known as yurts) which was a fun experience a bit like glamping. I had also held an eagle earlier that day and had ridden a camel (not a very comfortable experience, especially for my nose) as I was only going to be there once, and I didn't want to miss out on the experience.

The next day we woke up at 5 o'clock!! We saw sunrise and walked up a steep hill to see the views before heading back to the city in our little red bus. When we were back in the city, we took a trip to the biggest souvenir shop in Ulaanbaatar, a whole floor of gifts! It was great and I spent lots of money before heading back to finish planning for the rest of the week.

It was then the last week. Our mornings continued to be sessions in the Child Smile Centre where I was again with the 2-5s, yippee! We did many more crafts including masks, which were my personal favourite and the kids enjoyed them too. In the afternoons we were also at the Child Smile Centre, where we helped them renovate. We were there to help them fill in cracks and slop watered down cement onto the walls. The room we were renovating was upstairs, which would be used as a place for the single mothers I mentioned earlier, to work. We had great fun doing this and even though we didn't do much, and we didn't do it for very long I believe we helped them towards their incredible goal.

On our very last Friday we said our goodbyes to the Child Smile Centre, which were quite teary and full of gifts for both us and them. I had the honour of giving the owner some toys we had bought for the 2-5s and it was amazing to see the look on her face and the pleasure she had had from us being there. Friday afternoon we had our photo in Mongolian dress, which was hilarious. I was on a stall in the back row and we were all struggling not to fall off. We also went to the supermarket for any final souvenirs/sweets and then of course we had to pack. Packing was sad to do as after three weeks of making friends and exploring this new country it was hard to believe that we were going to leave.



Journey to Mongolia (continued)

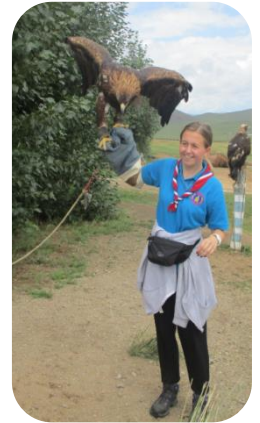
The next morning, we left for the airport with some stowaways we had found the night before NITS! (Our parents were not impressed when we got home!) We then spent a day of travelling with no broken TVs.

At Heathrow I was met by my family, my sister holding a giant welcome home banner, (she loves me really!). It was definitely an amazing experience.

Since I've been back my family have said I have spoken non-stop about my adventure and keep comparing it to many of the things we have here, and I have also *apparently* found a smile whilst I was there, which I supposedly never had!

I really enjoyed the experience and I would definitely like to go to Mongolia again. I also believe I have gained many qualities out of the experience as well, for example being more confident when speaking publicly and being able to present what I have done. It's also a great conversation starter. I really enjoyed it and am extremely thankful for anyone who helped make it happen. **THANK YOU!!!**

– Charlotte Collins



Disneyland Paris

Brownies and Guides from 3rd Oxted, 1st Hurst Green, 1st Lingfield and 1st Godstone enjoyed a weekend away, in January, at Disneyland Paris, having fun in both the Disneyland theme park and the Walt Disney Studios. The girls enjoyed going on the rides, meeting the Disney characters, watching the spectacular evening light show and having fun at Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. A great experience for all. – Amy Lovell



Epsom District

MAYOR'S CHARITIES SUPPORT EPSOM DIVISION GIRLGUIDING

Councillor Neil Dallen dropped in to support Epsom Division Girlguiding when they were carol singing at Epsom Station on Thursday 5 December. He presented them with a cheque for £9,500 from his Mayor's Charities fundraising when he was Mayor of Epsom and Ewell during 2018/19.

Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller said: "We are so grateful to Councillor Dallen for choosing us as one of his charities during his mayoral year. We are currently fundraising to open Little Acres Lodge at Horton Country Park in Epsom, a brand-new facility that will benefit young people in the local area and beyond. We are radically transforming the limited facilities at our campsite by constructing a well-equipped, modern building offering kitchen facilities, disabled access, accommodation, toilets and showers to Guiding and Scouting groups and the wider community."

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides raised an incredible £610.74 carol singing and would like to thank Epsom Station and Epsom commuters for their support and generosity. - Mary Zoeller



1st Hawthorns Brownies



Our first unit sleepover was a huge success, we all had a fabulous time at Blacklands Farm! It may have rained and been very muddy, yet the girls had the best time. We arrived on Saturday morning raring to go, our first activity was making campfire doughnuts – they were delicious! The girls also made bread on sticks, s'mores and learnt how to stay safe around fires. Crate stacking and archery were favourite activities for some, whilst others preferred crawling through muddy underground tunnels!

The night line was a highlight for many of our girls, following a trail with lots of obstacles, blind folded in the dark was a thrill they loved.

As well as the adventurous activities, staying overnight with their friends, old and new, was a fabulous experience they thoroughly enjoyed. We can't wait for our next sleepover! - Karen Wyborn



Hawthorns Rainbows

Animal Crackers

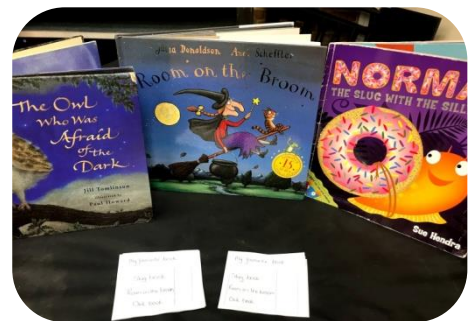
On a rainy Saturday during October half-term, our little reds jumped on the train to London heading for ICANDO and a day of 'Animal Crackers'. Our girls love animals and many have been working towards their Animal Lovers badge this term, they wanted to learn more so this trip was the perfect opportunity! We arrived for an action-packed day full of animal facts and activities. We made animal cupcakes, cardboard owls, animal wooden spoons, played animal games and much more. A highlight was visiting the Queen's horses at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace; our guide was fantastic and entertained us with stories and fascinating facts. During the afternoon we explored St James's Park looking for wildlife and met a pelican! We had a wonderful day and can't wait to return for more adventures.



Voting

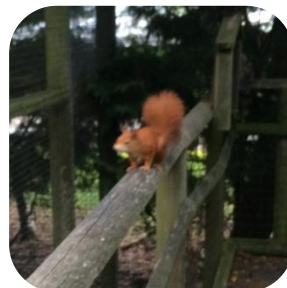
Learning about how our country works is very important and we always look forward to Parliament Week. Our Rainbows love stories and often bring in their favourite books, they decided they would like to vote about which story is our units favourite. We narrowed down the choices to three options, which was very hard! Learning what voting is about, they took their voting slip, put a cross next to their choice, folded it up and popped it in the ballot box. There was quiet in the hall whilst Tulip and Bluebell counted the votes. The votes were in and Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson was the winner and our units favourite book.

- Karen Wyborn



1st Whyteleafe Guides

1st Whyteleafe Guides took a trip to British Wildlife Centre in Godstone at the start of term. We spent an evening walking around the centre with a zoo keeper showing us around and feeding each of the animals so we got a chance to see and learn about each creature. The girls were able to ask any questions they had as we had the place to ourselves. At the end of the tour the keeper brought an owl out so the girls could see it up close. It was a brilliant evening and a great chance to learn about British Wildlife.



Caterham Hill and Chaldon District

Caterham Hill and Chaldon District had been selling Poppies at their local Tesco to raise money for the poppy appeal. They managed to raise an amazing £476.08. Congratulations!



2nd Salfords Guides

This term 2nd Salfords Guides were challenged to a 'Master chef' evening. Each team were given the same 4 ingredients an onion, a pepper, chopped tomatoes, and cheese. The four teams were then given a different base for their creation. One group had pastry, one had pasta, one had rice and the last had wraps. The girls were then given 10 minutes to come up with an idea and get to work. They learnt chopping techniques as many had not cooked on their own before and each group had use of a few store cupboard ingredients which had to be shared between the groups. The girls thoroughly enjoyed coming up with their own recipes and just a little guidance on cooking times. Cooking and baking is something the girls do a lot but we wanted to challenge them a little by making something without a recipe. The girls quickly figured out a plan and came up with some very tasty creations.

- Kirsty Stuart



4th Ashted Guides

4th Ashted guides had a trip to London and visited Pax Lodge, including the special Pinning Ceremony.



7th Bookham Brownies

To celebrate Diwali, 7th Bookham Brownies made some rangoli sand art, did henna designs on our hands (using eyebrow makeup pencils) and made Diwali lights from 1 pint plastic milk bottles and battery operated tea lights and had some food. We covered the Know Myself - Celebrate Good Times UMA. We then had a promise ceremony enrolling two new brownies into our unit lit by our Diwali lights.

- Karen / Barn Owl



1st Burstow Brownies

What a fun evening 1st Burstow Brownies, of Smallfield had for Bonfire Night. The weather kept dry and the girls enjoyed taking part in the Have Adventure theme, Camp Stage 3 badge and learnt 'what the best fire for the job' is. The Brownies got into their sixes and had to think about the fire they needed to build and went off to search for the right materials to do the job. They were very excited to be able to sit around an open camp fire singing songs, drinking hot chocolate and eating popcorn and we even got to use sparklers! - Melody Kavanagh



Leatherhead Division

1st Effingham Guides say Goodbye to Badger.

After 21 years of being the Guide Leader, Clare is leaving us to move to Bristol to be nearer her family. We had a party for her and presented her with a specially made etching of a Badger. Many girls have achieved the Baden Powell award during her time, giving testament to her enthusiasm and dedication to the unit. We will miss her.



4th Bookham Guides became 55!



PAULINE & JULIE'S LEAVING PRESENTATION



Three Young Leaders gained their Qualification during last Autumn term.

Ashted YL's Rebecca Dunstan, Alice Ocraft and Amy Doherty were presented with their YL award by DC Denise Coutts, after lots of hard work and time spent with their units.

2nd Ashted Guides say Goodbye to Pauline Dulake and Julie Mottershead. Pauline has given 10 years to the unit, and Julie has helped with the unit for 7 years.

– Christine Moss

2nd Leatherhead Brownies

2nd Leatherhead Brownies had a good evening before Christmas trying glass fusing. Beautiful Christmas decorations were made to take home for their trees. –Christine Moss



Horley East District

In June last year Horley East District held a District activity at Cherry Lane adventure playground in Crawley. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides had great fun on the various climbing and sensory activities, and in the sand and water play areas. They also toasted marshmallows over an open fire. A good time was had by all and the weather was kind to us.
- Anne Thomas



3rd Merstham Brownies

3rd Merstham had a super busy term. We went on an exciting Narnia trail in Banstead woods, climbed lots of trees and made Dens. We had a badge-night sleepover where we learned new camping skills; among other things the girls learned to pitch a tent as well as how to build a fire. We finished off the sleepover watching a movie with hot chocolate and biscuits.



We went to Christmas Magic day at Icando, ended up on a bus replacement service which the girls all found very exciting! Whilst there we played some fun games and made some super little crafts including a cork reindeer and santa cupcakes.



We were invited to our local garden centre where we took our own recycled plant pots and planted up some mini gardens. After that we had the run of the shop as it was after hours and enjoyed a scavenger hunt.

A big event for us this year was celebrating our 10th Birthday in November! The girls planned the entire party which they decided was to be a 'Disco' theme. We had a special birthday badge specially made. We made a coloured dance floor and various disco decorations. The girls enjoyed dancing to their fave tunes, and we had a wonderful cake to top it all off! We also celebrated with Barn Owl as she was awarded her 20 years in Guiding Award.

- Elaine Rollason



GOLD Aruba 2019

Do you remember reading the story of Sophie and Nicki, two leaders from Surrey East who were selected to be part of an experience of a lifetime as part of GOLD (Guiding Overseas Linked with Development) in 2018? Here is the next chapter as Sophie was asked to be the leader of GOLD Team Aruba 2019. I had just finished the journey of GOLD Aruba 2018 and attended the de brief weekend when I was asked to lead the 2019 team. GOLD Team Aruba 2019 featured six Girlguiding UK leaders from all over the country (from Wales to Devon) who had been selected to be in my team. Over the next 10 months we got to know each other, fundraise our trip cost and make training preparations to continue the aims of the project. This year's project focused on the delivery of training to leaders (rather than 2018's Padvindsters - Guides) and members of the National Board on topics to understand the global Guiding organisation and to develop an Arubaanse Padvindsters Gilde (APG) Programme and leaders Handbook.

GOLD Aruba 2019 introduced both the Board and Leaders to the WAGGGS Leadership Mindsets and Five Essentials, through interactive activities. We also trained on the UN Goals, International Opportunities and the UK Programme before a detailed consideration of 'What Girls Want', as providing for the girls is the main aim of the organisation. The willingness of the APG to learn and participate was brilliant.

Our facilitation led the APG to develop their own programme and activity ideas within these.

"Through Adventure, Leadership, Games and Education, the APG will develop Health, Community Service, Environmental Awareness and Personal Development."

The second weekend considered the Plan, Do, Check, Act cycle and from feedback, we focused this around Recruitment, where fantastic suggestions on events were developed which could be implemented. The handbook development facilitation; the focus of the weekend ran smoothly. The result being a contents page with various sub-sections and elements written to be expanded upon in upcoming months. "It's a Girl's experience" allowed the APG to explore their leadership style, through considering personal strengths and weaknesses and how others perceive these of you. Our session on how we have benefited from Guiding within our job and how this can be shown on your CV, encouraged lots of personal interactions and advice sharing.



We adapted our training sessions throughout, to ensure they were meaningful. Our 'Beach Family Fun Day' expanded our training horizons further, as we harnessed the methods the APG had come up with for delivery to deliver a (hot!) team building competition. Training was incredibly rewarding as the APG were very engaged, the conviction they had with their experiences was remarkable.

As a team, we both inspired and took inspiration from the people we trained. In the final session, a Programme Committee was developed, who in turn developed an action plan; we have every confidence in this being delivered, ahead of GOLD 2020.

In addition to the training, the APG treated us to a night with the Padvindsters; a Treasure Hunt, followed by a make-shift movie theatre in a car park to share our PR videos. We were also taken to a Cultural Festival, where we were dancing in the streets with members of the APG. I was also very privileged in representing Girlguiding when meeting both the Governor and Prime Minister of Aruba. It was a fantastic experience being able to discuss our GOLD project and the fantastic work of the APG as well as other topical issues faced by girls and young women in Aruba.

The installation of Leaders was a special event for us all as our hard work came to fruition in the smiles of those making their promise; 10 additional leaders were installed and we renewed our promise as a collective. It was very emotional seeing leaders that I had worked with over the last two years be so proud while making their promise.

Tourist attractions were also explored; a Butterfly Farm, the Aloe Vera Factory and the less touristy; Desalination Plant and a stargazing session by the Science and Nature Foundation. On two days, we were fortunate to have a personal tour guide, Nika. Alongside achieving her dream of sunrise on top of the Hooiberg, she shared with us a Light House, Casibari (a rock formation), the Donkey Sanctuary and the National Park. Aruba wouldn't have been complete without sunsets and beach excursions – on one occasion we were able to snorkel with Sea Turtles on our local beach. Culinary highlights included bobbing on a jetty over the Arubaanse sea and receiving Lion Fish from Mirtha, a friend within the APG.

GOLD Aruba 2019

Grace, President of the APG and everyone we interacted with were fabulous hosts throughout the project, ensuring we got the best out of our time. Her drive to inspire leadership in all is hugely appreciated, we cannot express our gratitude enough. Leading the team was a big challenge for me, however, I learnt a great deal and it was a wonderful experience seeing members of the team bond and grow as individuals. A final year remains for the relationship between the Guiding organisations and we wish every success to GOLD Aruba 2020! I would like to thank everyone within Girlguiding who made this opportunity possible and for all your support in the project. I feel privileged to have made Guiding friends both in the UK and on the other side of the world for life and to have had the opportunity to give something back to the organisation that I got so much out of while growing up. I would highly recommend GOLD to any Girlguiding member under 30 years old and would love to continue to inspire international opportunities within the county. For more information or to get in touch please check out our social media pages: <http://goldteamaruba.blogspot.com/>. Follow @GOLDTeamAruba on facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

- Sophie Grout



Uganda 2019

Over the summer, I was given the amazing opportunity to go to Uganda with GirlGuiding. We participated in many volunteering activities as well as cultural experiences to further our knowledge of Kabubbu (the village we were staying in) and Uganda as a whole.

On arrival in Kabubbu we were given a tour of the village. Our first task was teaching English in the local primary school; we taught 3 lessons in total, to year 5, all about post. This was an amazing experience as we got to know the children better and see the direct impact of some of the work we would be doing.



Uganda 2019



Every morning we attended the school's assembly, as each day a different volunteering group would give the assembly. Over the course of our stay in Kabubbu we did 2 assemblies. Our first one was the story of the Lion and the Cockerel, and our second was the Lion and the Mouse. The assemblies were great to get the opportunity to speak to the school as a whole and bring over stories from the UK.

The first service project we completed was sanding and panting a new secondary school teacher's house. This was hard work but definitely paid off when we got to see the finished result. It took us 3 mornings to complete each one with a different task: the first morning we scraped and sanded the house; the second morning we painted a few layers of base coat; the third morning we added the top layer of white. I felt that during the panting we bonded well as a group by getting to know each other even better through working together as a team.



The other service project we participated in was working at the farm to plant maize. On the first day we met the farm animals, made measuring devices and churned the land ready for planting. On the second day we dug the holes using the measuring devices and planted the seeds and fertiliser. This was definitely the most physically challenging experience of the trip as it was very hot on the two days we were working. I think that the farming gave us an impression of what daily life was like for any adults in Uganda, as 25% of the population work in agriculture.

Uganda 2019

Our final project was the "Development Challenge". This is where we were given £100 to spend on a family in need to help impact them in the short and long term. The challenge started when we met the family and spent time getting to know them to learn about their situation. As a group, we selected and sourced the items we would purchase and on the last day we gave them the items and then had dinner with the family. During the trip we also undertook many cultural activities and excursions both within Kabubbu: basket weaving, African drumming and dancing, trying traditional African food, watching a performance from the primary school children.

Our final days saw us visiting the source of the Nile, walking around the Ssezibwa waterfalls, visiting the capital city, visiting the equator, and going on a safari at Queen Elizabeth national park.

It was a life changing and memorable trip that I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to go on.

- Ophelia



Harvest Festival

1st Burstow Brownies, of Smallfield attended the Harvest Festival at St Bartholomew's Church, which was well attended, they all brought some food items along, which were donated to the Crawley Open House. The Brownies got to present their Autumn Pictures and read their poems to the congregation, they also stayed at the Church Hall the night before for a sleepover (for some of them it was their first night away from home with Girlguiding) and they actually did sleep quite well!! The Brownies enjoyed playing games, sand art and going on a scavenger hunt, we even got the girls to help with the clearing and washing up. They told us the bits they enjoyed: 'The whole sleepover was fun! My favourite bit was the delivery pizza.' Flo (7)

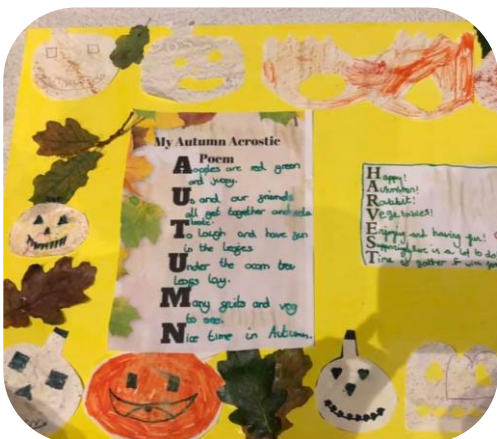
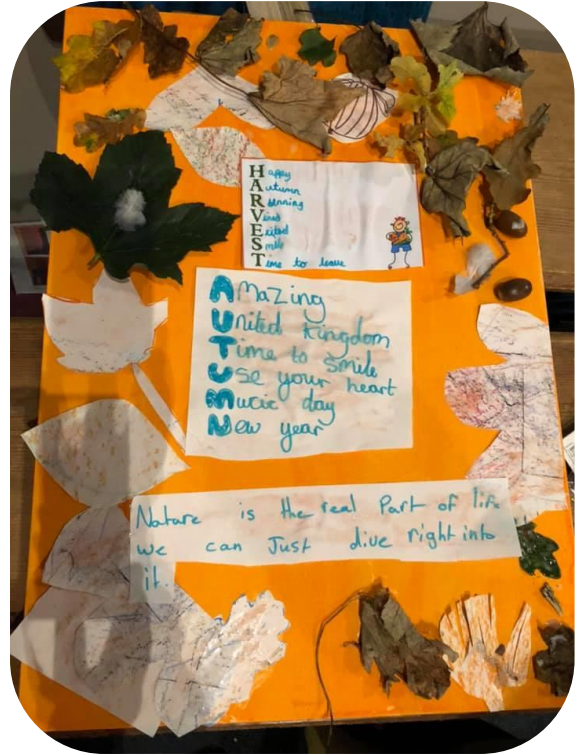
'I can't choose a best bit, as I loved everything we did, and I was proud to show our Pictures' at the Harvest Festival' Izzy (7)

'At the sleepover we did collage pictures and poems and watched a film with hot chocolate and biscuits. In the morning we went to the Harvest Festival and I enjoyed Rev Nicholas' story about stone soup and value of sharing.' Kara (9)

'I enjoyed sleeping over and reading my book by torchlight' Amy (9)

The Brownies had a great time, and can't wait for the next adventure.

- Melody Kavanagh



Buckland Rainbows

Buckland Rainbows certainly did 'Go Wild' on their trip to London Zoo in October. The early start didn't hamper the girls from singing their renditions of London Bridge is Falling Down every time the train conductor announced the final destination of our train journey into London much to the amusement of our fellow passengers. It was a very wet day but the girls ensured that we visited all of the animals and had our Picnic lunch outside under our umbrellas. We were able to visit the Zoo Vet, who kindly showed the girls how to check on the health of a (toy) Meerkat to help towards their Animal Lover Badge. We all agreed that our favourite animal to visit on the day were the giraffes.

- Jane Stewart



4th Ashtead Brownies

4th Ashtead Brownies celebrate their 70th Anniversary

At the end of the summer term 2019 4th Ashtead Brownies turned 70 and we decided that we needed to do something to mark the event!

At the beginning of 2019 we asked the Brownies how they wanted to celebrate their 70th anniversary and it was decided to hold a competition to design a commemorative badge and put on a show for the parents and former Leaders. The photo shows some of the girls showing off their commemorative badges.

All the parents and one of our former Leaders came to the show we put on at the end of the summer term. All the girls took part in the event, those who performed individual or small group acts they had devised and rehearsed at home earned their 'Performing badge' and everyone else took part in the Cumberland Reel country dance and several group songs. At the end of the evening we all shared our 'Birthday cake'. – Alison Morris



BBC Documentary

Guiding and Scouting has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up overseas as an army child, I began as an honorary cub at my parents' cub pack as a 4 year old in Cyprus. By 7 years old I was a Brownie in Germany and when we returned to the UK I had a few final months as a Brownie before continuing on to Guides, only made possible by my mum taking over as my Guide Leader as the unit would otherwise have closed. I was a Pack Leader at Brownies during my Guiding years and then became a Ranger and a Young Leader with Guides before taking over as Guide Leader myself when my mum retired from the position. Work took me overseas for a few years and no one came forward to run Guides in my absence, so on my return to the UK I re-opened the Unit. At that time I was single and busy changing careers from Diplomat to Paramedic. Guiding and shift work was a tricky balance, but it was manageable. By the time I completed my 3 years of training as a Paramedic, my single life was behind me and I was engaged to an old school friend with whom I had reconnected. Our first wedding anniversary was also the Christening Day for our 8 week old daughter and we will be celebrating our 7th wedding anniversary on Remembrance Sunday 2019. We now have 5 children, 4 girls and a boy, and balancing life with Guiding (and Scouting for my husband who runs the local Scout Troop) has been tricky at times, but we make it work.

In late 2018, just around the time of my 12 week scan with our 5th baby, I saw an advert for parents-to-be who might like to take part in a BBC2 documentary. They were looking for both first time parents and those who already had children, and applicants just had to write a little blurb about what they would bring to the programme. I prepared my pitch, talking about how we both work full time and how, alongside the ever-expanding family, I was also running my own business teaching Spanish to children as well as doing a full time degree in antenatal education. I also highlighted the voluntary work that both my husband and I do with local youth groups. Months passed and I hadn't heard back. I hadn't even mentioned the programme to my husband and in all honesty I forgot I had ever applied.

At about 36 weeks pregnant, whilst rushing between the school run, a ballet class for my 3 year old and a speedy dinner before the Friday night Guide meeting, I had a phone call from the BBC asking if we would still like to be involved. They could hear on the phone just how hectic things were and whilst I thought that would put them right off, I think now it probably sold them on our story. The following week was a blur of phone calls, Skype chats and even face to face meetings with the Series Producer, and then they confirmed that they wanted to follow our story as part of the programme.

Given how close I was to my due date by then, they wanted to start filming straight away. Cameras were placed around the house as well and a small team of 3 moved into our summerhouse with a handheld camera. We were given a microphone pack each to wear each day that they filmed, and they followed us in every aspect of our daily lives as they gradually pieced together the diary management madness that is our reality.



BBC Documentary



Three weeks after the cameras first started rolling, they filmed the birth of our 5th child, Abigail, and so continued the focus of the programme, looking at how a newborn affects the lives of the family they join. The programme followed 6 families and looked at how a new baby impacted on family life...though to be fair in our case I think we pretty much stuck to our normal routine. A week after Abigail was born, I was back at Guides and my husband was back at Scouts. I have breastfed all 5 of our kiddies, and so they have all spent their early months attending Guide meetings, camps, Gang Shows and the like. The TV adults, as they became known in our house, wanted to film my husband at Scouts and also me at Guides. Nigel was filmed first which was a double-edged sword. It was late June and we were both in summer camp preparation mode – as relieved as I was that Nigel would be filmed first and I could learn from his experience, he also got to run the easy programme night with tent pitching. I consulted the Guides, the parents, the Commissioners and the Girlguiding Public Affairs Team, and the consensus was it could be a really great spotlight on Guiding, and to please try to showcase the new programme! We already had bedding rolls on the programme – I am a camp purist in that regard! – and fortunately the girls had been showing a real interest in the Whittling badge, so we fed that interest with a session on whittling in hopes that a few more girls might want to do the badge afterwards. The filming itself went off without a hitch and the Guides were as wonderful as I knew they would be.

Filming continued for another few weeks and when Abigail was about 6wks old, the TV adults packed up their cameras and left.

In October we welcomed the Series Producer back to our house and she let us watch a not-quite-polished version of the first episode. It aired from late November for the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas and was apparently such a success for the BBC that they then re-ran it through January. I originally applied for the show as I thought it would make a fantastic piece of posterity for us as a family, to revisit life as we welcomed our 5th child. I still think it will be a wonderful thing for us to look back on, but inevitably our parenting choices were scrutinised by a nation. In most cases, people were very kind, and I was especially touched by how positively the Guiding community received us! We were told to stay off social media when it aired, but a Guiding friend tipped me off about a thread on Facebook and it was lovely to read how many others have combined early parenthood with their Guiding commitments! We had a family holiday planned for just after the series aired and after quite a bit of attention, it was lovely to get away for a bit – although we were recognised by a lady at the airport!! As we were only shown episode 1 in advance, we watched the series not knowing which of the many moments they had filmed would be shown in the programme and which would end up on the cutting room floor – there was a LOT of footage for what amounted to maybe 40 minutes of screen time per family. The Guide and Scout footage made the final cut which was fantastic as I think it is so important for people to see that volunteering is something you can make work if you want it to, even with busy lives and family needs. After all, it's only a couple of hours a week, right....?!
-Helen Pierce

2nd Leatherhead Brownies

22 girls from 2nd Leatherhead Brownies went "Under the Sea" at Faurefold in October half term. The "beach" we put inside proved a particularly big hit as was the sea styled weaving session led by Faith. We were really fortunate to have Bookham Guider, Sharren Bridges with us who was brilliant leading Camp SBs and 2 girls were able to jump straight up to Guides at the end of the weekend. - Wendy



2nd Horley Brownies

Last summer 2nd Horley Brownies enjoyed getting back to nature with the RSPB's together with nature badge. Incorporating the badge as part of our pack holiday, the different activities really helped the girls to engage with and explore the beautiful surroundings at Faurefold, Westcott, near Dorking.

Scavenger and minibeasts hunts had everyone hunting high and low for plants and creatures. The search for "food for free" resulted in a mountain of blackberries and some rather purple faces. Imaginations were put to the test as the girls were asked to create something from natural materials for a wild animal to use. There were some very inventive constructions, including a minibeast skate park, bug hotels and restaurants complete with acorn cup bowls. The hunt for minibeasts continued into the night as the Brownies went "moth catching" with the help of a white sheet and a torch, it was fascinating to see the different patterns and colours.

A pack holiday is never complete without a bit of craft and everyone enjoyed the "Hapa Zome" task. This involved tapping leaves with a hammer between some fabric to transfer the colour and make patterns. There were some fantastic results using different sized, shaped and coloured leaves.

There are so many different things to do within the badge the girls could have easily completed it again. The Brownies really enjoyed getting out and about in their surroundings and exploring nature together.



Robins Challenge

A Night Hike

For the first time in many years we ran an incident night hike for older Guides and Rangers with the aim of giving them a taster for the navigation and hiking skills for Duke of Edinburgh awards. The course in daylight looked quite straightforward; a loop from Walton on the Hill Scout and Guide Hall, northwards towards the edge of Walton Downs and back towards the start point around Sandhill Wood.

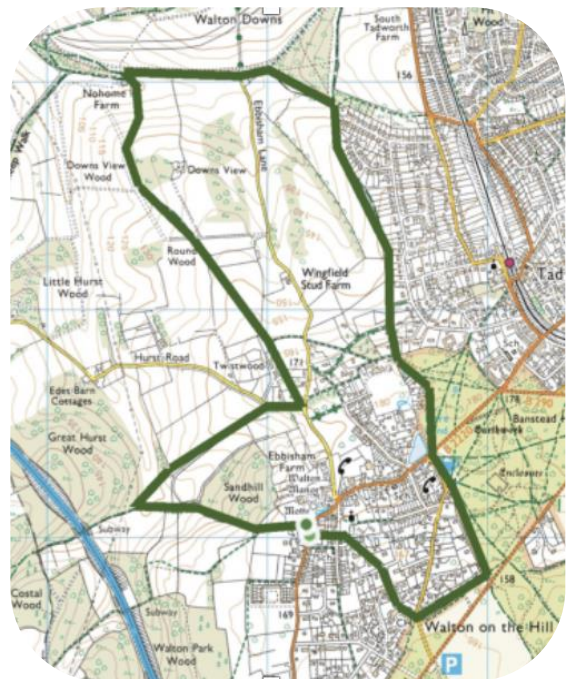
As the girls arrived at the hall for 5pm they were handed their maps and co-ordinates for the checkpoints. After plotting their route and collecting all the necessary items, they were ready to go out. Thank you to all the leaders who volunteered to run the checkpoints. As the first of the teams set off, the leaders got to their checkpoints and waited and waited!

There were five checkpoints to navigate their way around, at each one a challenge/ incident as they went to 'rescue the golden bird'. There were even a few picnics en route!

After some challenging twists and turns on the route, checkpoints revisited, bypassed and challenged completed with a smile, all the teams made it back before midnight.

Meanwhile, in the hall the teams were settling in for the night with their hot chocolates and biscuits whilst the results were entered and numbers 'crunched', and after a nights rest, the results were announced and badges presented.

The winning team, Kingston and Malden Rangers were presented the trophy once it had been engraved.



One of the aims of the Night Hike is to give the girls a taster of the fun you could have working in a team for the Duke of Edinburgh awards. The next Robins Challenge night hike is planned for Saturday 10th October 2020.

- Dax Patel

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Girlguiding and The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Scheme

Girlguiding is keen to offer the DofE Scheme and appoints County Advisors to provide assistance to unit leaders and girls. As the DofE Award Advisor for Surrey East County, my role is to encourage involvement and then help coordinate. Please see below for details of how I can help, my contact details, and information about the resources available.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Award was set up in 1956 by the Duke of Edinburgh to recognise the achievements of young people as they complete a series of self-improvement exercises. Today the Award is delivered in over 130 countries and hundreds of thousands of young girls and boys participate and achieve their every year. Any young person aged between 14 and their 25th birthday (and those in the school year they will turn 14) can participate in the Award.

Levels

There are 3 levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Bronze takes the shortest time to complete, while Gold takes the longest. As long as the age criteria for each level is met, girls can choose which level they would like to do. They do not have to have completed Bronze before doing Silver, and do not need to have done either Bronze or Silver to complete the Gold award, although many do prefer to work their way through the levels.



Sections

There are 4 sections in each level to complete: volunteering, skill, physical, and expedition. For the Gold level a further residential section also has to be completed. Each section has to be undertaken for a certain length of time, ranging from 3 to 18 months depending on the level being undertaken.

See the Award website for more information about the timescales:

<https://www.dofe.org/doing-your-dofe/levels-timescales/>

Benefits of The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Girlguiding has offered the Award for some time, however this has not always been very well advertised or communicated to girls or leaders. <https://tinyurl.com/girlguiding-dofe>

There are many benefits of offering the DofE Award to units across the County. The Award is an internationally recognised standard, with companies and universities around the world recognising the standard needed to achieve an Award. It is an opportunity for girls to get recognition for activities that they are doing, many are already attending sports clubs at school which can usually count for their physical section; and others are already volunteering with Girlguiding units which counts for their volunteering section. Therefore, most girls won't have too much difficulty identifying activities they would like to do, to count towards the award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Another advantage to the girls completing the DofE Award, is that it looks great on CVs and on UCAS applications. Many employers and universities look for candidates that have achieved the Awards because it shows that the young people are self-motivated and can persevere at tasks. It also shows a number of 'soft skills' that are invaluable to people joining an organisation or university. Not only will the Award make the participant more attractive to employers and universities, but the participant will gain experiences and connections that will benefit them for years to come.

<https://www.dofe.org/do/why/>

On a Girlguiding level, a good reason to offer the DofE Award is that it will fill the space in the programme left by the removal of the Baden Powell Award. The DofE Award covers many similar skills that the girls were able to gain from completing it, with the added advantage that universities and employers around the world are aware of the standard needed to achieve each level in the DofE Award.

Enrolling your girls

If you would like to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award to your girls, please let me know and I can send you the enrolment form for the girls to fill in.

The Award is girl led, with the girls deciding which level to undertake and what activities they want to participate in and develop for each section. I will be able to advise on suitable activities but will not find venues or the activities for the girls, this is up to them. I will support and encourage the girls once these activities have been chosen. If a leader wants more assistance, I am happy to discuss what else I can do to help the girls in their unit. For leaders who are currently running the Award, if you are happy to do continue offering the Award as you currently are, I am happy for you to do so.



About me

My name is Dax and I am based in the Fetcham and Leatherhead area. I have been a member of Girlguiding for over 20 years as an adult leader and have been a District and Division Commissioner. At the moment, I am a Leader with a Guide unit and an Assistant Leader with a Brownie unit.

I was introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme through my current job, I am a Physics teacher in a school which has been running these awards for many years. In 2011 I completed my Level 2 Award in Basic Expedition Leadership which involved completing several Bronze and Silver expeditions as part of the training. Since then I have been part of a team that supervises and assesses pupils taking part in Bronze and Silver expeditions and am now involved in teaching expedition and adventure skills as part of the curriculum.

More information

If you want more information, please contact me on the following email address: fetchamguiding@gmail.com

Have a look at the DofE Award website: <https://www.dofe.org/>

Information on the LaSER website:

<https://www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/the-duke-of-edinburghs-award>.

Trefoil Guild Associates

In the spring, some 20 members were entertained by Ann Lufflum talking about her experience being involved with the organisation of the garden at the RHS Show in Chelsea, which marked the centenary of Guiding. It is hard to believe the regulations and logistical hurdles which had to be overcome!

There followed in August our summer lunch in Betchworth Village Hall. It was a very happy occasion with plenty of food and drink and a quiz to keep our brains ticking over.

April 2020 will see us at Oxted Guide Hut with local historian Bob Evans giving us a talk, which journeys around our area pointing out places of interest along the way.

Then, in August 2020, we will share a 'Posh Picnic' at Faurefold with reminders of guiding in the 1920's.

Our 2020 visit with our Scout friends to Tabor in the Czech Republic is beginning to take shape. Plans are afoot for a week's stay in self catering accommodation in Trebusin, followed by three days in Tabor itself and a couple in Brno, an ancient town of great historical interest in the south of the country. How fortunate we are to have these continuing visits with such good friends. - Sheila Jones

Photo credit Ann Lufflum



National Scout and Guide Service

On Saturday 2nd November 2019 I was very honoured and humbled to be invited to attend The National Scout and Guide Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey. It was made an even more special occasion for me as I was able to take my daughter Sonya with me as my guest. When Sonya joined 1st Effingham brownies in 1975 adult leaders were needed and I have been a Brownie and Guide leader ever since. Sonya went on to become a Queen's Guide and an assistant Brownie leader until she went to university.

The service is steeped in history. Following the death of Lord Baden-Powell in 1941 a memorial stone was unveiled in Westminster Abbey on 23rd April 1947. From then until 1955 scouting HQ held an annual wreath laying service. In 1957 to mark the centenary of Lord Baden-Powell's birth this service was attended by members of the royal family. In the years following this the service has been referred to as a service of thanksgiving and has become a much bigger celebration.

The service is traditional in format with beautiful hymns, readings and prayers.

In addition to these there were several powerful testimonies from members of Guiding and Scouting of how their involvement in our organisations had shaped and affected their lives. They were truly inspiring and a real credit to our organisations.

For my part I really enjoyed and learned so many things during my time as a Guide and Ranger and hope that as a leader I have been able to pass this onto the girls that have been in my units.

This was a very memorable occasion which I will never forget. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of attending a once in a lifetime experience. - Clare Mahony



2nd Salfords Brownies

Last term 2nd Salfords Brownies were working towards the Future Girl badge and worked towards Make Change skill builders and UMA. We saved all the plastic and cardboard that we used in 2 weeks and we managed to make lots of monsters. We were very surprise at the amount of plastic and cardboard that was collected. They also made bees wax wraps to use instead of using sandwich bags. For some our Brownies this was the first time they had used an iron.

We were lucky enough to be able to visit our local Waitrose, the Brownies loved looking around the store and going behind the scenes. They came up with fantastic questions about what they do with all the rubbish that was left over. One of the questions was why were some vegetables wrapped in plastic and some loose. The answer was because wrapping them in plastic preserves them for longer. We were able to see how they crush the cardboard and plastic into blocks. We saw warehouse where they stored that the produce and we were told that in a few weeks there would be no room for people you move as it would be full of Christmas goodies. They loved going in the big fridge and seeing their breaths but said they could not stay in there for long as it was too cold. While walking around the shop floor we were looking out for the Red Tractor logo, this is because we were able to visit a local farm and learned about the meaning of the Red Tractor is. Before we walked around the farm we had a safety talk and some of the questions that were asked they Brownies were able to answer, but they also learnt a few things to take forward in the future. On the farm we visited we watched all the cows move from one field to another. It was quite a sight seeing the cows come running past us (we have a few cows come over and take a look at us, probably wondering why we were in their field). We also got to look in on the chickens and guinea pigs that the farm keeps. Four of our Brownies made their promise at the farm which was very exciting.

- Megan Billin



1st Chaldon Guides



1st Chaldon Guides took part in a Charity Firework display, joint with the scouts. The scouts organised all the fireworks and gates and the Guides sold hot drinks, soup, cold snacks (crisps/chocolate) and glow sticks. They raised £200 for their unit at that particular display. – Kayla Pearce



1st Chaldon Guides

For World Restart a Heart day on 16th October, 1st Chaldon Guides had a visit from the amazing Community Responders who assist the SECAMB ambulances and save many lives on a daily basis.

They learnt the recovery position, CPR and how to use defibs!

– Kayla Pearce



Banstead Rainbows



Banstead Rainbows took part in the Banstead Remembrance Day parade. The first time that Rainbows have ever taken part in this parade



Godstone District

In October 1st South Godstone Rainbows and Brownies enjoyed teaming up with the 1st Oxted Brownies and 3rd Oxted Guides for a day of fun in the woods.

Everyone enjoyed making lots of new friends whilst working in teams to complete different challenges to achieve some exciting badges, including region Pawprint badges. Even the arrival of the rain didn't dampen the day. A fabulous start to the half term holidays.



Cenotaph Parade

First of all it was a great honour to have the opportunity to represent Girl Guiding in being part of The Royal British Legion Cenotaph parade. The story starts that I was asked early 2018 if I would be part of a shadow team following Middlesex East. This was going to be a larger parade due to it being anniversary. So on the 11/11/2018 I met up with the representatives for Middlesex East 40 ladies all in blue, of all ages. this was lovely to see.

Little did we know the British Legion was to change the qualifying for participants of the parade for 2019. So to qualify:- you had to be part of a organisation invited to join the parade. Ex military/members who had a strong connection to the military and parents who served. Phew I qualified being ex army and served in the Gulf war 1991 and Iraq war 2003.

No sooner than a blink of a eye the week end arrived of remembrance 2019 I sat up late on the Saturday night preparing the Brownies creation for the village parade. Then on to my things , I polished my boots, pressed my trousers ,polished with pride my late Grandfathers and my medals, all ready to line up and pin on my guiding jacket. Sunday morning arrives, as I get ready and look in the mirror as the medals shine back I feel proud but also have a tear in my eye. This is a day to reflect. I arrive in London and meet up with the three others that will be representing Guiding. We move off to take a photo at Trafalgar Square and then off to Whitehall for the security check. As its a bit of a wait I chat to comrades some I knew from the past some I met as we stood shoulder to shoulder in our columns ready to march past. I felt I knew them for years. As we watched the large screens the cannon fired, to start the two minute silence. Whitehall fell silent it was time to reflect, what my Grandfathers and comrades sacrificed, what my comrades sacrificed, what I experienced and had seen during action, what the future holds. These are only a few of my thoughts. The cannon strikes and Whitehall becomes full of chatter and laughter , service and corps rivalry as we wait for our turn to march off.

As we hit eyes left and go past the Cenotaph, I shed a tear again, this is something I always wanted to do with my Grandfather but I know he is here with me smiling down with pride.

WOW what a day of emotions I am proud to wear the trefoil along with my corps badge and medals .

- Sharon Kidd



5th Dorking Guides

In January 2020 we said farewell to Unit Leader Emma Lawford who is stepping down for a while due to personal commitments.

Emma has been a leader for over 10 years and Unit Leader with 5th Dorking for over 3 years.

We will miss her but she has agreed to stay within the Division as an occasional helper with the Ranger Unit.

Thank you so much for everything you did for the girls.

- Kate Fowles



Lingfield Brownies

Each Brownie was given a brown tag and they wrote their own message of remembrance, to pin on their felt poppy made by their self. Mr Browne owl cut out a poppy man and I was armed with the glue gun placing all the poppies on the poppy person.

The village poppy person created lots of ooooo and ahhhhhh (even from the Scouts) so I was told.

- Sharon Kidd



Barefoot Britain

Anna McNuff's Barefoot Britain

Surrey East units were lucky enough to meet Adventurer Anna McNuff when she stopped off during her latest feat of endurance to talk to them in Westcott in November.

Anna set herself the challenge of running across the UK BAREFOOT, starting from the Shetland Isles in June 2019 and after over 2,352 miles (the equivalent of 90 marathons) she reached the finishing line in Cannizaro Park Wimbledon on Sunday 17 November.

During her "Barefoot Britain" adventure this incredible Girlguiding Ambassador shared adventure stories with over 1,700 Girlguiding girls proving to them that they can do anything. Anna has previously cycled through all the US states and run the length of New Zealand.

Anna said: "It's been a wonderful, weird, difficult and extraordinary five months. I have stepped in poo, glass - and even on a dead rabbit. You don't have to run marathons barefoot to have an adventure. But you do have to take that first step out of your comfort zone. I know that if girls can take those first adventurous steps, then they'll see what they are truly capable of. That's why I've run the length of the UK in my bare feet - to show girls and young women that taking risks and doing things that scare them, big or small, can be incredible. And being a girl should not stop you from doing anything. I have spoken to thousands of girls in all over the UK and my message has always been be bold, be brave and be you. "



Barefoot Britain

BAREFOOT BRITAIN STATS

Miles run: 2,352
Equivalent to: 90 marathons
Calories burned: 495,000
Days on the road: 168
Towns & cities visited: 143
Girl guides spoken to: 1,700
British Islands visited: 10
Major Injuries: 2
Bouts of Tonsillitis: 1
Milkshakes consumed: 200+
Food eaten the most: Cheese, broccoli & sausage rolls!



Thanks to Charity Nicholls for organising Anna's visit to us in Surrey East!
- Mary Zoeller

Faurefold



We had an excellent year with the house being used most weekends and visitors organising a wide range of activities. Three activity days were organised for 2019: Rainbows did craft and fun out of doors; Brownies were planting wellies, making bug houses and more; whilst the Guides day involved large crafts with weaving between trees, building a log and canvas cabin, painting the shed and a large mosaic. We also had MUD Craft for Guides and Brownies! We are lucky to have a new chairperson Clare Coker who is a Guide leader in Effingham. We have had a constructive few months and have exciting plans for developing the site in the coming years.

This year we are proposing to take away the gravel from around the house and the front steps and replace with paving hopefully making it quieter and safer. We also plan to build steps into the slope at the back of the building so that campers have a safer route to the outside toilets. We are also looking at improving the acoustics indoors and hope to install window blinds by the end of the year.

The house is steadily getting booked up for this year and we look forward to welcoming you all in the coming months. Please do check the website, as we are still taking bookings.

We would love to see more units camping and have plenty of availability. There is separate calendar and form especially for this on the website. We also have some equipment that can be borrowed so do please check it out on the website.

Once again, we are planning some exciting activity days for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides this year so exciting days ahead. 16th May – Guides, 17th May – Brownies, 13th June – Rainbows).

If you would like to visit and have a look round, please get in touch with Barry (faurefold@hotmail.co.uk) our booking secretary and he will arrange for one of our volunteers to show you round and answer any questions you may have.

www.faurefold.co.uk

- Val Hickmott

BBC Community Heroes Awards

Natasha Warren was recently nominated for the BBC Community Heroes awards 2019 and was a finalist in the Young Achiever category. Although Natasha wasn't the winner of the award she was one of only three finalists in her category an exceptional achievement particularly for someone so young.

Natasha is a Young Carer for her older sister Francesca who has Autism, ADD, and OCD. She's finished her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (and now started her Silver) and has a yellow belt in Tae Kwon Do. She's a Police Cadet and a qualified life saver. Natasha will soon be a Ranger and has previously been a Guide with 4th Banstead Guides. She is currently a Young Leader with the Brownies, at the same hut.

She has taken part in the Race for Life, on Epsom Downs. She has previously had her hair cut short to raise money for the 'The Little Princess Trust'. She raised £585. In the past she has raised £8000 for the YMCA, Banstead, when she was the May Queen of Banstead. All this at only 14 years old which is an exceptional achievement.

Her older sister Francesca Warren has been in Girlguiding since she was a Rainbow. She is now a Young Leader with Beverly also. She has her Baden Powell Badge, and her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver, and Gold. She has special educational needs and has something called an EHCP to support her education in a Special School. She is currently doing A levels, and has had three university offers so far. Francesca has had many issues to deal with in her life and has achieved and overcome so much.

Well done girls Surrey East County is very proud to have you within the Guiding Community.



7th Horley Rangers



Hello from the newly formed 7th Horley Rangers. We have got off to a great start with 8 unit members. We had a wonderful gift from Trefoil of some UMA's and Skills Builders which the girls enjoyed looking through and choosing what they wanted to spend time doing. Angela Sullivan from the Trefoil guild came to present the Rangers with the UMAs and Skills Builders and other unit items. We want to say a massive thank you!

We have had a 2 outings, Women's football England v Germany and we went ice skating - joining with the guides. We took part in Parliament week and created 2 very good political parties with 'important to the girls' policies and debated and campaigned. We have had fire building session with speakers, never too old for Sparklers!

We have a new girl join us this term and are planning our activities for another full on term.

- Janet Ralph



4th Stoneleigh Brownies

Annabel King and Rachel Devensish gained their Gold award after lots of hard work. They visited Guide units, completed various badges including jobs, collectors and baking. For their special activity Annabel did a book we can use for any new Brownies that start. Rachel did our favourite camp recipes and songs, which is going to be taken on every camp we do. Well done girls and good luck in Guides.

Also our pack has worked on the take action theme since September and choose WWF and Cancer Research for their charities. Over this time the girls did bring and buy, cake sale, selling homemade Christmas labels, selling sweets and filling a smartie tube and we raised an astonishing £424.00!

- Sarah Edwards



1st Effingham Brownies

1st Effingham Brownies continued with the Planet Protectors theme all term, ending with a wonderful visit to GreenWise in Ashted where the amazing Elsje helped us learn all about sustainable shopping and the alternatives to plastic. We also bought the organic ingredients needed for our last meeting of term when we made Gingerbread Cookie Jars gifts (in recycled glass jars from home of course!) and up cycled corks into snowman xmas tree decorations.



Bookham and Effingham District

Four adult leaders, two Rangers and 19 Guides from the Bookham and Effingham District braved the elements for a fun, challenging weekend at Frost Camp 2020. Held at the Bentley Copse Activity Centre near Shere, this annual event sees hundreds of young people and their leaders spend a chilly weekend under canvas in January, while enjoying a huge choice of outdoor activities during the day.

Unlike during some previous years, there wasn't any snow, or even frost, during the weekend. But with a chilly wind, drizzle in the air and plenty of mud underfoot, the conditions were as challenging as usual!

Activities at this year's Frost Camp included Pedal Go Karts, Tree Climbing, a Cave Maze (a network of tunnels within a hut), a rotating climbing wall, Jacob's ladder, Zip Line and pheasant plucking. The youngsters are free to roam the site as they wish during the day and have a free choice of activities, for which they generally wait no longer than five to ten minutes. The young boys and girls taking part in Frost Camp are mostly Scouts, with this year's only Guides being from the 1st, 3rd and 4th Bookham Units, as well as from 1st Effingham. These units have been attending for more than 15 years, have always been the only Guides and are really looking forwarding to doing it all over again next year too! Clare Coker is the 1st Effingham Guide Leader and also the Leatherhead Division Camp Advisor. This is her 7th Frost Camp. She said:

"Many of our girls tell me that this is their favourite camp and they really like it. They have a huge amount of freedom, it's a big site. We expect them to report in for meals, to help us with the washing up and to do their bedding roll in the morning, so they don't trample their dirty feet all over it. Then they're just off and they can come back when they want, or not! We mostly don't see them. I think particularly for the ten and eleven year olds it's a massive deal and helps with their confidence.

Also, because it's cold and because it's winter, the girls feel really proud of themselves. They really do learn to look after their kit, because if it's wet or cold, they are going to get wet or cold! We went to Journey Camp, the region camp at Cudham - it was at the end of a heatwave. And then the weather broke, with high winds, rain and thunder. A lot of people were going home or decamping to buildings. We had a meeting with our girls and they said "We've been to Frost Camp, we can survive anything!" And that's why we go to Frost Camp! It gives them that little thing in their pocket, that they've camped in the cold, and that they know how to survive bad weather".

Fifteen year old Cat Johnson is a Young Leader, attending her fifth Frost Camp. She loves the atmosphere; *"In terms of camping in the winter, if you do it properly, it's very cosy and warm, but if you don't, then it can be quite cold. You definitely feel as though you've achieved something, because everyone else is in houses, whilst you're in a tent! I actually prefer it in the winter."*

Thirteen year old Guide Alice Coker is another fan. She said: *"I love coming back to Frost Camp because I think it's fun and it's nice to spend time with my friends. I've made a few new friends too. I really like the bush-craft activities. It's about cooking in the wild, you cut up pheasants and different birds and cook them. You can make breads and cook them on the fire. I was here one year when it snowed and we made a snowman in the morning. There wasn't much snow and it was about to melt, but Tahlia and I managed to make a little snowman!"* – Jen Broh



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

County Newsletter

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

The next County Newsletter will be published on 30th June 2020

(both paper and digital copies will be available)

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is Monday 15th June 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 SurreyEast County really is. I look forward to hearing from you!

Please email items to: newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com

<https://twitter.com/ggSEcountynews>