

County Newsletter



Spring/Summer 2021



Welcome



Wow!

This edition is packed full of amazing adventures our volunteers have been having with their young members and so much hard work has gone into adapting the programme for social distancing and Zoom. It is truly inspiring to see what you have been able to do and the joy on the girls faces. Well done! I hope you'll find it inspiring to see what other groups are getting up to and maybe pinch some ideas. Huge congratulations to everyone (girls and adults) who have achieved awards this term.

Thank you for all you continue to do to bring fun and adventure to our young members despite the challenges and if you want to join in the fun head to <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/> and we'll have a flexible volunteering opportunity for you.

Best wishes
Jennifer Sibley
County Commissioner





Newly Qualified Leaders

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have completed their Leadership Qualification or added modules to their qualifications since January 2021.

Leatherhead Division

Mia Robins
Georgia Stratton Bacon
Tracy Marshall
Heather Blackburn

Downs Heath Division

Julie Clark

Reigate Division

Lynn Hargreaves McCallum
Karen Wyborn

Epsom Division

Carla Woodcock

Godstone Division

Steph Leeson
Lesley Ann Wyllie

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.

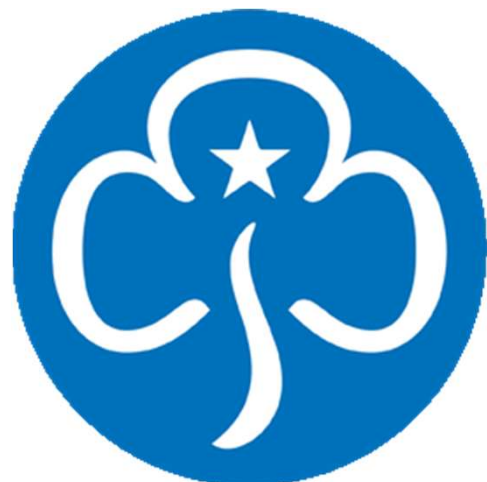
We thank all the mentors who help with group sessions, visiting units and supporting leaders in training.

If you feel you could help in any way, please contact Janet.

County Leadership Team

Janet Coninx

janet2718@yahoo.co.uk



Thinking Day

Travel Restrictions? What travel restrictions?!

We wanted to make Thinking Day a bit special this year and decided to celebrate in different ways with our Girlguiding sisters around the world. It all started with the idea of sending a postcard.

Since early February, the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in Lingfield and South Godstone have been corresponding, via postcards, with Girl Guides in Australia, where all ages groups are called Girl Guides, emails and video messages with Teddies, Brownies and Guides in South Africa and emails and video messages with the Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors in the USA.



Then we thought why not go one step further..... and so on Saturday 13th March, 100 girls and leaders flew to Arizona, via the power of Zoom, for a series of meetings with 100 girls and their leaders from Chandler, Arizona.

Starting at 4pm UK time, which was 9am in USA, the Rainbows and Brownies met with Daisies and Brownies. They started by sharing their promises, then stories of Lord Baden-Powell and Juliette Gordon Low. After playing a game showing some of the cultural differences between the two countries, we shared some craft activities and discussed swops. Finally, we finished with the lighting of a Thinking Day candle to honour new friends and to serve as a reminder to ourselves of our shared values and promise. We all learnt that whilst we live thousands of miles apart, we stand for the same thing.



Thinking Day

This was followed by the Guides, Junior and Cadette session at 5pm who had a slightly different challenge. We all learnt a lot about the names for everyday items and some of the favourite items of food in each country. They were lucky enough to meet in smaller breakout rooms to chat and make friends. Each country was thrilled to see some of the badges that each other has and for the UK group to find out more about Girl Scout cookies! Finally, the Rangers and Ambassadors met at 6pm and absolutely loved chatting to each other and finding out all the different varieties of candy, cookies, and chips there are! We all realised one thing – Girl Guides are always quick to find snacks!

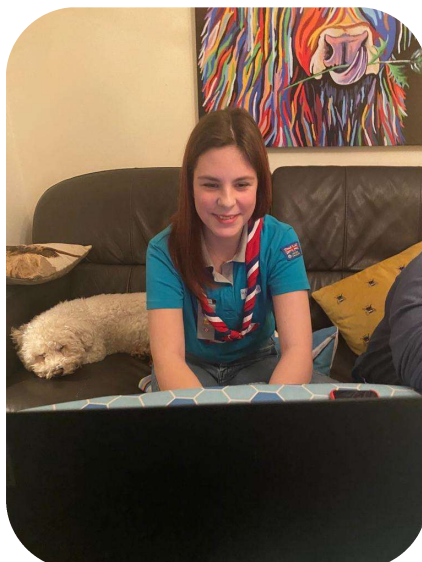
Many girls are now going to continuing talking to their new friends as a pen-pal or is it email-pal these days?



A multitude of swops and badges are now travelling across the Atlantic both ways so the girls can make the crafts they saw demonstrated and if we are lucky, we hear there may also be some sweet treats to try.

But that is not all ... the leaders are having a coffee meeting on 20th March so that they can get to chat in peace. It also appears that the Guides and Rangers will be hosting a troop from Chandler in 2024 when they hope to travel for real to the UK.

-Tracy Lovell



1st Chaldon Rainbows

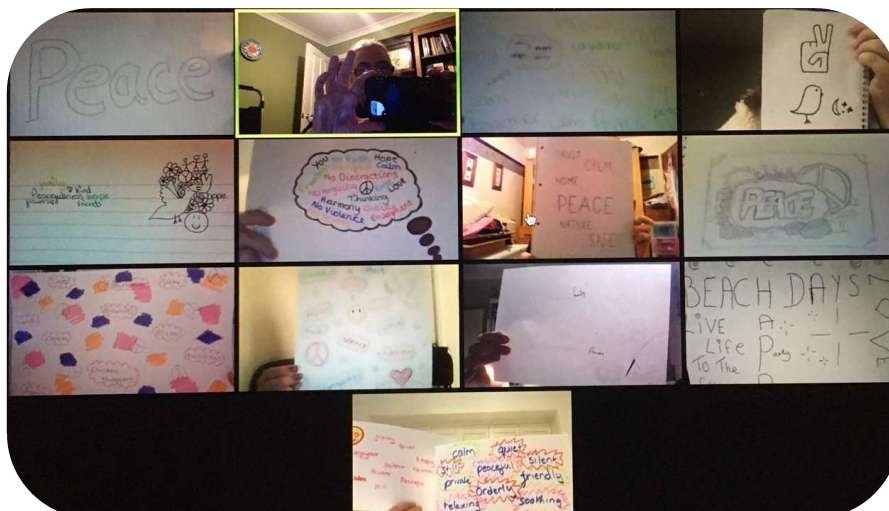
1st Chaldon Rainbows making Rainbow Peace Doves for Thinking Day.



7th Horley Rangers

7th Horley Rangers all took part in a World Thinking Day peace puzzle this year. They also all took their promise and had a parent or sibling pin on their badgers. Thank you Vicky for the support in helping this happen.

- Jeanette



Virtual Residential

For the final part of my Queen's Guide (Outdoor Challenge, Element One), I organised a virtual 18-30 residential with the theme of Brilliant Birds and Wildlife. The virtual residential was an amazing experience – it was the first virtual event I have organised - and it was particularly great to meet other Girlguiding members aged 18-30. Before organising the virtual residential, I scarcely knew anyone in the 18-30 age range within Girlguiding; now, I have a group of new friends.

Seven participants attended from all over England, including from Leeds, Swindon and Somerset, as well as Surrey East. All of the participants were extremely friendly, enthusiastic and helpful. In addition to completing bird themed activities, we shared memories and experiences of Girlguiding, showing badges earned and also different neckers. The virtual residential was a wonderful opportunity and I met a group of nice people.

The main focus of the residential was to complete the 'Big Garden Birdwatch (RSPB)'. We all individually looked for birds for an hour from our gardens or local parks, before meeting up back on Zoom to compare what we had seen.

Over the weekend, we earned three different badges: *Brilliant Birds RSPB*, *LaSER*; *Growing Up Wild, RSPB*, *Winter*; and *Growing Up Wild, Birds*. It was especially nice for Girlguiding members outside the region to have the chance to earn these badges.

I had planned several short Zooms over the weekend, with activities to complete in between them. Notable activities included an evening quiz with a 'Guess the movie - Bird themed' round; identifying birds by listening to bird song; and creating pieces of artwork. The weekend sped past very quickly and we have all agreed that we should arrange another virtual event soon.

-Alexia



Thinking Day

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Young Leaders and adult volunteers from across the Fetcham and Leatherhead District gathered on Zoom to celebrate World Thinking Day on 22nd February.

Almost 40 adults and children enjoyed a varied selection of online activities linked to Thinking Day and particularly to the number 22. Tasks included touching 22 walls in your house, doing 22 star jumps and (for the younger members!) reflecting on what they imagined their life would be like when they are 22 years old. There were also discussions about what everyone was most looking forward to, when face to face Guiding restarted.

At the end of the online gathering, all those attending renewed their Girlguiding promise. This emotional moment, with everyone in their own homes, was in stark contrast to last year. On 22nd February 2020, more than 150 local members of the Girlguiding family renewed their promise together outside at dawn (pictured), after taking part in a giant Thinking Day sleepover at St. John's School in Leatherhead.

Wendy Amer, District Commissioner for Fetcham and Leatherhead Girlguiding said in February: "It was great to see so many girls from the District join us for our Thinking Day celebration. Several girls have joined units in lockdown and are yet to actually meet face to face! Leaders have worked hard to make meetings on Zoom as active and entertaining as possible, with sessions such as a virtual trip to the moon, a bus ride round Europe, guest appearances by llamas and goats, Bollywood dance sessions, computer game coding, escape rooms and making electrical circuits, to name but a few!"

For more information about Girlguiding in the Leatherhead Division and to volunteer as a leader for one of the local groups, contact Dax Patel on ggleatherheaddivision@gmail.com.



Left to right - Sisters Izzy (2nd Leatherhead Brownies) and Abbie (Fetcham and Leatherhead Guides) renew their promise online on World Thinking Day.



Mia from 2nd Leatherhead Brownies renews her promise online on World Thinking Day .



Flashback to the Thinking Day 2020 sleepover at St John's School in Leatherhead.

4th Caterham Brownies

4th Caterham Brownies were fortunate to be allocated one of the sports kits bags and we made the most of it during one of our meetings. For one activity, only the first person in each team was able to see, and the others had to follow through a slalom with their eyes shut, holding onto the rope and the shoulder of the person in front. Only one team managed it! All were duly sanitised before and afterwards.



3rd Cuddlington Brownies

In February 3rd Cuddington Brownies and 4th Worcester Park Brownies had a great Smile themed Virtual Sleepover!

They spent the weekend enjoying pizza making, a drumming workshop, adventures and lots of smile challenges. It looks like so much fun.



Caterham Hill and Chaldon District

Caterham Hill and Chaldon held their annual district day.

They celebrated the Queens 95th Birthday with a quiz, castle painting followed by the obvious s'mores and hot chocolate.



Epsom Division

Epsom Division has applied for a grant from Surrey County Council to complete our Little Acres Lodge project at our campsite in Horton Country Park, Epsom.

Please help us by showing your support for our application by logging in to the website below and give us a "thumbs up". The more support we have the better so if you can also share this that would be great, thank you!

-Mary Zoeller

<https://yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is/comments/6043bc244d229690aa2840d8>



Epsom Division



NEW TOWN CHALLENGE TO MARK STATUE UNVEILING

In June a brand new statue was unveiled in Epsom Town Centre of Emily Davison, the suffragette who was tragically killed at the Epsom Derby while trying to place a flag on the king's horse. Priya Watkinson and Anna Champness (Rosebery Head Girls and Girlguiding Young Leaders) unveiled the statue and gave a very moving speech and Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller was privileged to represent Girlguiding at the event and meet the statue's sculptor Christine Charlesworth at the official unveiling.

To celebrate the new statue Epsom Division has launched a Town Challenge suitable for all ages. This circular walk, taking in points of local history, starts at the statue in the Market Place and takes about an hour to complete. There is a special limited edition badge and profits from the badges will go back to Division. The leaders information includes questions, answers, clues and any additional information we felt would be interesting! There is an answer sheet for participants to complete.

If you would like a copy of the challenge please contact Epsom Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller (email: mary@maryzoeller.co.uk) with your badge order. Badges are £1 each +P&P.



12th Epsom Guides

12th Epsom Guides had a celebratory first meeting back at Little Acres when they presented 6 members with their Bronze Awards!



1st Hawthorns Brownies

We've had so much fun this term and Zoomed our way to exciting challenges and badges. The girls loved designing their own stylish Brownie uniform – I think we have some fashion designers emerging!

Equipping girls with life skills is essential, this term we completed our First Aid badge. Parents were impressed with what they had learnt and one girl was put to the test in a real-life situation, in which she coped very well and knew what to do - well done!

Ready, steady, cook! A unit favourite is cooking. We made a melt-in-the-middle 'pud-in-a-mug' and had an evening where the girls could choose what to make, we had bread rolls, to stir-fry, to sweet treats. A delicious evening.

Fish, dogs, rabbits, a tortoise and a brother (!) were all part of our 'Pet Show & Tell'. It was lovely to hear how the girls help look after their pets and what they need to stay strong and healthy. The following week we continued the theme by thinking about our own wellbeing. The girls made 'happiness jars' and swapped ideas of how to relax, reflect and promote healthy mental health.

Thinking outside the box and team work were the name of the game when we did an escape room challenge. Using Morse Code, historical knowledge and problem solving skills, the girls were put to the test and managed to escape the time travellers trap!

Brownies has been so much fun, the girls' enthusiasm and eagerness in every session makes each week a delight!

- Karen Wyborn



4th Caterham Rainbows

4th Caterham Rainbows were delighted to get back to face to face meetings after Easter. Our school venue has a large awning that gives us shelter, and a local carpet company provided some off-cuts for the children to sit on.

For the summer term we have been focusing on the 'Have Adventures' theme, and the Rainbows enjoyed pretending that they were birds, gathering material for their nests using only a clothes peg to simulate a beak.

Fortunately they didn't actually use their mouths! So that the local wildlife was not too deprived of their habitat, Dragonfly brought some from her own garden too, along with cardboard trays salvaged from recycling. And of course they all wanted to take their nests home!

-Sue Corrance



9th Caterham Brownies

I run a small pack and for the first 3 months of 2021 we were on zoom. I delivered a bag of craft bits to each girl and planned a fun term. They thoroughly enjoyed it!

After Easter we went back face to face at our church hall (with the girls spaced out safely and their own equipment to use). Great to see all the girls and I even had 4 new ones.

- Claire Wilson



They also made flower hammering pictures. The Brownies picked their own flowers from the churchyard, placed them on calico fabric, covered with kitchen roll and hammered until the colour came through. Very loud but very happy brownies!



Little Acres Campsite



Anyone who has visited Epsom Division's Little Acres campsite in Horton Country Park will have noticed a few additional features have appeared over the past few weeks!

We'd like to thank Seb Jowett, a member of the Scout Active Support Unit with 3rd Epsom who has constructed some amazing benches for us. Seb has done this as part of his Queen's Scout Award and we are very grateful to him for choosing us to help by creating these recycled benches which will be very well used around the campsite. Thank you very much to Court Farm Garden Care & Garden Centre in Tolworth for kindly donating the pallets these benches were made from.

On the side of the lodge you can find Beryl our Bug House. Beryl is already attracting a number of insects who have made her their home and if you look closely you will see letters carved into the wood which spell out something special.

Finally, there are a number of acorn men and woodland animals hidden around the perimeter of the field to look for! Our thanks to Roo Harmer for creating these beautiful pieces of artwork and helping make Beryl!

- Mary Zoeller



Stoneleigh Brownies

GIRLGUIDING RECRUITMENT DRIVE.

Two Stoneleigh Brownies had the amazing opportunity to star in the latest Girlguiding recruitment drive advertising campaign! Brownies Emily and Lily and their two leaders Starfish and Paris took part.

The day involved us going over to Dulwich College with another Brownie pack and the girls got to join in a number of activities, dressing up and generally having fun. Throughout the day they had cameras all around them capturing the fun they had on set, they made new friends and had an incredible experience!



girlguiding



Menu



**With Girlguiding girls
have the best experiences**



The Great Surrey East County Bakeoff

In January Girls from units across Surrey East county entered the county wide Bakeoff competition. With voting taking place via facebook. It was wonderful to see so many entries and so much talent from across the county.

The Rainbows winners were (from L to R)

1st place – Zoe 7th Horley East Rainbows

2nd place – Elizabeth 3rd Ashted Rainbows

3rd place – Lily Epsom Rainbows



The Brownies winners were (from L to R)

1st place – Esme 9th Epsom Brownies

2nd place – Molly Lingfield

3rd place - Skylar 1st Burstow Brownies



The Great Surrey East County Bakeoff

The Guides winners were (from L to R):

1st place – Anaya 2nd Stoneleigh Guides

2nd place – Layla 2nd Stoneleigh Guides

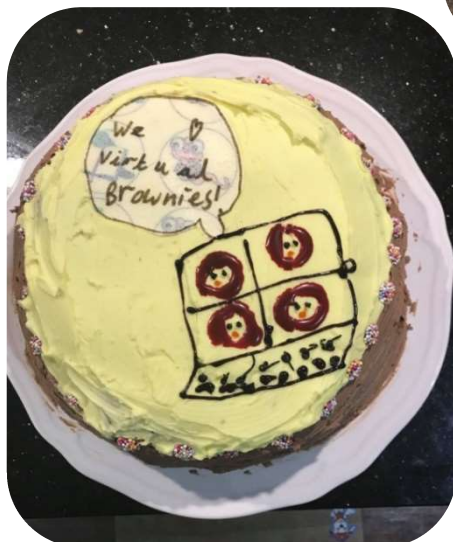
3rd place – Amy 7th Horley Guides - 2020 iconic events



The Rangers and Young Leaders winners were (from L to R):

1st place – Charlotte Epsom Rangers

2nd place – Lou, Young leader at 9th Caterham Guides



And the judges favourite was Molly's cake from 10th Redhill who has clearly been enjoying her units zoom meetings.

There are so many other fantastic entries I would really recommend having a look on the Guiding Surrey East facebook page if you haven't already.

5th Dorking Brownies

I am Gill Morgan, the new Brownie Leader for 5th Dorking Brownies. I took over the Unit with my daughter, Josie, in January this year. The Unit numbers had run down due to the lovely previous Leader of 13 years, Caroline Budd, moving away and of course, Covid.

From January, every week, I delivered envelopes of activities for the Brownies to do. By word of mouth our numbers began to increase and by the time we were able to meet face-to-face we had 16 girls.

Also, if all goes well, by the end of the summer term 5 girls will achieve their Brownie Bronze award. It is so lovely to be running a Brownie Unit again (especially as it is in the same Church Hall as I ran Rainbows 25 years ago) with my daughter who is no longer a Rainbow, but a helper.



8th Epsom Brownies

BUBBLE BONANZA

8th Epsom Brownies have enjoyed being able to meet together again outdoors and a particular highlight was science night - foot pump rockets, balloon rockets, mento rockets and the hugely successful giant bubbles! This was part of completing the Institute of Physics I am a Physicist badge.



7th Bookham Brownies

A Bookham family is continuing the family tradition of being involved in the Girlguiding and Scouting movement – inspired by a photograph taken more than a century ago.

Douglas George Theodore Smith is pictured in 1920, alongside the founder of the world Scouting and Guiding movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Smith was a close friend of Baden-Powell and was very involved in scouting and charity work throughout his life.

A century later, Douglas Smith's great great granddaughter Rosie Dunn is a member of 7th Bookham Brownies and her six year old brother Harry is a Beaver with 1st Bookham Scouts. Rosie and Harry's Mum Emma was a Brownie and Guide as a child and their grandmother Ruth ran a Brownie unit in East Sussex.

9-year old Rosie is delighted to keep the family tradition going. She said: "I love Brownies, we always do so many interesting things! We were talking about the history of Guiding on Zoom recently and when Lord Baden Powell was mentioned, I was so proud. I love the photo of my great grandpa – it's a really big thing in our family!"

Emma Dunn says there are so many positives for children who take up Guiding and Scouting: "I love the fact that through Brownies and Beavers, my children get to meet other youngsters from different schools and backgrounds. They're constantly learning important life skills, which helps build their confidence. They really feel that they've achieved something. It's so important for them both to be involved".



2021: L to R Harry and Rosie Dunn



1920: L to R Lord Robert Baden-Powell and Douglas Smith

1st Effingham Brownies

1st Effingham Brownies have enjoyed getting back to meeting outdoors and they have had some fabulous meetings this term. They firstly did some sunflower planting and bird feeder making. They also acted out life cycles to keep them warm.



They have also made golf sticks and holes for the It's a Hole in One UMA.



1st Effingham Brownies



1st Effingham Brownies also had a bee night to celebrate 'World Bee day' in May and one of the leaders tried on the bee outfit that was the summer suit and it was rather warm in there! The girls made bee bombs too.

They have been out doing their Canal & Rivers Trust Challenge badge. Photos were taken on bridges across the Wey Navigation - they started their walk at Ripley Green, via Ockham Mill, up to Pyrford Lock - they were lucky enough that there was a narrowboat waiting to use the lock and we got to help with the lock gates - down to Walsham Weir and back to Ripley Green. It took 2 hours with lots of spotting sheets, makes a great walk ... But they did get a bit damp !!
- Jo Tomkings



1st Walton on the Hill Guides

Making the most of the situation

For the summer term, we decided a blend of Zoom and outdoor meetings and where possible tried to make best use of each environment.

We found that some things worked particularly well over zoom: Cooking with simple recipes with ingredients that most people have in their kitchen at home. We provided the recipe but suggested that if the Guides had their own/preferred recipes they could use them. Everyone had a chance to cook and clear up for themselves supported by their family members at home.

Photography badge – we were able to share power point slides to explain some of the technical skills and then each used their smart phone to capture images in their home. Again, it meant that each participant had the chance to develop their own skills and share the image on the screen.

For outdoors, we used a campfire circle someone had created in the woods near our normal meeting place. We used the time to progress various adjusted skills builders and UMAs. We even had some meetings that felt more normal (despite having to remain socially distanced) enjoying the things we love.

-Beverly Heywood-Jones



Camp cooking at Park Farm.



Meeting outdoors was more fun than being on zoom all the time!



Stand Up Paddle boarding and Dinghy Sailing with Aqua Sports.



1st Ewell Village Brownies

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies were lucky enough to have a visit from local beekeeper (and grandparent of two of the Brownies) Barry Wood who kept the girls and leaders enthralled with his knowledge of these amazing insects. Barry brought along part of a hive (behind glass) so we could see them up close and we were all delighted to earn our "I've spotted the queen" sticker by the end of the session! Who knew bees were around when dinosaurs were alive and that they can fly for miles without stopping!



Epsom Division

LITTER PICKING TAKES OFF

Brownie and Guide units in Epsom Division have taken litter picking to their hearts and have been out and about making their local area look so much better! Thanks to the encouragement of local Facebook group Keep Epsom and Ewell Tidy and the loan of litter pickers from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council many units have been out and about this term tidying up and recycling. They have received a very positive response from the general public and have certainly improved their borough and kept their Guiding promise to help the community. Keep it up girls.

- Mary Zoeller



1st Chaldon Rainbows

1st Chaldon Rainbows explored outside and decorated fairy doors for the trees around the local area .



On a mini beast walk.



1st Chaldon Rainbows and their leaders playing party games in the new outdoor meeting space.



Chaldon Guides

Chaldon Guides had success making their fires float! And of course then making s'mores one evening.

The girls had string and sticks which they use to make their own raft for the bucket. Once it was floating they built their fires on top and then got to toast their marshmallows from it.



They also enjoyed painty twister this term.



And a pass the pie game may have turned into a shaving foam fight.



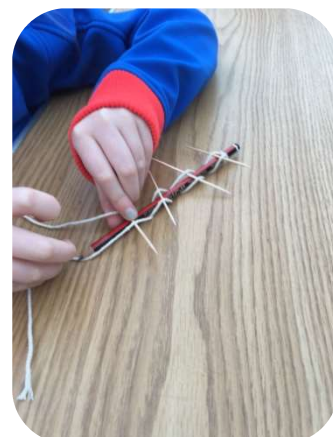
10th Redhill Brownies

10th Redhill Brownies made owl cards for Thinking Day, they sent them out to share Brownie messages or maybe we should be calling them Tweets!



1st Whyteleafe Guides

1st Whyteleafe Guides spent an evening practicing their knots in preparation for Guide camp this summer.



1st Fetcham Guides

On Thursday 17th June 1st Fetcham Guides had a visit from Caroline and her group of therapy animals to learn about working with small animals and the amazing work she does in care homes, hospitals and schools with her small animal team. The girls got the opportunity to handle and feed guinea pigs, chickens, a rabbit, a hamster and even a duck.



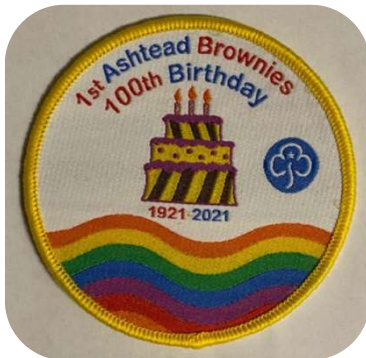
Downs Heath Division

Congratulations to Rebecca Phillips who received her 10-year long service award.

1st Ashtead Brownies

1st Ashtead Brownies turned 100 on 12th February 2021.

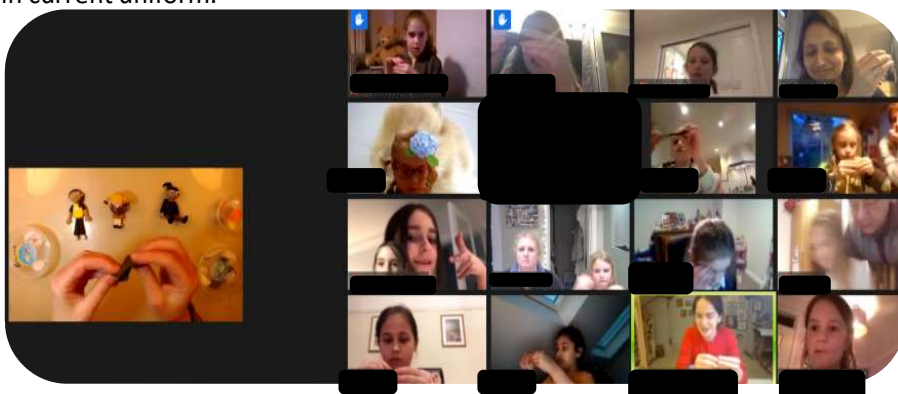
Due to covid we were not able to have big celebrations, but few activities to mark these momentous moments. There was a Birthday badge design competition, voted by "Brownie Leader Support" Facebook group. Out of 160 votes there was a clear winner with 60 votes. Winning design has then been created into a badge for all the members, past and present of 1st Ashtead Brownies.



We were not able to share a cake, but we still had a celebration over zoom session with a Brownie in a mug. We all sang happy birthday to our unit and had our individual candle to blow and enjoyed the brownie.



We also invited an outside organization, Jumping Clay to help us in our birthday celebrations. They showed us over zoom session how to make mini-Brownie model. We took the opportunity to mark our 100th Birthday by making Brownie in 1920s uniform and in current uniform.



1st Ashtead Brownies

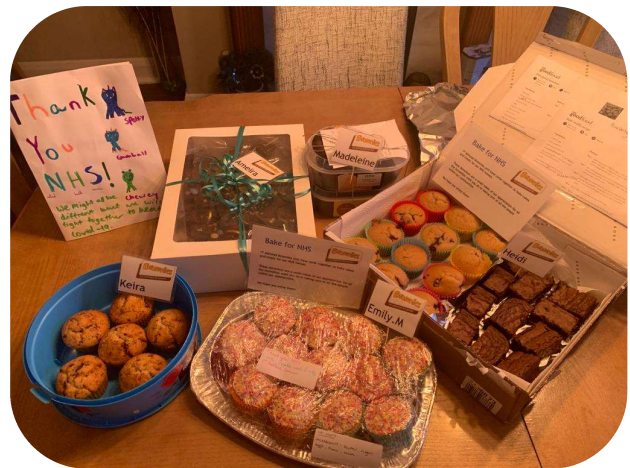
We did not forget why we had to celebrate social distancing, due to Covid! During the half-term holidays, 1st Ashtead Brownie unit came together to bake cakes and treats for our NHS heroes. We donated to our local, Epsom hospital, a small token of our appreciation for all the incredible work they are doing in taking care of all the people within our communities.

For Mother's Day we made a beautiful card, which were decorated with paper dollies and craft materials. Loving the big smiles on our Brownies' faces.

Lastly, Easter eggs were delivered home to all the girls with their individual Easter craft activities. The session ended with an Easter egg hunt in their homes.

1st Ashtead Brownies embraced the unprecedented situation and although we enjoyed our zoom sessions, we are glad to be meeting face to face again and looking forward to more birthday celebrations over the year.

- Sarita Amin



4th Ashted Guides

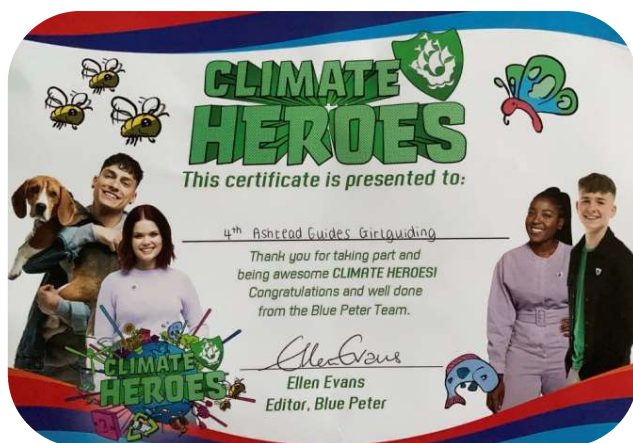
During the Spring Term we were still meeting on Zoom, so we celebrated Thinking Day virtually and presented our first theme awards and Bronze award to one of my Guides (with help from mum to surprise her!). Some of the girls also joined in with the Festival of LaSER over the Thinking Day weekend.

After the Easter break, we've been able to meet back face to face, for the first time in over a year, and it was great to finally meet our girls that had joined during lockdown last year in person for the first time, and enrol them formally into the unit. This term we have worked on Blue Peter's Climate Hero's project, where the girls made pledges for at least 2 weeks, relating to power, plastic and plants, which tied in with some of the Unit Meeting Activities we were completing this term.

- Sarah West



Badges presented to the girls



Blue Peter Climate Heroes certificate and poster that we have in the hut of the girls' pledges

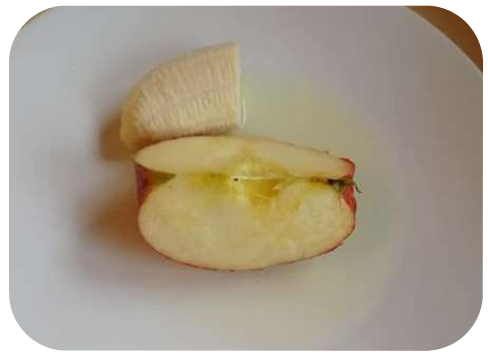


Our unit mascot celebrating our return to face to face at the hut!

South Nutfield Rainbows And Brownies

South Nutfield Brownies and Rainbows have been 'zooming' for the past six months. The majority of girls have tackled and mastered zoom with ease. We have found that our weekly attendance numbers have been almost 100%, better than face-to-face attendance. From the perspective of the leaders, we have surprised ourselves at what we have been able to do, with the support of parents. Cooking activities and science experiments have been extremely popular. Involving parents has had the added bonus that they have a better appreciation of what Guiding offers for girls. We are looking forward to returning to face-to-face meetings, but have found virtual meetings a really good stop-gap.

- Sue Fairclough



Experiments with lemon juice, water and sugar.



Sowing sunflower seeds.



Rocket.



Drawing pictures by following someone's instructions.



Edible tent and campfire.

9th Epsom Brownies

9th Epsom Brownies went down to Blackland Farm for one of the Taste of Adventure Days on 23rd May. The Brownies tried out abseiling, high ropes, aeroball and grass sledging. Loads of fun was had by all, including the leaders / helpers - and we mainly stayed dry for the day too!

- Sarah Clanfield



1st Effingham Guides

Four members of the 1st Effingham unit have been awarded their Guide Gold award. The achievement of Tahlia, Olivia, Alice and Katie is all the more remarkable, as they have completed large parts of the award during lockdown.

The new programme for Guides (aged 10-14) was introduced in 2018 and is designed around six themes to encourage girls to take on a broad range of challenges and activities. To achieve a Gold award a Guide needs to actively participate in all aspects of the programme, complete interest badges at home and undertake an adventure.

Amongst other activities (many on Zoom), between them the four girls have developed their camping and first aid skills, made confectionery and discovered how to fix items like a bicycle. They have also learnt forensic skills and how to vlog!

The Gold Award “adventure” was even more challenging than usual, with all the restrictions caused by Covid-19. Last September, the girls, who were already in a school group bubble, organised a hike along the South Downs Way. They planned their route, taking all the additional measures required to safely navigate the pandemic, as well as the footpaths.

14 year old Olivia is delighted to complete her Gold Award in such challenging circumstances. She said: “I enjoyed spending time with my friends doing the different challenges, even if it was on Zoom! I was so happy that we still managed to do our expedition despite the pandemic, and we made lots of memories. We walked a really, really long way, but with plenty of snack and photo stops it was one to remember. I even got to practise my first aid when my friend twisted her ankle – thankfully she was fine!”



L-R. Tahlia, Olivia, Alice and Katie set out to hike along the South Downs Way



L to R. Alice, Olivia (hidden), Tahlia, Katie bivouacking at Chigwell.



L to R. Olivia, Katie Alice and Tahlia taking on the Robin's Challenge Night Hike, Autumn 2019

8th Epsom Brownies

8th Epsom Brownies learnt a new skill and made hedgehogs one meeting.



Can She Build It Challenge

The background represents sun, joy, laughter and happiness in life.
The monkey represents that you can be a little cheeky sometimes

THE MONOSFAIR
monos means monkey
in spanish



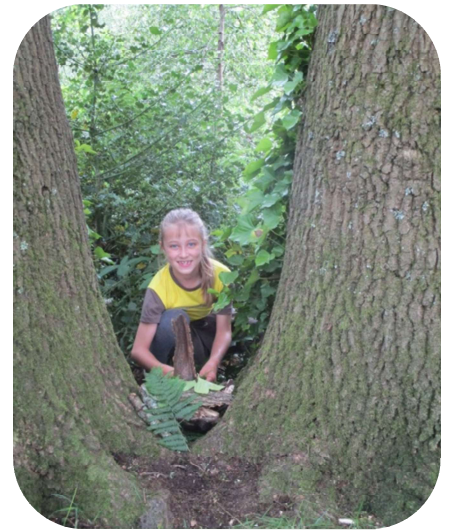
The winner of the Onwards and Upwards 'Can She Build It' Surrey East County Challenge was Georgina, from 7th Epsom Methodist Brownies. The challenge was to design and create a new landmark for Surrey. The brand new landmark Georgina has created for Surrey is the Monosfair! The combination of a fairground to represent fun, joy, laughter and happiness in life, alongside a monkey, which shows you can be a bit cheeky at times. Congratulations !

2nd Oxted Brownies

2nd Oxted Brownies have had a great term. They made pizzas during one of their Zoom meetings!

They had an evening where they made a "House for a Mouse", which they really enjoyed and some of the houses have already had a prospective tenant checking them out...

They also completed the "Edible Architecture" activity back in May.



3rd Merstham Brownies

In November we took part in the Children in need challenge and raised £290. For the 'act your age' aspect of it- our unit is 11 years old so we challenged the girls to make 11 meals at home. We had a pamper night virtual sleepover, which was huge fun! We made moisturiser and hand scrubs, relaxed and then had mocktails and pizza bagels. The next morning we met up for breakfast and bingo.

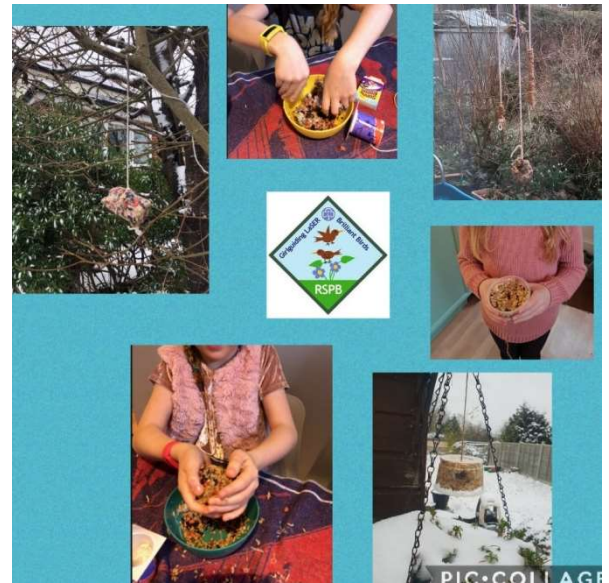
We also took part in the RSPB Brilliant birds badge in the Spring. This worked really well for activities done at home. Girls made nests from natural objects, made bird feeders, and went bird spotting with their families. They also made some really fabulous bird collages! We also had an amazing clay workshop on Zoom!

We finally went back to outdoor sessions in May, which has been unbelievably fun! We've done tool school, umbrella twirling in the rain, and tree hugging as part of the 'Growing up Wild' in the Woods Pawprint badge. Last week we enjoyed the nature trail and had a campfire with s'mores at Faurefold.

- Elaine Rollason



3rd Merstham Brownies



'in a fix' UMA



Dorking Rainbows and Brownies

Dorking Rainbows and Brownies escape on a Castaway Island fun day at Faurefold.

Following cancellation of yet another Brownie Holiday due to covid, 2nd & 12th Dorking Brownies decided to enjoy a fun day with their friends at 2nd Dorking Rainbows and 4th Dorking Brownies instead.

And so, on 12th June 35 girls and 13 leaders/helpers met in glorious sunshine at Faurefold for a fun filled day, learning lots of skills, including lighting fires with flint and steel, using tools to make wooden bears, exploring with barefoot and blindfold trails, toasting marshmallows over a fire, filtering water to make it cleaner (risk assessment note: the results definitely weren't clean enough to drink!), growing our own food in 'Hairy Mary Caterpillars', making rafts and gliders to escape the 'island' and testing the girls ability to carry water with very leaky containers (good job the weather was so warm – the girls loved getting wet!).

And of course, we just had to create our own Castaway Island culture with mud sculptures, sand art parrots, decorating treasure chests (complete with 'gold' coins), creating a giant Art Attack SOS message, and lots more. We finished off the day with a socially distanced campfire and presentation of our Castaway Adventure badges.



Dorking Rainbows and Brownies

Our day was made all the more special by the presentation of two awards: her well-deserved and hard-earned Brownie Silver Award to Isabella Mumford, and a Regional Commissioner's Award to our Brownie leader, Alison Cotterill.

Preparation for the day was of course made all the more interesting with the addition of numerous covid mitigations to the risk assessment (for example, the girls worked in small groups, and only one group was allowed at any activity station at a time). By the end of the day we all felt like we'd had a veritable bath in hand sanitiser – but it was truly wonderful to be able to meet up again for a proper, full on fun day, and Faurefold was of course the perfect venue with lots of outdoor space, loads of shade so we could escape the sun (and could have sheltered from the rain in the woods, had that been needed). I think (hope) that the leaders enjoyed getting together again as much as the girls – and huge thanks to everyone who helped make the day such a success.



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>



The next County Newsletter will be published on 3rd January 2022

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 20th December 2021

All articles are welcome, from Units, Districts, Divisions or County.

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

<https://twitter.com/ggSEcountynews>