

# County Newsletter



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Surrey East County

Spring/Summer 2020



# Welcome



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Girlguiding

Surrey East County

Welcome to all in Surrey East Girlguiding.

What a difference one edition makes! Christmas saw us in traditional mode of meetings and celebrations yet here we are six months later with a very different world.

We started with January and February being straight forward, many visits to units and activities including the great occasion of a Region Chief commissioner award being given to Margaret King for her dedication to Guiding in the county. Well done Margaret!

We also saw Ellie Glen complete her Queens Guide Award, a great achievement for her and her local team and family. And the county outdoor day took place at Faurefold.

Thinking day saw Leatherhead division have a great sleepover in a school Gym with a dawn promise ceremony - it was very windy! Leith Hill division celebrated at Foxlease.

We were looking forward to Scoutabout and Musigals. Both events to be held in the future no doubt.

The Covid 19 crisis has meant some any changes none of us could foresee. Some good like the very positive effect we have made by stopping our moments across the world. We have all enjoyed a cleaner living air quality, the sound of nature this spring possibly much more than in previous years. We have, despite all the trauma and worry, been given the gift of time.

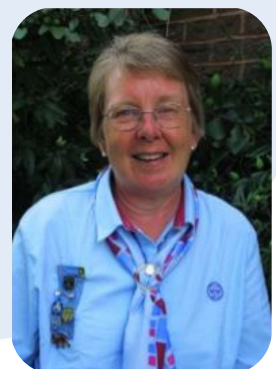
Guiding has done what it does best, its changed and adapted. Many meetings are on line, girls and their families carve out a routine that suits them and we see many badges and challenges being completed not only by the girls but also with family involvement. Guiding has added a positive experience to family life.

In this largest IT lesson, we have all taken part in leaders have embraced the challenges as they are able, which shows a great resilience for the charity going forward.

Within this newsletter you will see part of the story. We have seen a growth in social media, and our pick up and go challenges have been a huge success across the county. These have been designed to dip into and out of and have provided us with great photos!

All that is left to say is a huge Thank you to all members, both girls and adults in this time. No one knows where we will go but the Guiding spirit will survive and become strengthen.

Lesley Bailey, County Commissioner





# Newly Qualified Leaders

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have completed their Leadership Qualification or added modules to their qualifications since January 2020.

## **Reigate Division**

Karen Wyborn

## **Godstone Division**

Lesley Ann Wyllie

## **Downs Heath Division**

Ann Turner

## **Leatherhead Division**

Rebecca Spicer

Nawale Moutih

Tracy Marshall

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





# World Thinking Day



**Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from across the Leatherhead Division took part in a giant sleepover, to mark World Thinking Day.**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February each year, Girlguiding members globally think of each other and of their commitment to international friendship and understanding. World Thinking Day falls on the birthday of both Robert and Olave Baden-Powell, founders of the Scouting and Guiding movements.

During the first ever joint sleepover for whole of the Leatherhead Division, 132 girls and 28 leaders slept overnight in the main sports hall at St John's School in Leatherhead. Breakfast was laid on the following morning by the school's catering team.

Special activities arranged for those taking part included a cheerleading workshop, led by Guildford University Cheerleading Team, and a session making special Thinking Day beads. Songs were sung around an "indoor" campfire and Rainbows, Brownies and Guides also arranged coins they had brought with them into the shape of a Girlguiding Trefoil. The money collected is to be donated to the World Thinking Day Fund, which supports the work of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

On the morning of Thinking Day itself, all those staying overnight made their way out of the Sports Hall to greet the "sunrise" at two minutes past seven. The sun itself sadly failed to make an appearance and the wind was blowing strongly as everyone gathered on the school playground – each local group paraded its own special flag, with Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and adult leaders all renewing their Promise together on the most important day in the Girlguiding year. One Brownie, Caitlin Sheridan from 2<sup>nd</sup> Leatherhead Brownies, made her own Promise for the first time.

The sleepover was organised by Leatherhead Division Commissioner Christine Moss. She said: "It was such an amazing feeling seeing what has taken a year of planning, come to life! A team of Girlguiding Leaders have supported me in the organisation of this, and I could not have done it without them. The girls were so excited to be sleeping altogether, and in the morning it was very moving to stand together in the morning light, re-affirming our Promises. Everyone who came was awarded a special badge, and I hope it will be one of their many happy memories of Girlguiding, and maybe encourage them to come back as Leaders in the years to come!"

- Christine Moss





# World Thinking Day





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

Earlier in the year 8<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies took part in a Science night. Experiments included making lava lamps, skittles rainbows and learning about DNA.

Another evening they took part in testing their senses – jelly bean taste testing, ingredient smelling and exploring sight by creating braille, learning sign language and exploring touchy feely bags.





## 2<sup>nd</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Dorking Brownies



**Julie Bell, our Deputy Chief Guide meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Dorking Brownies at their World Thinking Day sleepover, at Faurefold.**

We'd already booked Faurefold, and were planning our sleepover, when I spotted in the minutes of the County Exec that the Chief Guide was intending to visit Girlguiding events across the UK on World Thinking Day... 20 minutes and 3 drafts later my e-mail invitation was winging it's way to the Chief Guide's office at Girlguiding HQ – though I must admit that I assumed that a) they would have so many invites, and b) they'd choose to go to the largest events to meet the most people, and so our invite wouldn't see the light of day. How wrong I was!

Imagine my surprise when, early in the New Year, Lesley phoned to say that Julie Bell, our Deputy Chief Guide would be visiting us at Faurefold for the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Over the next month the phrase 'be careful what you wish for' was a recurring thought as I drifted off to sleep – never have I tweaked a sleepover programme quite so often to cover every eventuality, or been quite so concerned as to whether our evening meal would 'pass muster'... And, of course, all my worries were totally unnecessary – Julie was a delight from the moment she walked through the door, chatted with the Brownies (when she could get a word in edgeways) about their interests, the best bits about Brownies, and so on, and put all the leaders at ease. Within about 30 seconds of her arrival, we'd completely forgotten that she was a VIP visitor, and were treating her as 'one of the team'. Whilst the leaders helped Brownies who were still finishing their crafts, those who'd already completed these delighted in showing Julie what they'd made to represent the countries from the Girlguiding World Centres.

Following a brief ceremony relating to the Living Threads theme of World Thinking Day 2020, which showed how all members of Girlguiding relate to each other, we settled down for dinner, which with a curry (mild) based starter from India, tortillas filled with Mexican spiced chicken, and topped off with a Swiss roll trifle which was supposed to look like a mountain (imagination required here!), covering as much of the world as we could manage in one meal. Julie had free choice as to where to sit and who to sit with – and was much amused by the antics of some of our liveliest Brownies (well, I had warned her in my invite that 'they wouldn't stand on ceremony' – and in that they certainly didn't disappoint!). After all, she had said that she wanted to spend time with the girls...

All too soon it was time for Julie to leave to catch her train back to London, but before she did we took the opportunity to renew our Brownie Promise, and were all presented with our 'The Deputy Chief Guide met Me' badges and a similar badge from our County Commissioner (thank you, Lesley) who was 'doubling up' as chauffeur. Finally, we completed Julie's Living Threads 'closing ceremony' before waving goodbye to our new friend – and started to think about getting ready for bed, and more World Adventures the following morning – which included making a Thank You card for Julie.

My happiest memory of Julie's visit was the spontaneous 'group hug' that the Brownies gave her – fortuitously our sleepover was in the days before strict social distancing became the norm. The girls dearly thoroughly enjoyed her company, and she theirs.

*Alison Cotterill*

*Unit leader*

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Dorking Brownies*



# Commonwealth Service

March 19 2020

I like to say yes. Which results in all sorts of experiences you wouldn't expect. I've planted an award winning garden at Hampton Court Flower Show, trained with the GB Paralympian sitting volleyball team, and grown plants from seeds that have orbited the earth on the International Space Station (ISS) as part of an experiment to see if humans could grow food on another planet.

I'm no VIP or celebrity (and certainly no gardener or athlete), just an ordinary woman who's part of an extraordinary organisation, Girlguiding. Which is how, last Monday, I found myself in Westminster Abbey discussing the soon to arrive Royal Family with a retired foreign diplomat. I was acting as a volunteer usher at the Commonwealth Service - an annual event to celebrate the Commonwealth of Nations.

## The facts

Now whether your knowledge of the Commonwealth is half remembered from school, or, like me, mostly associated with the Commonwealth Games this is a group it's worth spending some time thinking about. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 member states encompassing many ethnicities and faiths. Member governments have agreed to work towards shared goals including prosperity, democracy and peace. The combined population is 2.4 billion people, approximately one third of the world, of which 1.5 billion are under 30 years of age.



## The Service

The Commonwealth Service is a celebration of this amazing group and I was privileged to find myself in the same room as some incredible people, and party to some inspiring performances, readings and speeches representative of the Commonwealth members and their shared values.

This year was attended by Her Majesty the Queen, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson and his fiancée Carrie Symonds, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Scotland, and the Vice-President of the Royal Commonwealth Society His Highness the Aga Khan IV (all of whom walked right past me). Most of the guests are invited but there is also a ballot for the public including schools and youth groups. Interestingly, this is the largest interfaith annual event in the UK and as well as representatives from 18 faith communities and Churches, the service included readings from His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, representing the Greek Orthodox Church, Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, representing the Muslim Community, The Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, representing the Buddhist Community, and Rabbi Danny Rich, representing Liberal Judaism.

There were also performances by singers Alexandra Burke and Craig David, African drumming group One-Drum, and south London-based steel orchestra, Melodians, and speeches by Anthony Joshua OBE, British world heavyweight boxing champion and Olympic gold medallist, and spoken word poet Suli Breaks.

## Last Monday

Sometimes being part of Girlguiding finds me making compasses from a paperclip, a magnet and a piece of plasticine, sometimes it's making paintings with my feet, meeting a Barn Owl or entering a pancake race. But sometimes it's something a bit different, and so, last Monday, I found myself singing God Save the Queen, standing not 3 metres away from her Majesty. What did you do last Monday?

- Anna Stone



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

5<sup>th</sup> Reigate Brownies celebrated Thinking Day 2020 with Redhill District. We started off with a wide game in Priory Park and the Beacon lighting after which we walked back to the Colman Redland Hall for a picnic tea and hot chocolate. After a sing along everyone went home but our Brownie unit stayed for a sleepover. We slept in our hall after watching a movie with popcorn. The next day we did all the activities for the Australian Bushfire Badge and had a smashing breakfast cooked by our Owls. We loved making the anzac biscuits and took some home to share with our families.

- Rosemarie Belcher





# Leith Hill Division

Leith Hill Division Leaders spent Thinking Day weekend at Foxlease. We arrived in time for Friday night supper. We made candles on Friday evening and shared games with each other. We also played a get to know you game.

On Thinking Day we played a wide game all over the main house. We visited lots of Countries, learning lots of things but most importantly having fun. I have to be honest I never knew how funny miming the phrase "where is the toilet" could be.

We then held our Thinking Day Service. This included reading The Guiding Light Poem, singing and of course lighting candles. It was very special to spend our Thinking Day at Foxlease.

Saturday afternoon saw us walking into Lyndhurst for our traditional cream tea. Following Dinner on Saturday evening we played board games in teams which again was hilarious.

Sunday morning was spent catching up with term programmes, filling in REN forms, safe space training and updating risk assessments.

We welcomed Lesley on Sunday morning. She came for breakfast for a very special task.

Margaret King was informed she had been given the Region Chief Commissioner's Award. This will be presented at an occasion chosen by Margaret. Congratulations and very well deserved.

This weekend was different to other weekends we have spent together. There was no formal training. This was an opportunity for us to get together and celebrate Thinking Day with fun and laughter and provide support and guidance to each other.

I would like to thank everybody for their contributions especially Ali who helped prepare and run the weekend. A big thank you to all at Foxlease. The food was fab and the staff could not have been more helpful.

-Kate Fowles





# Horley East District

To celebrate Thinking Day this year 56 Rainbows, Brownies and their leaders from Horley East District visited Tilgate Park for a morning of fun activities. We started off telling the girls a little about Thinking Day and all the many countries around the world that are part of WAGGGS. We then split into 2 groups who took turns to walk around the nature centre and listen to a talk by one of the park rangers. On the way round the park we encouraged the girls to look at the signs about the animals and see what countries the animals came from. Each of the leaders had a list of WAGGGS countries so we could see if there were guides or girl scouts in the country the animal came from. The girls' favourite animals were the meerkats and the reindeer and they were also very excited to see some bright green emu eggs.

At the park rangers talk we learned a bit more about a few of the animals in the park and each of the girls had a chance to hold an animal, including giant African snails, a barn owl, a cockroach, a millipede and a python.

We then walked through the woods to Bluewoods the Girlguiding lodge in the park. Here we ate lunch together followed by some games including get to know you games and some ideas from the WAGGGS Thinking Day Activity Pack. Although we all got a bit rained on, on the day we all had a great time and went home happy with our Thinking Day 2020 badges.

- Anna Stone (7<sup>th</sup> Horley Brownies)





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

1<sup>st</sup> Chaldon Guides celebrated World Thinking Day with random acts of kindness sharing lovely bracelets with their community to find.

In early March they completed their 'Confectionary' badge. They made sweets and designed their boxes.

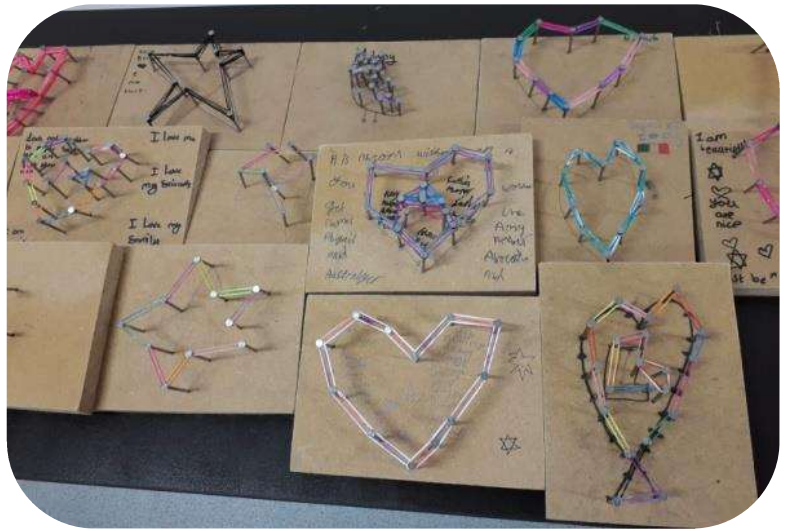
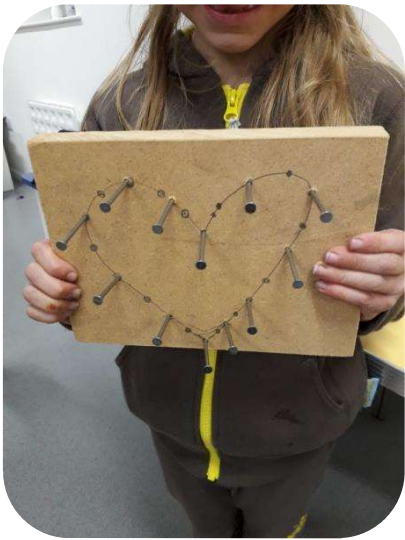
Not long before lockdown they had a yoga night. When the Guides first suggested a yoga night the leaders weren't convinced. However we are girl led and ran with it. The girls were all very engaged and well behaved and had a brilliant meeting. Along with learning how breathing and stretching can help deal with emotions and stress.





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

In early March 2<sup>nd</sup> Salfords Brownies completed 'In a Fix!'



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

At the start of the year 1<sup>st</sup> Chaldon Rainbows completed their 'In the Workshop' UMA. They had great fun fixing things and making things work.





# 1<sup>st</sup> Oxted and 1<sup>st</sup> South Godstone Brownie Pack Holiday

It all started at the end of the school summer holidays in 2019, those relaxed quiet days before all the hassle of the new term and the mad rush towards Christmas. "How about a quick weekend pack holiday as the first steps in preparation for a longer, further afield, holiday for 2021. Just to give the new girls a taster?" the question was posed. "Why not!" the over relaxed reply! Booking made at Faurefold - pack holiday promptly forgotten!

Fast forward to early 2020 and the awakening to the fact that the pack holiday, booked for the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March was about 6 weeks away. So programme sorted, menu planned, all forms completed and monies collected we were prepared. Then the news reports changed the dreaded "C-virus" dominated the news and all conversations but it was still a long way off – wasn't it?

One month off – the parents had all been consulted and were willing for their daughters to attend. We can do this we are leaders and we are prepared! Ten days to go and things were changing rapidly, the first signs of panic buying in the shops and pack holiday staples beginning to become scarce. The days punctuated with texts "I've managed to get 1 bottle of liquid soap" and "No pasta again today" and "Are you sure it is still safe to go?" Menu and programme rewritten- on line orders completed for craft equipment usually picked up in the local shop with fingers crossed it would arrive in time. No online slots for supermarket orders though. Then menu abandoned completely as three intrepid leaders hit the supermarkets – yes supermarkets every single one in a very large area to try and buy enough food to cater for everyone! Nevermind, leaders are used to making do with the leftovers. Despite allegations of panic buying in some shops because we wanted 4 or more jars of pasta sauce or more than 6 toilet rolls we eventually scraped together sufficient food to come up with enough meals – woe betide the first girl to say I don't like that! we muttered darkly. We also managed, through sheer luck to be in a Boots store when a delivery of hand sanitizer was received (although it was fun to research making the stuff with vodka and aloe vera. One for me one for the hand sanitizer....).



At last the day arrived, very explicit instructions given to the parents about any signs of illness and handwashing and sanitizing on arrival. The leaders arrived and set up the house with the extra precautions from the government guidelines, toilet rolls rationed, we were as prepared as we possibly could be. Then.....the girls arrived and it was as if nothing else mattered, they were here to enjoy themselves with their friends and the bubble known as pack holiday would protect them from everything. Our theme for the weekend was "Rustle, Bustle & Squeak" an activity resource from Girlguiding South West.

The Brownies completed a series of activities to gain their caterpillar badge – starting with the head and tail, then adding additional body part badges. Activities included collecting leaves to press into clay, making bird feeders, coloured sand pots, flying bats, owl bags, butterfly cakes and spider biscuits. They also enjoyed games and activities outdoors as well as doing wildlife quizzes and word searches.

Who knew when we left Faurefold on that Sunday afternoon, that we would be the last holiday there for many months. We were prepared –stressed but prepared- and now we are planning to do it all again as soon as we can!!!

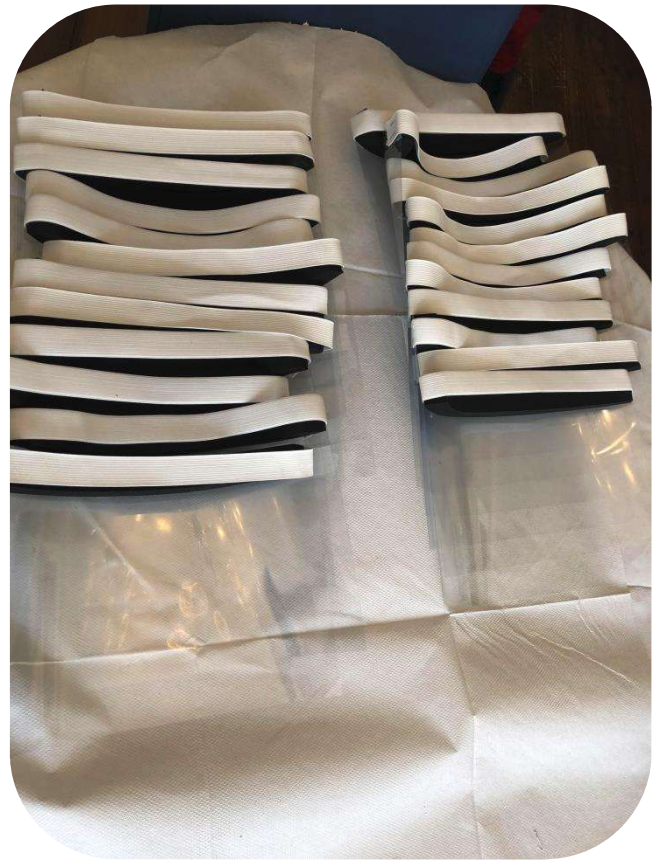
- Tracy , Carole, Amy and Toni



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

A 2<sup>nd</sup> Dorking Brownie's mum got in touch to share that her daughter has researched how to make PPE facemasks, has made 24 of these, and distributed them to a local care home (plus some to one of her relatives who's an emergency care worker)- we have agreed that this certainly counts towards her Charities Interest badge. One very proud Brown Owl!

-Alison Cotterill



## Helping the Community

Mary Zoeller and her daughter Emily (a leader in training) making mask adaptors for Epsom & St Helier Hospitals. These adaptors help reduce sores on the back of front line staffs' ears.



## Supporting the Community

A woman from Bookham is leading a project to make, assemble and distribute “full face visors”, to local frontline health workers during the current coronavirus pandemic. More than 2,000 face shields have been put together and distributed to local hospitals, care homes and other health providers over the last few weeks, thanks to the efforts of Louise Hallam and a large team of volunteers.

Louise asked the Howard of Effingham and Downsend schools to donate the use of their 3D printers and laser cutters, which are being used to make the components of the shields. Ibstock Place School in Richmond has also offered its help.

The mum of five, who teaches at Downsend School, set up a Crowdfunding site to help pay for materials and recruited volunteers from across the community to help assemble the shields. A number of the volunteers - both young people and adults - became involved through Louise’s work as an adult helper with the 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Girlguiding Unit. Louise’s daughter Madeleine showed one of the shields she had help to make during a virtual meeting for the unit, leading to a number of Girlguiding families offering their help.

So far, more than 2,000 shields have been made and delivered locally – amongst other places, to The Grange in Bookham, Epsom Hospital and a number of local care homes, including Limegrove in East Horsley.





# Supporting the Community

Louise Hallam has been overwhelmed with the response to the campaign. She said: "Setting up the #keepthemsafe-surrey project in our community has been an incredibly inspiring experience. I had the opportunity to do something practical to help the community and with four teenagers on lockdown at home, I knew I had a ready-made workforce. And as the word spread, I have been overwhelmed by the offers of support from a number of families in our villages. We've been helped by teenagers who've found that they are unable to sit exams and by members of the St Lawrence and All Saints church community in Effingham who have wanted to do their bit. We also couldn't have done all this without our Girlguiding families pulling together at this time.

All these wonderful people have volunteered their time to help us get our protective face shields to those people who need protection in their place of work during the pandemic. We have also had people willing to drive long distances to collect materials for the face shields and to deliver them to key workers. As soon as our fund raising site went live, we were overwhelmed with the many kind donations, which have enabled us to purchase the materials we need. We have a production line of volunteers producing and delivering over a 100 face shields on a daily basis and we're so proud of what we've achieved so far. We wouldn't have done it, without everyone uniting together in such an amazing way".

Claire Elphick from East Horsley is helping to spread the word about the project, ringing local organisations to offer them masks. She got involved via 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Guides. She said: "I don't have a 3D printer, but what I can do is make phone calls, spreading the word about what we're doing. When I spoke to Limegrove Care Home to offer them face masks, they were so grateful that we had thought of them. Being involved has made me feel useful during Lockdown, helping the people on the frontline, who are all doing such an incredible job".

If you would like to help fund materials, go to [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/keepthemsafesurrey](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/keepthemsafesurrey) to make a donation. If you're able to offer help in other ways, by offering your time to assemble masks, volunteer as a delivery driver or offer the use of a 3D printer or laser cutter, contact Louise via the Crowdfunder page. She would particularly like to hear from any organisations who are interested in receiving some shields.





# Capel Guides



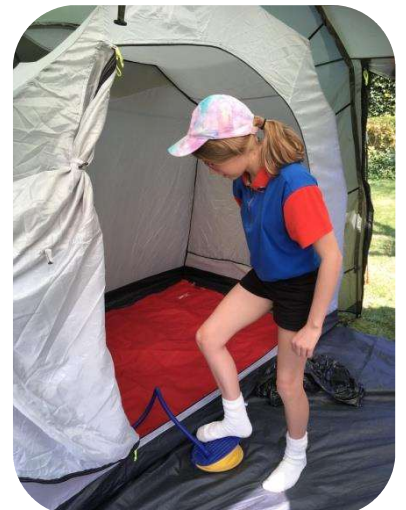
## Back Garden Camping

Because of Corona virus we're in lock-down so we decided to complete the 'Camp' stage four badge for Guides. I prepared the menu before we went outside. Then we put up the tent me and my family had a race to see who could collect the tent peg's, the guy rope's and ground sheet's the fastest and then shouted out 'TENT BEETLE!' that made us all laugh

Next I put up the tent with my brother, dad and mum, and we put it up in-between two bushes to protect us from the wind. Then I prepared what we were doing to have for dinner, we had sausages, jacket potatoes and baked beans.

After that my family and I made a campfire led by me, and my dad dug out the hole for where it was going to be, which is hopefully going to stay because we made it out of tiles and bricks. When I cooked the dinner and I served it (my family really liked it!) we did some campfire songs and I taught them a 'repeat after me song' which is when I sing a bit of the song they need to repeat it and 'Thunderation' a Guide song. After that was all done we saw the stars because it was late and we saw two bat's! It was getting cold so we went to bed, my brother and my dad shared a 'pod' (room) and I had my own.

I found it hard to sleep because the birds were so loud and the cows in the field next to us, also because my dad and my brother were snoring!  
Written by Annabel Dowling Capel Guides

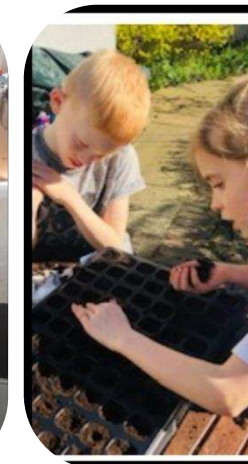




# 3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Brownies

3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Brownies have kept busy during lockdown completing various challenges and activities at home, working towards badges sometimes with family involved too. This includes a variety of activities, such as, the 'zero waste challenge', making a hedgehog home and a bug hotel, edible architecture (Eiffel Tower no less), planting seeds for 'Grow Your Own Badge' and lots of housework help for the 'Home Sweet Home' challenge badge. One girl worked towards her baking badge cooking themed pizzas and NHS cupcakes. Another girl got creative with some tools and made an awesome bird table. They certainly have kept busy.

They have been using technology to stay connected through Zoom sessions, which are going well, the girls love it. A couple of the Brownies made tiktok videos for their badges and four girls made their Brownie Promise on Zoom too.





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

I knew that if we had been together at our normal unit meeting we would have definitely celebrated VE Day. So I asked all the Rainbows to draw or colour a picture relating to VE Day and send me a photo. It was lovely to see their enthusiastic smiley faces! Being apart on VE Day didn't stop us from doing something together!

- Emma Ashdown



PIG-COLLAGES



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

5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Guides have kept busy during lockdown by completing some of the county challenges for the VE day challenge and the Space challenge.





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

Freya Gandy from, 1<sup>st</sup> Walton-on-the-Hill Rainbows, has been making sure the unit's Olivia doll is still having Rainbow Adventures during this uncertain time.

Tracey Honeyman, Rainbow Leader chooses a Rainbow at each weekly meeting, who has been particularly "kind and helpful", to look after Olivia until the next meeting. Freya has been particularly lucky to have her for several weeks now, but has been keeping her safe and well. Tracey has kept all her girls busy with weekly Rainbow challenges.

– Avril Farley





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



During lockdown 1<sup>st</sup> Tadworth Brownies have been taking part in activities at home. One Brownie painted a "Positive Pebble" and left it on her Grandparents' doorstep, they were really pleased.

Another Brownie has been very busy completing various challenges.

For 'trash fashion' she made a piece of recycled fashion, she collected Easter egg wrappers and made a skirt! For 'bug hotel' she made 3 recycled bug hotels, and put them in the garden. Her family said they will keep an eye out for any residents that may move in! And for 'soapy solutions' she made her own soap.

- Avril Farley





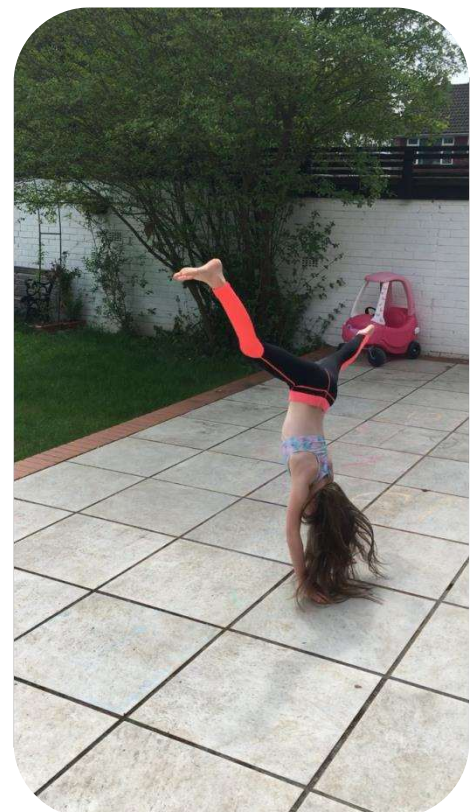
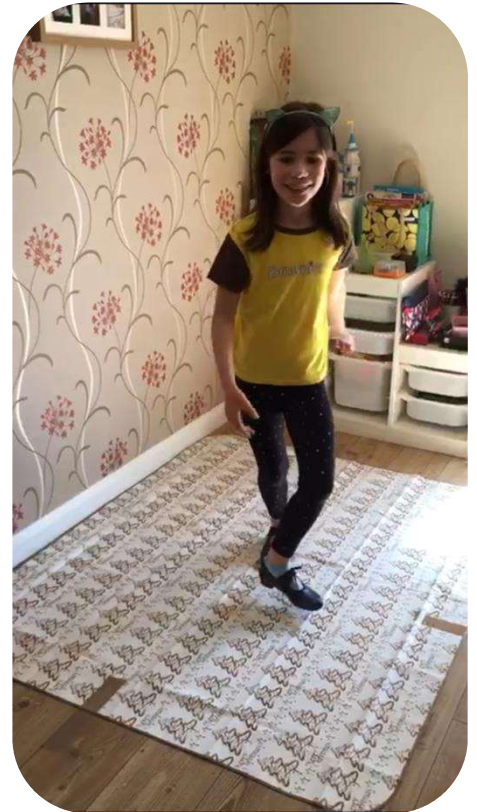
# Fetcham & Leatherhead Brownies & Rainbows

As a little bit of sunshine in an otherwise dark time, I wanted to share some of the fabulous challenges some of our Brownies have undertaken for the 2.6 Challenge that kicked off nationally on Sunday. Some of you may already be familiar with it, as its a huge effort to help support charities, where participants take on a challenge of their choice around the theme of 2.6 or 26 (so themed for the 26 miles of the London Marathon which was originally due to take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April).

So far 3 of our Brownies have chosen to do a challenge to raise money for local Girlguiding, namely for the Faurefold adventure and campsite to help provide the opportunity for our girls and many more in the future to be able to have adventures with Girlguiding in the great outdoors.

Leila has done 26 minutes of non stop tap dancing (in uniform no less!), Lois did 26 consecutive seat drops on her trampoline and Violet did 26 consecutive cartwheels. Here are some Photos and videos so you can enjoy their endeavours! The aim is to raise £26 per participant, and if our unit all took part it would really help to support the site during this difficult time.

Louisa Kassell  
1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Rainbows and 1<sup>st</sup> Leatherhead Brownies





# 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies

1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies have been taking part in the Home Sweet Home Challenge carrying out loads of different activities in and around the house. One of our Brownies also roped in her sisters who are a Rainbow and a Guide to take part! They have learnt napkin folding, made bunting, made some sausage rolls and name place settings, planted cress, carrots, lettuces, radishes, pansies and chilli peppers, swept the garden, deared the weeds and made butterfly feeders. One girl helped dad build the decking and they painted some rocks for the garden. They made safety posters and the fireworks code, also found smoke alarms and tried a fire exit drill, took it in turns to wash, dry and put away the dishes, loaded dishwasher, made their beds everyday, changed the sheets and duvet covers, and helped peg washing out. One girl has started sewing badges on to guide blanket, another girl washed her wellies, and another girl changed the batteries in her lights! They have been busy!

-Mary Zoeller

## Sparkle and shine



## Odd jobs



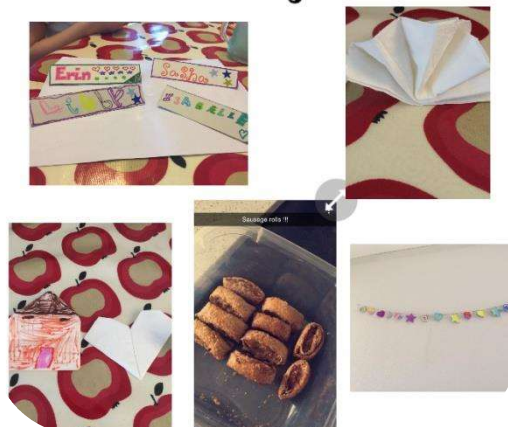
## Safe and sound



## Green fingers



## Be our guest





# Caterham Hill and Chaldon District



During these strange times when we cannot meet or go on outings, camps etc. Caterham Hill and Chaldon District set all the units a challenge. The challenge we set was a District Camp In (or Out).

We asked the girls who wanted to take part to put up a tent, indoors or out or make a shelter, again indoors or out and sleep in it over night.

The Sleep In/Out took place between 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and a number of girls across all sections, including leaders (and a few siblings too) took part.

The girls who took part will all receive a special sleep in badge when we get back to our regular meetings!

We had lots of different shelters including - sleeping in a spray tan tent, on trampolines, under bed, on garden furniture and some brave Rangers even slept under a tarpaulin in the garden in their bivli!

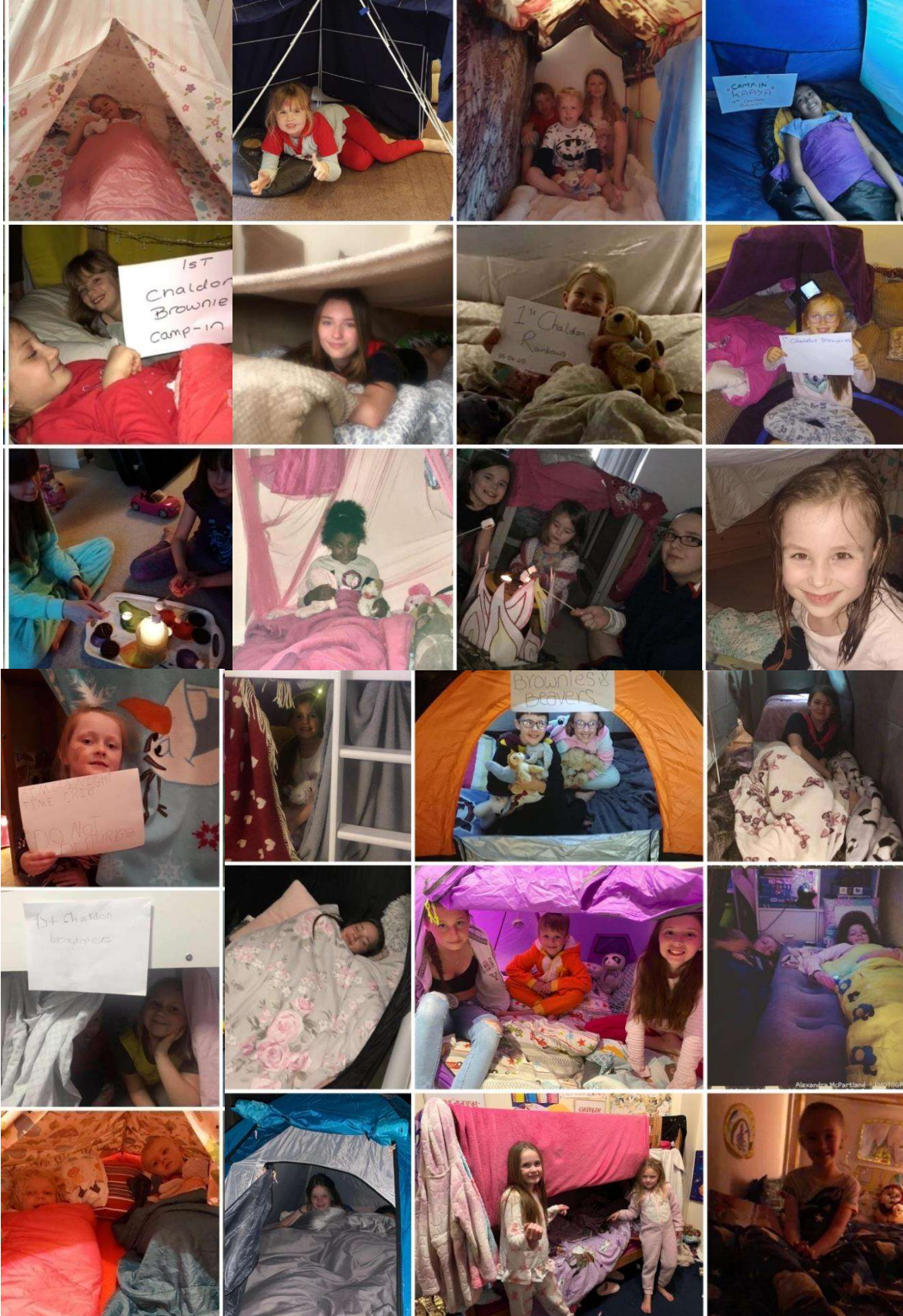
We had loads of fun and would love other units across the County to take part too!

- Kayla Pearce





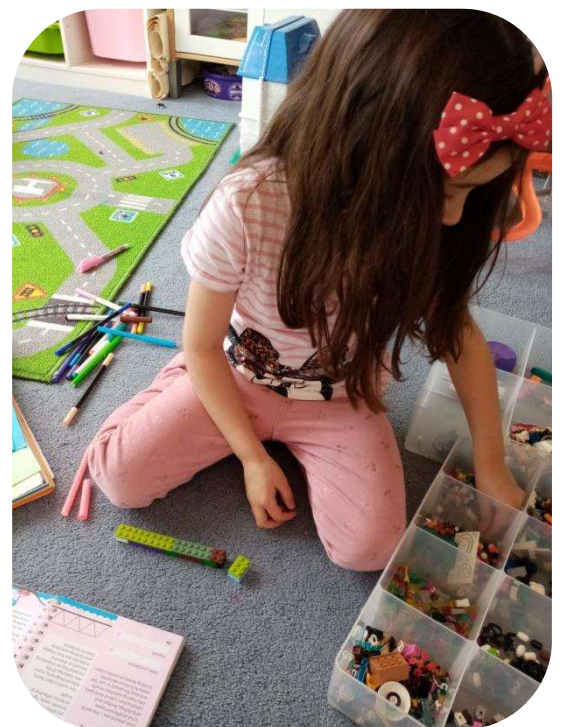
# Caterham Hill and Chaldon District





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

Olivia Charman, 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Rainbows has taken the current state of affairs to rake it in with her interest badges. She has already completed two interest all on her own! She has completed construction badge and helper badge. We have been meeting online every two weeks as a unit. We made egg box monsters, bunny ears and had a round your house scavenger hunt! - Vicky Leonard





# Epsom Division



## A short round up of what's been happening in Epsom Division:

Many units in Epsom Division are meeting via Zoom and this is proving very successful. Leaders are being inventive with online activities and there have been bingo nights, making cocktails, Kim's Game, drawing on heads (not literally, this is where you take a piece of paper and put it on your head and then draw something while the paper is on there), mug cakes, crafts, Play Your Cards Right and scavenger hunts.

Some units are sending out regular newsletters with a round up of everyone's news. It has been great to hear how many of the girls in all sections have been doing interest badges at home.

There have even been a couple of virtual camps too including camping at home in dens indoors, outdoors, campfires and singsongs.

Work on Little Acres Campsite is continuing as and when we can do things. The big news is we have now raised over £200,000 for the Lodge! Well done to everyone for all your amazing fundraising efforts.

## A couple of stories:

1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Guides had their first promise ceremony over Zoom! Charlotte made her promise and because of some clever planning between her Guide Leader Tracey Pettit and Charlotte's parents she was able to receive her promise badge to wear with pride.



One of 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies has been using her time during lockdown to work on some interest badges. So far Isabelle has completed her Space, Grow Your Own and Baking badges and now is tackling Aviation! Well done Isabelle!

- Mary Zoeller



Star gazing

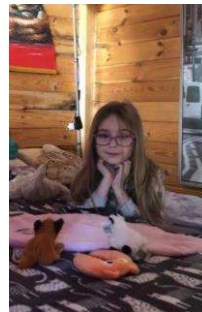




# 3<sup>rd</sup> Cuddington and 4<sup>th</sup> Worcester Park Brownies

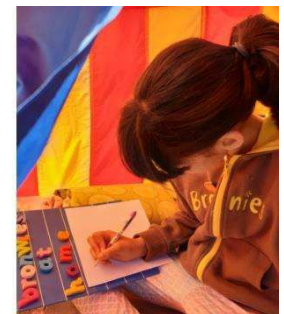
## Virtual sleepover 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Having had to cancel our Brownie weekend residential, the leaders set about planning a virtual sleepover from home, and what a huge success it was. 24 Brownies, 6 leaders, parents and siblings had an action-packed Olympic-themed weekend. Girls completed challenges to gain points, with bronze, silver and gold medal certificates on offer based on the total points score. Challenges included tasks to help around the home (including preparing a meal and tidying a bedroom), quiet challenges (e.g. poem writing and fact-finding) and sports-themed challenges. The crazy golf and blow football were particularly popular. Girls and leaders also slept in dens or tents, with many continuing to sleep in their den for the coming week! Three zoom calls over the course of the weekend provided a chance for us to get together for opening and closing ceremonies, share what we had been doing, play games and even attempt some campfire singing! It was a huge amount of fun and thoroughly recommended. The best weekend of lockdown! – Clare Hodgson



Worcester Park and Cuddington Brownies should have been away, but in March the coronavirus was here to stay.

Blackland Farm is where we should have been, but adventures at home is what is seen.



Brown Owl and Squirrel set challenges to do, so we have been very busy; how about you?

Teddy tunnels, crazy golf and helping at home, Olympic sports, poems and dens, were all to be shown.



Brownie zoom meetings to keep in touch, we miss Brownies so very much.

Technology is a wonderful thing, so the spirit and friendship of Guiding is what we bring.



*Poem by Brown Owl*





# 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow, 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Brownies & 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Rangers



I have been a leader in training for coming up to a year now, and I am loving every second of it. For my full time job I am part of the office team in a care home for the elderly and for people with dementia. As you can know lockdown has been hard on everyone, but for people with dementia it is even harder to them to understand why they haven't seen their families for so long. Anna Stone, our unit leader came up with the idea of the Brownies making cards and sending them to the residents at the home I work in, I thought it was such a lovely idea and knew how pleased they would be. We have been holding online meetings every Monday as usual and I posted a video of how to make the pop up cards UMA and we all made cards together. I wrote out a list of everyone's first names and split the names between 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Brownies, 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies and 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Rangers. They all made beautiful cards for the lovely residents. The cards are starting to come in now and for those who have received them they are absolutely delighted! It really has brightened up their day to open the cards and read what the Brownies have said. One Resident was moved to tears at the thoughtfulness that had gone into the cards. Julia, one of the residents, had her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and was so thrilled and surprised by her birthday cards, it made her day even better. Julia has expressed a wish to write back to the Brownies, and 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Brownies would love to keep this new friendship with the care home going.

- Emma Hieatt





# Reigate Division

## Reigate Division Lockdown Bakeoff.

Reigate Division held a 'Lockdown Bakeoff' for all members of the Division. We wanted to bring the Division together and used the 'Lockdown Bakeoff' to help launch the Divisions new social media sites. We were thrilled with how many people got involved and there were over 80 entries across the 5 sections. Some used items from their garden and some experimented due to the shortage of flour. Many took time to plan, design and then bake their cake with some wonderful creations created. For some of the Rainbows & Brownies it was their first time baking on their own (or with very little help). One Brownie even made their first anti gravity cake! We posted all the entries onto Facebook and Twitter and by the end of the competition we had over 4500 post engagements on Facebook. Facebook and Twitter users chose the winners by liking their favourite bake with the winners being announced the following week.

The worthy winners were:

Leader Winner - Jeanette of 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Rangers & 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies - who had to improvise her cake design as she was self isolating!



Rangers Winner - Eva from 9<sup>th</sup> Redhill with her cheesecake as she had no flour!





# Reigate Division

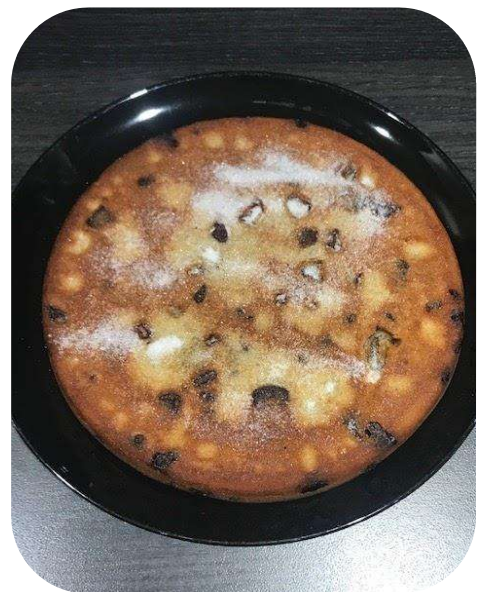
Guides Winner - Amy from 7<sup>th</sup> Horley.  
Amy based her chocolate marble cake on camping at Blackland Farm which she loves!



Brownies Winner - Ciara from 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies.  
Ciara said she is extremely happy with winning the 'Bakeoff' competition - 'it feels like winning the real bake off!!'



Rainbows Winner - Frankie from 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Rainbows  
Frankie had already spent her prize on a toy!



There were lots of Girlguiding themes around campfires and Trefoils along with some savoury entries.  
After a great success we will be hosting another one in the future when hopefully we can have a taste test included as they all looked delicious!  
- Sonia and Emma



# Hawthorn Rainbows

We continued the fun, yet in a new and exciting way – virtually! Our little reds have been fantastic at attending and engaging with our new style meetings since Lockdown. The Wolly Sheep Challenge was met with great enthusiasm as the girls were creative with their wool projects from hama beads to hair clips to making food for their own pet sheep. To relax after home schooling, we encouraged everyone to open a mini spa which was met with delight by many of the Mums! Face masks were made, nails painted, yoga mats were out and massage technique learnt – this was definitely a highlight, along with our virtual sleepover and dance off!

Living out their promise of being kind was an important part of our Lockdown programme; we encouraged our unit to make a difference. Litter picking, thanking our key workers, writing and sending pictures to family, friends and local care homes, painting stones with positive messages and leaving them as a surprise on a neighbour's door step, putting books and toys out for those who live locally, are just some of the wonderful ways the girls were being kind and sharing some Rainbow love at this difficult time.

We cannot wait until we can meet face-to-face, yet we have had the best time and have made the most of our time online.

- Karen Wyborn





# Hawthorn Brownies



Full of enthusiasm, our Brownies have made the most of the virtual meetings during Lockdown. Continuing with their love of baking, the girls have been creative in the kitchen making cakes, brownies and other sweet treats via Zoom. We also gave them a challenge to make a campsite out of biscuits and sweets – there were campfires, tents, Brownies and a very exciting car!

We joined in with a national virtual campfire, enjoying some delicious s'mores, and the world's largest virtual sleepover. We had so much fun dancing, giggling and telling stories in our PJs before curling up in tents and dens for the night.

There have been many sessions when there was glue, paper and sparkles everywhere! Craft sessions have been very popular, recycling items at home to make bird feeders, elephants, puppets, trash fashion for teddies and much more.

The Surrey Hills badge was completed in a creative way during Lockdown. Running up and down the stairs 20 times is very tiring! We loved watching the videos of the girls' determination to succeed despite feeling exhausted!

Serving the community has been a priority for our unit. The girls were creative in spreading the Guiding Light in their neighbourhoods from setting up a 'library' outside their home with free books, to baking for elderly residents, to litter picking. Their passion for making a difference where they live has been inspiring.

We have loved our new style meetings, although we can't wait to be back together in person!

-Karen Wyborn





# Leatherhead Division

Many Girlguiding activities are continuing in the Leatherhead Division during Lockdown, but with a twist! Adults leaders have been adapting their programmes to keep meetings and events going via video conferencing platforms and on social media

18 Guides from the 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Unit enjoyed all the fun of an overnight camp, but from the safety of their own homes. The "Virtual Camp" involved the girls packing a bag, then building a den, pitching a tent or hanging a hammock, in which they slept overnight. Every hour and a half during the day, all those taking part (including five adult leaders) came together on Zoom to talk about what they had been doing. The girls also posted photos in their Zoom chat group.

Special activities during the camp included making a greaseproof paper nature window hanging, mud sculptures, paper flags for the tents, pavement chalk drawings and designing a "Camp at Home" badge. Guides also built a campfire (either real or virtual), sang campfire songs, and helped with cooking dinner, including a camp-style dessert. As the "Virtual Camp" was held on a Thursday night, Guides also took part in the NHS "Clap" at 8pm. The following morning, everyone enjoyed breakfast "together", before taking down their tents and shelters.

The Camp was organised by 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Guides leader Clare Coker. She said: "Our Virtual Camp was so much fun and we learnt so much. When we get back to normal life, after lockdown is over, we've got so many new skills we can use going forward. I really do think it will make us better as a unit."





# Leatherhead Division

Amelia Hills, whose daughter Annabel took part in the camp, said: "Thank you for a fabulous afternoon and evening - we all had a fantastic time. Annabel said it feels just like a friend has left after a sleepover—that just shows how special Virtual Camp was".

Elsewhere, 1<sup>st</sup> Effingham Rainbows held a virtual meeting with an Easter theme. With the help of their parents, the girls made rabbit ears and played a game of Simon Says. 7<sup>th</sup> Bookham Brownies have been encouraged to earn relevant Interest Badges during the lockdown. These include Mindfulness, Baking, My Rights, Painting, Inventing and Grow your Own.

1<sup>st</sup> Bookham Guides met up online to make whistles out of carrots, a skill they learn as part of the Whittling interest badge. They also planted sunflower seeds during an online meeting, and will compare the growth of the flowers at virtual meetings each week. Additionally, the Guides are putting together a Covid 19 time capsule, containing details of their special activities during lockdown.

Across the Leatherhead Division, members of the Girlguiding family also joined a special Online Global Campfire, with around 6,000 others across the world. The event was organised by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

— Jen Broh





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

A 7<sup>th</sup> Bookham Brownies has come 1<sup>st</sup> in RHS miniature garden competition. She has gained her 'Grow your own badge'!



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

**Congratulations to Amy, who is 10 years old, for her incredible fundraising efforts during lockdown.**

She is a 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownie and during lockdown Amy realised that the Brownies were going to miss out on a lot of outings. So she decided to raise money so when the girls went back they could have a welcome back party or day out. She decided to collect all her toys and books that she no longer used, and said she wanted to sell them.

We positioned all items in the front lawn with a donation tin. I placed a post on social media to the local village, to explain Amy's cause. She then decided to raise money for her school as well because they would also miss out on the Summer fair. We also set up a fundraising page for those family and friends who weren't local. She raised an amazing total of £350. Any toys or books not taken were donated to Amy's old nursery, Charlwood house.

She has been put forward to get the Gold Brownie Award and also gained her Charity badge. During lockdown she has gained a few other badges through dedication and hard work including 'Zero Waste', 'Jobs', 'Grow Your Own' plus the 'Mindfulness' badge.

I'm incredibly proud of her and Elf Owl and Snowy Owl are also very proud of her. Both 1<sup>st</sup> Burstow Brownies and her school received £175 each.

- Carolan





## 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>



7<sup>th</sup> Horley Brownies made a trefoil from objects around the house.

## Weekly Update & County Newsletter

What is the Difference??

### Weekly Update

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

### County Newsletter

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

**The next County Newsletter will be published on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**(both paper and digital copies will be available)**

**The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

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](mailto:newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com)

<https://twitter.com/ggSEcountynews>