

County Newsletter



Autumn/Winter 2021



Welcome



How proud you should all be for all that you have achieved, enriching the lives of our members over the past six months! I know you have done your best to adapt to the ever-changing demands that have resulted from Covid and have successfully continued to deliver a fun and engaging programme – either virtually, face to face outdoors or indoors.

Congratulations to our young award winners including girls who received bronze, silver and gold awards - a milestone for them and I know with thanks for the support given by their leaders. Also well done and best wishes to our Hero Award winner – Esme, who has raised over £13,000 for the Young Lives vs Cancer charity with her Man-icure challenge. An amazing achievement!

Congratulations to our volunteer award winners Lesley, Jennifer, Stella, Rosemary and Rita for their well-deserved awards in recognition of the significant contribution they have made to Guiding. I am delighted to see more volunteers successfully completing their young leader and leadership qualifications and thank everyone who has supported them too. Thank you to everyone who volunteers in our County whatever your role: commissioners, leaders, unit helpers, administrators, trainers, advisers, parent helpers. It is great to see some of the highlights you have shared and look forward to many more adventures in 2022.

Happy New Year to you all.

Best wishes
Beverly Heywood-Jones
County Commissioner



Newly Qualified Leaders

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

Leatherhead Division

Emma Ashdown
Heather Blackburn
Hayley Parkes
Vicky Waple

Epsom Division

Elana Allpress
Sarah Clanfield

Reigate Division

Sarah Limb
Catriona Sibley

Godstone Division

Catherine Nicholson
Chris Canelas
Katie Tattershaw

Leith Hill Division

Alisa Radlett

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



County Thanks

Five years ago none of us knew what was coming, and neither did Lesley Bailey or Jennifer Sibley as they started their journey leading the County as County Commissioner and Assistant. The last five years has seen the UK leave the EU, experience a 'Beast from the East' and of course learning to deal with a global pandemic. Despite all the turbulence and unknowns that life threw at us Lesley and Jennifer enabled high quality Guiding to take place throughout Surrey East. They supported Commissioners and Leaders to offer all girls the best possible Guiding experience and tried to ensure Guiding continued no matter what. We enjoyed watching girls participate in Musicals, Faurefold being rebuilt with many girls enjoying activity days there, and delivering fun sessions virtually.

As their term ended the time to reflect and say thank you began, and there was no better way to do this than round a campfire with sausages, hot chocolate or mulled wine, and smores! On 14th November a number of invited guests joined Lesley and Jennifer at Little Acres campsite to say a massive thank you for all their hard work and support over the last five years. We heard from a number of volunteers who under their leadership had helped transform the Counties' social media presence, embrace the new programme, and offer new and exciting opportunities to our members. New connections had been made to benefit the County (including getting Salford Guide hut repaired for £1!) and new people had been encouraged to embrace leadership roles they may not have thought of before. So many people have benefited from Lesley and Jennifer's support and leadership over their term it was wonderful to hear about it first hand and understand the impact they have had. Jennifer was awarded a Region Chief Commissioner's Award for recognition for the amazing achievement and contribution she has given to Guiding over many years, and both were awarded a Region Thanks Badge in recognition and thanks for being County Commissioners. As the daylight dwindled the event was rounded off with cake and sparklers; an activity many of us admitted we hadn't done in many years!



County Thanks (continued)

Lesley and Jennifer are now hopefully enjoying a well earned rest from leading the County, and watching on as Beverly Heywood-Jones takes the reins as our new County Commissioner. I wish Beverly every luck in her new role, and once again thank Lesley for her service as County Commissioner and Jennifer for her service as Assistant but also stepping up to County Commissioner for the last year.

I would also like to thank all those who attended the thanks afternoon, and in particular those that made it possible (Jodi Morton, Kate Fowles and Beverly Heywood-Jones for organising, Mary Zoeller and Tracey Pettit for cooking all the sausages and Epsom Division for the use of Little Acres).

Here's to the next 5 years; let's just hope it's slightly more predictable than the last!

Laura West
County President



Guiding Hero Award

Esme, a Brownie at the 1st Lingfield Brownies, has raised just over, an incredible, £13,000 for Young Lives vs Cancer, a charity that has supported Esme and her family since she was diagnosed with leukaemia in early 2021.

It all started when during a pamper session Esme's dad joined in, having his nails painted too, a lovely bright red chosen by Esme. She challenged her dad to keep the bright red polish on for a whole week. This then became 'Esme's Man-icure challenge', where she has raised a truly inspirational amount of money. The rules were simple, men were challenged to choose the brightest nail polish they could find, paint their nails, share photos and keep the polish on for a week, at least.

Inspired by the challenge Barry M launched a limited edition nail paint that was designed by Esme, that was available until the end of December, with 100% of sales going towards Young Lives vs Cancer.

This incredible Brownie has recently been awarded a Guiding Hero Award for her amazing fundraising.

Challenge someone you know to take on Esme's Man-icure challenge and make a donation to Young Lives vs Cancer via Esme's Just Giving page

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Esmes-man-icure-challenge>



1st Chaldon and 9th Caterham Guides

1st Chaldon and 9th Caterham Guides hired out Flipout trampoline park in Wandsworth for a sleepover. We arrived just as the park was closing to the public and had 2 hours of endless bouncing before sitting down for a pizza dinner. We then all got into our PJ's and settled down in front of a giant inflatable cinema screen to watch a Christmas film. While we were watching the film, the trampolines were covered in giant bed sheets ready for us to sleep. We were allowed to sleep one or two people on a trampoline which was fun. In the morning we were woken up by the light turning on and allowed to bounce once we had taken our bedding off the trampolines. Some of us didn't want to get up so were bounced awake by the other Guides and leaders. Once we were all up and dressed we were allowed to bounce some more and had a tasty breakfast before our lifts home arrived.

The sleepover was so much fun, a fab Christmas treat and a great end to our winter term! It got very chilly in the evening though, so if you're planning on a Flipout sleepover...make sure you take your blanket!

- Kayla Pearce



1st Effingham Brownies

It was great to be back both indoors and outdoors this term - the Brownies were on great form and came up with an impressive list of activities they wanted to do.

So our new Brownies got cracking on learning all about Brownies; loads of programme activities were completed and our older Brownies worked on their awards.

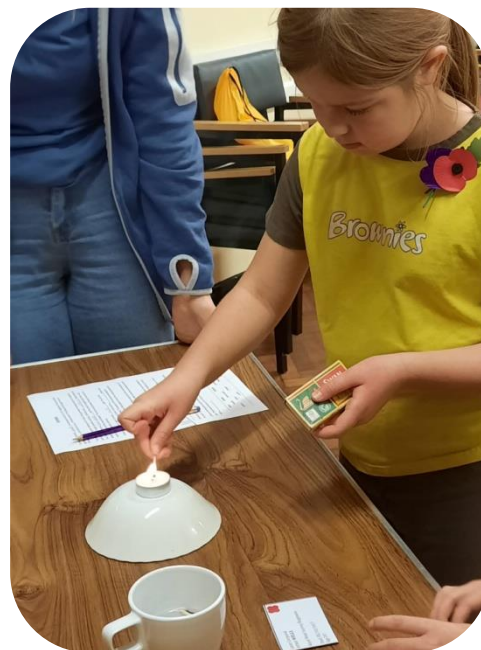
Everyone loved trying sharpie tie dye – with some brilliant designs on fabric bags.

As part of Remembrance we learnt about more about rationing (the amount of sweets in a ration definitely caught their attention!) and how to safely light a tea light to remember one of the local fallen from WW1 and WW2 - who are commemorated on the memorials in the St Lawrence churchyard.

Everyone got their sparkle on to learn the cha cha slide for Children in Need, we 'Cracked the Code' by hunting cypher CDs outside by torchlight and our new Brownies made owls to help learn their Promise.



1st Effingham Brownies (continued)



As part of **UK Parliament Week**, the Brownies worked hard, discussing and testing their knowledge of UK Parliament and applying their debating skills. The girls recreated the House of Commons – and the Brownie MP's for each Six had a lively debate on their proposed Bills. All three bills failed to receive the majority vote, so fortunately, schools will remain closed on weekends, children will not be forced to pay homeless people £2 at Christmas, and not all children will receive pocket money! Finally, we had a Brownie referendum – 'Should Boys be allowed to join Girlguiding?' The result was unanimous; the majority of girls were against the idea.



1st Effingham Brownies (continued)

It was great to be out and about again this term and we were lucky with the weather – from climbing and crate stacking at **Walton Firs**; a day at **Faurefold** to work on our Camp Skills Builder and then seeing so many happy girls from different units at the cinema to watch **Encanto**.



Remembrance Parade and Christingle this year were moving and beautiful and we were proud as always of our Flag Bearer, Wreath Layer, those who read at the service and attended.

We had St Martin's Glass visit us for a glass fusing workshop- where each Brownie made the individual pieces that would become a final leaded piece to be presented to St Lawrence Church for Remembrance. It really is quite beautiful – every part unique and individual just like the Brownie who made them.

1st Effingham Brownies (continued)



We ended our term with challenges, fun and food. They cracked the picture images to identify the xmas songs; they danced the reindeer hokey cokey (funnily enough the video of Leaders doing this might have got mislaid!!) but the best fun of all they made reindeer horns from balloons and tights - some interesting results.



1st Effingham Brownies (continued)



We also held Promise ceremonies for nine of our newest Brownies over a couple of weeks and followed this up with our eldest Brownies saying a fond farewell and jumping the toadstool up to Guides. We have a few fun traditions - so this term our Leavers were showered with the snowballs we made earlier in the term.

- Jo Tomkings



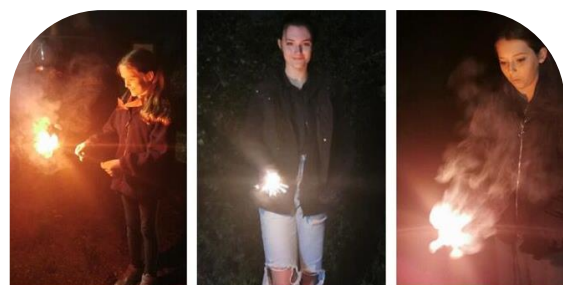
1st Chaldon Guides

1st Chaldon Guides have had another amazing term returning with a campfire and marshmallow evening.

One evening they enjoyed making hand scrub and had a pamper hand massage evening as part of the Girlguiding 'Wellies and Wristbands' challenge. They also decorated Wellies as part of the challenge.

They had a very fun promise ceremony night with sparklers, which the leaders enjoyed joining in too. They also watched some small outdoor fireworks together.

At the start of November some of the Guides ran the Glow Light stall at the local firework display to fundraise for the unit.



Festival of Remembrance

On 13th November, I attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. Every year this event is supported by the uniformed youth organisations selling programmes and poppies. Guiding counties alternate and this year it was 14 members from Girlguiding Middlesex East, Lesley Bailey, and I attended to shadow in readiness for next year.

We assembled at the rendezvous point and needed to show our Covid pass and passport to collect our security passes. We then went through the airport style security.

Inside were military bands assembling in the corridors. We were able to see some of the rehearsal from the boxes. We were briefed and assigned specific gates to man together with a scouting rep and a cadet. We sat on the floor in the corridor at lunchtime and ate the packed lunch provided.

At both the matinee and evening performance we greeted all the guests, sold programmes and poppies, and directed them to the auditorium.

After securing the funds collected, we were lucky to have the opportunity to watch the matinee performance. It was an amazing experience, honouring the men and women who lost their lives at war and the work of the Royal British Legion. As it was a centenary year for the Legion, Middlesex East were able to put forward three 18-year-old young leaders to be part of the televised service representing the communities that support it. After a short break, we returned to our gates in readiness for the evening performance.

My role had been to represent Surrey East as next year it will be our turn, shadowed by Greater London West. It was a very long and tiring day mostly spent on our feet but an honour to be part of. Together we raised a magnificent £27,000 for the Royal British Legion selling poppies and programmes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0011n4r/royal-british-legion-festival-of-remembrance-2021>

- Beverly Heywood-Jones



Remembrance Sunday

Across the County, units spent Remembrance Sunday attending local Remembrance services.

Right: Fetcham Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.



Left: 9th Caterham Guides at the parade.



Right: 1st Chaldon Guides at the parade.



Left: 9th Caterham Brownies at the parade.



1st Hawthorns Rainbows

We have had a great term and have loved being back to face-to-face meetings. Throughout the term, we were eco and nature superheroes and went on a walk to the lake to feed the ducks our home-made duck food. We also enjoyed celebrating 'Black History Month' where we thought about Mary Seacole and how she helped all the poorly and injured soldiers. We pretended to be Mary helping all the soldiers! We were also very lucky to have a calming Yoga session where we learnt different positions and how to stay calm. We finished the year with a joint campfire with 1st Hawthorns Brownies, where we made s'mores, drank hot chocolate and of course had a lovely sing song! We can't wait for the New Year for more fun-filled sessions, but in the meantime want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

- Fliss



1st Hawthorns Brownies

We had a super Water Day adventure at Blacklands Farm. We learnt about team work, perseverance and collaboration as the girls went canoeing and learnt essential life saving skills. It was 'the best day ever' to quote one of our girls.

This term we were delighted to meet back in person for our weekly meetings. We have shown our groovy moving by learning to flamenco dance and choreographing our own dances, learnt about food from around the world and made rocky road treats, and shared what activities we are passionate about and encouraged others to try them.

We were very fortunate to have a representative from Parliament UK join us for Parliament Week. We learnt all about who MPs are, how laws are made and what happens in the House of Commons and House of Lords. The girls went home and tested how much their parents knew!

Our girls are passionate about saving the planet. We have learnt about how much we throw away at home, how much we recycle and how much food waste we make – they were challenged to make a difference at home and many were successful! The girls also learnt about how to save water and even made their own water filters from a water bottle and a sock.

We've had a wonderful term which ended with a join campfire with the 1st Hawthorns Rainbows. We had hot chocolate, made s'mores and sang many songs. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas a super fun-filled 2022!

- Karen Wyborn



1st Ashtead Brownies

1st Ashtead Brownies turned 100 on 12th February 2021 and we would have loved to have a big celebratory party inviting past leaders and Brownies. Unfortunately, Covid-19 had different plans for us.

We made the most of the virtual meetings during Lockdown to celebrate our unit turning 100. Continuing with their love of baking, we all baked our own cake in a mug and created Brownie uniform with jumping clay. We loved our new style of zoom meetings but couldn't wait to be back together in person!

2021 ended with a face-to-face party celebrating 100 years with the twist of a 1920s theme. The Brownies enjoyed getting dressed in their 1920s costume, dancing to jazz music, sharing birthday cupcakes and receiving personalised 100 birthday badge. They enjoyed decorating cookies, making xmas crafts and Brownie style donation.



Serving the community and doing a good turn is always a priority for our unit. This year we have combined the two, all our brownies were sent home with a gift wrapped in a Christmas paper to be left around the Ashtead village for the finder. Brownies enjoyed wrapping the gift and hoping this good turn will bring a joy to someone.



1st Ashtead Brownies (continued)

One of our Brownie has been working hard over the last two years to gain her interest badges. She was awarded her Silver Brownie Award for achieving 4 Theme badges. Penny Beech is our first Brownie to achieve a Silver award under the new program – we are very proud of her!

The autumn term ended with Mirabel's magical movie screening organised by Odeon cinema and Girlguiding. 1st Ashtead Brownies were lucky to get their tickets to enjoy the Odeon Luxe experience with fully-reclining, extra-wide seats, sweet treats and of course, limited edition Mirabel badge.

- Sarita Amin



1st Whyteleaf Guides

1st Whyteleaf Guides got into the festive spirit by making their own boxes of traditional non cook sweets at the end of this term. Each Guide got to take home a box which included a coconut ice, peppermint cream, mini Christmas pudding and a marzipan orange. They had a lot of fun making them and although some were sceptical at first, they could not believe how delicious the leftovers were and thoroughly enjoyed taste testing them. With coconut ice being the favourite.



Lord Lieutenant

Each year, a number of young people are appointed to serve as Lord-Lieutenant's Cadets and act as ambassadors for their organisations and the young people of Surrey. Katie Lawton a young leader at 1st Brockham Green Rainbow Unit was appointed a Cadet for the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey in November, representing Girl Guiding in the local area.



"I am so happy to be taking on this role and very excited for the events that I will be able to attend in the future. In my position I accompany the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey to events where I am able to meet some incredible people and learn about organisations and what they do for our County. So far, I have even been lucky enough to meet the Countess of Wessex, which was very exciting and a great experience.

I am so grateful to be a Lord Lieutenant Cadet and cannot wait for more events over the next year."
- Katie Lawton

Epsom Division

Theatre Trip for Epsom Division Leaders

Epsom held a Division Leaders night out in November to see comedian Lucy Porter's very funny show "Be Prepared" about the joys of Guiding and Scouting! Leaders were lucky enough to meet Lucy and chat with her before the show at the Epsom Playhouse and had front row seats! - Mary Zoeller

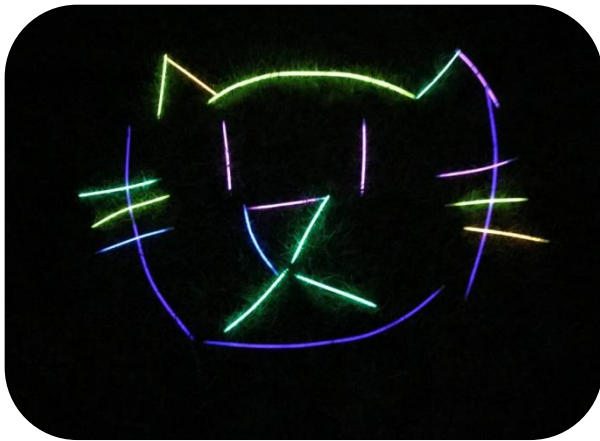


Epsom Division Brownies

Epsom Division Brownie Winter Glow 2021

Over 100 Brownies braved the elements in November on the coldest night of the year and took part in games in the dark round the campsite. Little Acres Campsite looked amazing lit up with lights and torches! Thank you to all the leaders who came and made this happen, particularly Elaine Briggs Epsom's Division Brownie Section Adviser who organised the event.

- Mary Zoeller



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies

Advent Numbers

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies did an amazing job colouring in all of the letters and numbers for Ewell Village's advent calendar organised by the St Mary's Church Ewell and the local Ewell community Change makers group. The numbers and letters were used for a treasure hunt round the village at Christmas which many local children took part in.



Cockney Museum

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies had a fascinating visit to The Cockney Museum in Stoneleigh recently. The concept of the Cockney Museum has long been a dream of George Major, the Pearly King of Peckham, since he acquired the pearly crown jewels, a collection of pearly kings and queens suits and other artefacts dating back nearly 150 years. This unique heritage museum is the only known collection of its type and the Brownies learnt a lot, including some cockney rhyming slang!



Epsom Division

Long Service Awards

Brownie and Guide Leader Elaine Briggs was presented with her 30 years long service award at Epsom's Little Acres campsite by Assistant Division Commissioner Tracey Marple Pettit. Well done Elaine and thank you for your incredible commitment!

Congratulations and grateful thanks also went to Alex Lorenz who was awarded her 10 year long service award presented by Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller at the fantastic Division ice skating event organised by Guide Section Adviser Rachel King. Alex is Epsom's Senior Section Adviser and runs the Epsom Ranger unit and helps out at Guides. Thank you for your enthusiasm and passion for Girlguiding Alex!

- Mary Zoeller



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies

Travelling Bear

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies were delighted to welcome back Travelling Bear from her latest adventures in Gloucestershire where she had been since before lockdown in March 2020. Bear belongs to Surrey East's Roo Harmer and she (Bear) has been on many adventures over the last 21 years including trips to Australia, Abu Dhabi, France, the Falkland Islands, Canada and many other places closer to home. She has stayed with numerous Guiding friends and has an extensive collection of souvenirs from her travels and has been sent by post, car, train, boat and plane!

- Mary Zoeller



Newly Qualified Young Leaders

Lucy and Erin are now officially fully qualified young leaders at 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies. Thank you Epsom Division Senior Section Adviser Alex Lorenz for presenting them with their badges and certificates. Well done Lucy and Erin!
- Mary Zoeller



Ewell Yule

Thank you very much to all the parents who donated gifts for the 'Pick a Prize' stall at Ewell Yule on Friday, to the leaders who collected and delivered the gifts to the campsite committee, to the committee who sorted and delivered the prizes to the stall and to all the Brownies, Guides and leaders who worked so hard on the night. We made £376 for Little Acres Campsite and had a great time at the village event! - Mary Zoeller



3rd Ewell Court (St Clements) Rainbows



3rd Ewell Court (St Clements) Rainbows won tickets to see Pudsey and attend the Premier of 'The Night before Christmas' a Cbeebies Panto/Film at the Cineworld IMAX in Leicester Square. Following a quick risk assessment (thanks to our Division Commissioner) and permission forms. We were a group of 19 with 10 children and 9 adults, each girl having a parent chaperone. Everyone had a great day even if only the children knew who the celebrities we met were, free Children in Need bags all round with goodies in. Not sure who enjoyed meeting Pudsey more me or the girls!! - Andrea Vaughan

8th Epsom and 3rd Stoneleigh Brownies

8th Epsom and 3rd Stoneleigh Brownies had a brilliant sleepover at Walton Firs Activity Centre in September.

We had a fabulous time at the sleepover with a camp fire, crate stacking and a very muddy obstacle course. For lots of girls it was their first Brownie sleepover given we hadn't been able to go away in 2020, but it was worth the wait!

- Ruth Pearson



5th Dorking Brownies

The 5th Dorking Brownies have been working on their Charities badge. They had a vote and chose to support WWF. Every Brownie raised some money, but they did it in different ways. Some made cupcakes with Panda faces and sold them to friends and neighbours. Others did extra chores round the house including planting hundreds of bulbs for the family to enjoy next spring. One Brownie was sponsored to litter pick around the flats where she lives with her Dad. Altogether we raised £60 and received a lovely card from WWF thanking us.

- Gill Morgan



Dear 5th Dorking Brownies,

A massive Thank you to all the Brownies for their help in raising money for WWF! We love all your individual ideas on how to raise money! A big well done!

From the WWF Team

9th Dorking (St Martin's) Brownies

I was very proud to present three Gold awards to my Brownies at the end of term. Such a great achievement in the current circumstances - Well done to Zoe, Leah and Daisy.

Unfortunately, with Covid restrictions and many isolating Brownies we couldn't have the celebration we would have liked - but they were very pleased with their Gold goodie bags.

-Di Sutherland



County Awards

In November Stella Cantor was presented with her Region Chief Commissioners award. She was thrilled to receive it. Many congratulations for your very well deserved award.



We are delighted that Jennifer Sibley, has been awarded the Girlguiding LaSER Chief Commissioner's award.

It is awarded to exceptional adult volunteers who go above and beyond and who motivate and improve quality girl-led guiding.

Many thanks to our County President, Laura for presenting the award.

Super Fundraiser

Epsom Division is immensely grateful to amazing fundraiser Rita Thompson who has sold items in aid of our Little Acres campsite for more than a decade raising over £3,000! She was presented with a Girlguiding official thanks badge and certificate in recognition of this incredible achievement. Thank you so much Rita! You are a legend.



County Awards

Congratulations to Rosemarie, who was presented with the Girlguiding LaSer Chief Commissioners Award for Inspirational volunteering by our previous County Commissioner, Jennifer.

This is awarded to exceptional adult volunteers who go above and beyond and who motivate and improve quality girl-led Guiding. Rosemarie has certainly been an inspiration to so many in Girlguiding but especially within the Reigate Division. We want to thank her for all she does, inspiring so many and bringing the best out in everyone.



1st South Godstone Rainbows and Brownies

These girls are the 1st South Godstone Rainbows and Brownies who were presented their Gold award by Lucy an ex Rainbow and Brownie from Lingfield who now represents GB in Waterpolo in the under 17 squad. She played in the world championships in 2021 and is hoping to represent GB in the adult squad in the next Olympics. All girls have worked exceptionally hard over the past two years to gain the award. Many Congratulations.

- Tracy Lovell



6th Reigate Brownies

6th Reigate Sixers and Seconders went into London for the day. We explored the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum and had lots of fun finding amazing women in science and in history.

Favourite exhibits of the day were space and dinosaurs!

-Kathryn Slater



2nd Leatherhead Brownies

2nd Leatherhead Brownies enjoyed a busy term including learning about the police to complete a 'Metropolitan Police' badge, a fun evening bell ringing at the local church and an exciting trip to the cinema to see the latest Disney film. More recently we made some great Christmas decorations and reindeer food, finishing up the term with an evening of unit Christmas traditions of advent calendar races, dress up as a snowman and decorate your Sixer like a Christmas tree.

- Becca Spicer



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://www.facebook.com/girlguidingsurreyeast>

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



8th Epsom Brownies became Super Brownies - making capes, masks and confidence belts. There to remind them of just some of the good things all about themselves, when they might need that extra confidence boost.

The next County Newsletter will be published on 8th July 2022

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 24th June 2022

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>