County Newsletter





Welcome

we discover, we grow Girlguiding Surrey East County

Welcome to all in Surrey East Girlguiding.

I am delighted to see that everyone in Girlguiding Surrey East has been so busy and it is fantastic to see the range of things our 200+ units have been up to. I hope you enjoy this Autumn/Winter edition of our County Newsletter and thank you to everyone who contributed to it. I am particularly proud of our 900+ volunteers who continue to deliver the Guiding programme helping our young members to challenge themselves, develop their potential, make friends and have fun. I'm always thrilled to see more volunteers completing their Leadership Qualification and if you are one of them, I really hope you enjoy your new role of leader as I do. If you are currently working on the scheme, please do ensure you complete it before the end of August 2023 deadline or you will need to do the new Leader Development Programme which is outlined on page 4. We would love to welcome more qualified volunteers and really hope that the new scheme with support of a local mentor will help. Through our various training and events, we have encouraged volunteers across the County to meet together face to face. Our annual County Day is open to all volunteers and it would be great to see more of you there, taking the opportunity to share your Guiding experiences and to develop ideas to take back to your units.

Congratulations to all our amazing award winners: to Val Hickmott who received her Laurel Award, to Margaret King who received the Region Chief Commissioner Award, to Charity Nicholls for Good Service and also to Menai Jones, Gill Utting, Lorna Smith, Claire Orpin, Caroline King, Linda McRae, Tessa Bullimore and everyone who received their Long Service awards. Congratulations to Emily Raynor, Elaine Rollason and Division Commissioners: Sonia Naughton and Emma Marsh who received Reigate and Banstead Mayoral Volunteering Awards and leaders who successfully completed their Going Away with Guiding Qualification. Also congratulations to our young members who achieved their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards and of course, thank you to the leaders that supported them. Well done to you all.

Thank you to those who represented Girlguiding at the Festival of Remembrance and for Districts/units who attended their local parade services. I would also like to thank units who welcomed and supported their communities such as Ukrainian refugees and of course at events following the sad death of our patron, Her Majesty The Queen who throughout her life was an example of the spirit of Guiding. I'd also like to thank the wider community that supported us: Trefoil, the Mayors and local councillors, Surrey Sensory Services and Co-op.

I hope you enjoy reading just some of the things we have done. If you are reading this and would like to become part of our great organisation, please do get in touch, <u>click here to find out more</u> and register your interest.

Enjoy reading about our adventures and I hope you have a fabulous Christmas break and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes

Beverly Heywood-Jones Surrey East County Commissioner surreyeastcc@btinternet.com



Newly Qualified Leaders

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have completed their leadership Qualification or added modules to their qualifications since July 2022.

Leith Hill Division

Sally Carter

Banstead Division

Rebecca Ayres

Leatherhead Division

Beth Fowler

Epsom Division

Alison Keam Ameilia Harding Louise Beadle

Reigate Division

Megan Spanton



Leadership Qualification

Did you know that the leadership qualification is changing?

The Leadership qualification has been replaced by the brand-new Leader Development Programme, and we are currently in a transition year before the Leadership qualification is fully phased out in September 2023. If you are planning to undertake the leadership qualification, then you can access this via the *Becoming a Leader* section on the Girlguiding website, which will direct you to the learning platform. You can explore there which route you prefer to take on your leadership journey here Girlguiding: Leader development programme home - LDP (https://learning.girlguiding.org.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php?id=53)

The new module is split into three themes and the topics are set out below:

Topics will include



The new system changes include:

- One mentor to support you throughout the whole programme;
- All leaders have to have Safe Space Level3;
- Online system to upload reports -Leadership Book no longer required;
- First Response not a requirement for the new programme.

Already completing your leadership qualification?

If you are currently on the leadership qualification, then you have will have until the 31st August 2023 to complete this. If you need to have a mentor observation or if you just want to have a mentor chat to check your progress, then please get in contact and email: lqsurresyeast@gmail.com and this can be arranged.

If you have already completed your qualification but did not complete module 4 then you will have until 31st August 2023 to complete this.

If you want to undertake module 1 to change sections, you can continue to do this in the normal way which is signed off by at commissioner level.

Interested in being a mentor?

We are seeking to increase the number of mentors we have in Surrey East - The new programme has a coaching style approach and you will be assigned a leader to mentor throughout their training. If this is something you may be interested in or want to know more, then please get in touch: Iqsurresyeast@gmail.com

Janet Coninx
County Leader in training coordinator

1st South Nutfield Rainbows



Making stamps for our post office





Learning about materials then testing the best material to cover a submarine!





Wreath making after a talk about making poppies for the display



Using newspaper to make outfits

Rainbow Gold Awards



On Tuesday 6th December, eleven very excited Rainbows and their Rainbow friends arrived at the Guide Hut in Oxted, to find it decked in gold decorations and gold balloons. The girls from Lingfield, Oxted and South Godstone units were there to receive their Gold Awards after a lot of hard work. Due to lockdown and restrictions, the girls had had to complete some of the activities at home over the last 18 months or so.





The Chairman of Tandridge Council, Councillor Jackie Wren, agreed to present the awards, explaining to the girls that she was the equivalent to the Mayor in other councils. Jackie went on to tell the girls that she herself had been a Guide and that she had gained her Queen's Guide Award. Jackie had then become a Young Leader and a Unit Leader in South London. She praised the girls for their hard work and said that she hoped that they will eventually look at being leaders themselves. In the meantime, she hoped that they would all enjoy the Brownie units that they were moving on to. Finishing her speech, she added that she hoped the girls would invite her back to present their Brownie Gold Awards in a couple of years!

Following refreshments, the girls presented Jackie with a bunch of yellow roses to thank her.



Remembrance Parade











We attended the very busy Remembrance parade, again with all units in Horley East being represented. It is a fantastic opportunity to show our respects and to be part of our local community. We had an excellent turnout and all girls (even the very young Rainbows) behaved beautifully on a cold morning having to stand still for quite a long time for small people. 7th Horley (St Francis) Rainbows then did a lovely remembrance craft making tea light jars.







7th Horley (St Francis) Rainbows

7th Horley (St Francis) Rainbows completed the Autumn Paw print badge. 7th Horley (St Francis) Rainbows also did firework pictures from the Sticky Salt UMA and sparklers for Firework night.

Meanwhile, 7th Horley (St Francis) Guides went bowling at Hollywood Bowl in Crawley!





Jubilee District Event

We attended a Jubilee District Event: an outdoor afternoon of fun at Tilgate park using the Crawley base, Blue Woods. Being a special event, we had a badge designed specifically for the 100 girls that attended from all units, including Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. All units arranged an activity to ensure that there were a range of age specific activities. They had some ice breaker games, water games and craft. This took place early September in the end, having had to postpone the first event due to the excessive heat. Enormous fun was had by all.











1st Hawthorns Rainbows







We had a great time learning about the importance of getting our bodies ready for exercise and then designing our own obstacle courses for our friends.



We shall remember them. At Rainbows, we made our own poppies in preparation for Remembrance Day.

We made a handprint hedgehog with our unique hands to celebrate why we were special and what makes us us!





1st Hawthorns Rainbows

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to Poppy as she moved to Bournemouth. Poppy (Karen Wyborn) was responsible for setting up our Rainbow and Brownie units so without her we wouldn't be here! We miss her lots but know her new unit will be loving having her there!



1st Hawthorns Rainbows 'set the story straight' by acting out different versions of Little Red Riding Hood.



1st Hawthorns Rainbows had a great time making reindeers just before Christmas.



Rainbow District Party



On Saturday 10th December, nearly 70 Rainbows from Hurst Green, Lingfield, Oxted and South Godstone met for a District Rainbow Party. An afternoon of games, dancing, party food and a visit from Santa (who just happened to be passing and tramped



Thank you to all the leaders that made this possible and who possibly tucked into a bit of cake too!

2nd Oxted Brownies

2nd Oxted Brownies have had a very busy year! We started with a sleepover in January and have had other adventures, including Pack Holiday in the summer with a record number of girls attending.

We have had six campfires, been litter picking and completed a Jubilee Bake Off, science experiments and nail art. We had a great number of Brownie sisters this year (two pairs of leaders who are sisters and four pairs of girls)!















The Brownies enjoyed swimming, crafts, cooking and games. We visited an activity centre for the day and took part in climbing, BMX biking and the Low Ropes Course. We have also presented our first two Gold Awards which were brilliant achievements for two of our girls. We are looking forward to next year!

1st Ashtead Brownies





The term started with profound sadness as we lost our patron, Her Majesty The Queen.
Throughout her life, the Queen was an example of the spirit of Guiding. In memory of that, we decided to make flowers out of post-it-notes in our first unit meeting and afterwards sent them to the Buckingham Palace.

1st Ashtead Brownies love to take part in the wider cultural activities. Among the various forms of folk dances in India, the popular one is "dandiya Raas", an important part of celebrations during Navratri, also known as nine-night festival. The Brownies learnt how to perform 'stick dance' with use of colourful decorated sticks. They assembled in two-line formations, with one moving in a clockwise direction, and the other moving in the opposite direction. It took some practice, but I was very proud of everyone in my unit for trying their best and enjoying the challenge.









9th Caterham Brownies



9th Caterham Brownies organised a toy and game collection for some Ukrainian children. I only have 12 brownies but we managed to collect over 50 new gifts for the children to open at Christmas. The brownies sorted all the gifts into age appropriate piles, packed and decorated the gift bags, and even wrote 'Merry Christmas' gift tags in Ukrainian. The guider coordinator from Godstone, Dawn, was so pleased with them. A lollipop was given to each girl to say thank you from me.

1st Burstow Rainbows

Over the October half term, 1st Burstow
Rainbows (which was only set up at Easter 2022) took part in the Smallfield Scarecrow competition. The girls (and the adults) had great fun making their Rainbow scarecrow and they did so well they won the People's Choice prize voted for by the villagers.





9th Epsom Brownies







We had a fantastic day of caving and climbing with the on-site instructors at Walton Firs in October, followed by races around the very muddy adventure course. The Brownies really challenged themselves with the heights they climbed up to and the dark tunnels they explored.

1st Oxted Brownies: Sisters Gain Gold and Silver Awards

Sisters Annabel & Emma completed their Gold and Silver awards and were presented these by Councillor Jackie Wren, the Chair of **Oxted District** Council. After presenting the awards Jackie, who had been a Unit Leader and is a Queen's Guide, spoke to the unit about what Guiding meant to her.





Following the presentation, the Brownies enjoyed party food, made gold bracelets and took part in an escape room challenge, which when completed opened a treasure box full of Gold bars (well biscuit ones!).

7th Epsom Brownies interview Matilda cast

Evie and Madison of 7th Epsom Brownies travelled to London and attended the press junket interviewing Emma Thompson (a former Girlguiding member herself) and Alisha Weir, who play Miss Trunchbull and Matilda respectively in the new *Matilda the Musical* film.

The girls, after asking a mix of questions, including the ones given below, went on to present each of the actresses the 'I Give Girls a Voice' badge and the special Matilda badge. Well done Evie and Madison!



These are the questions they asked:

Matilda has taught us to stand up for ourselves, have you learnt anything from her?

- If you had a superpower like Matilda's, what would it be and how would you use it?
- Brownies go on lots of adventures What has been the best adventure you've ever been on?
- If you had to eat a whole cake like Bruce did, what flavour would you pick?
- What did you enjoy most about playing Miss Trunchbull?
- What was your favourite badge you earnt in Girlguiding?
- If you could give one piece of advice to girls today what would it be?
- How long did it take for you to look like your characters?



7th Bookham Brownies

Surrey Sensory Services visited 7th Bookham Brownies, as part of the Communicate Stage 2 badge. We learnt how to sign our names, and what it is like to have impaired vision.









7th Bookham Brownies went on pack holiday to Faurefold. We covered all four seasons over the three days and two nights, including making our own spring daffodils out of pipe cleaners, mocktails, wooden bears - thanks to Roo, a visit from Santa and Christmas roast dinner with crackers to pull.







Lingfield Brownies

Lingfield Brownies went on a day out to Kidzania on 19th November.













6th Reigate Brownies

We (sixers and seconders) went to the British Museum. It was an early start to our day; we left at 8.30am and got back eight hours later! On the train, we all looked out for our stop and were excited to see the Shard because it meant that we were nearly there.





At the museum, we learnt about the ancient Egyptians and the Greeks. In every room, Brown Owl asked us to find a cool woman, which was a fun extra challenge - there are lots of Goddess! Our favourite parts were the Greek temple and the frieze from Athens, as well as the Egyptian mummies. We did the treasure hunts that got stamped by the front desk.

After visiting the museum, we had massive crepes with our own choice of toppings, although most of us picked chocolate. With full stomachs, we walked down to Trafalgar Square and the train station, looking at Christmas lights on the way.







It was a trip to remember, but we were all very tired when we got home (especially Brown Owl!) We had a lot of fun and even kept our train tickets as a memory of the day.

2nd Leatherhead Brownies





2nd Leatherhead Brownies had a magical Narnia pack holiday at Faurefold where we enjoyed archery, den building and freeing Aslan the lion from an escape room. At the end of the term, we had a visit from Freddie the Tawny Owl. We loved learning all about him and other owls.









3rd Merstham Brownies

We took part in the Great Big Green Week and earned ourselves the LaSER Champions for Nature badge. We had a quiz on birds, played some games and made bird feeders using wire, cheese and raisins. The girls loved threading the food on! so they all looked absolutely fabulous!







We did room in a box UMAeveryone enjoyed measuring and covering walls and floors, and we all created little art galleries. We even used tiny fairy lights inside so they all looked absolutely fabulous!



In October, Elaine Rollason was honoured to have been nominated and given a Mayor's Award for 'dedication and voluntary services'. She was treated to a wonderful evening at the Harlequin theatre, where they were entertained by an amazing choir and got to meet many other wonderful volunteers also receiving awards.







Everyone loved taking part in the Monopoly challenge badge! We came in fancy dress... activities included writing newspaper headlines (Fleet Street) and taste-testing Piccalilli (sounds like Piccadilly!). We also made angels (Angel Islington), Friendship bracelets for Pall Mall (pal!), and learned to tie bows for Bow Street to name a few things:)

For our Christmas activity, we all made cute light up Santa jars, which took a fair while to make but it was well worth it!



UK Parliament Week

As part of this year's UK Parliament Week, 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies went to Epsom Town Hall to meet the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Councillor Clive Woodbridge and find out more about how local government works. The Brownies took part in a debate in the council chamber, held the official mace and asked loads of questions! UK Parliament Week is an annual event, spreading the word about what Parliament is, what it does and how people can get involved. Thank you to the Mayor and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council for arranging this visit for the Brownies.





Brownies Winter Fun

Brownies from units in Epsom Division enjoyed an evening of activities at Little Acres Campsite in Horton County Park this Autumn. They had great fun taking part in lots of games, including a version of Chinese whispers writing on each other's backs, solving clues to do some code breaking, cups and saucers, hoopla, wrapping each other up in bandages, bean bag baskets, egg and spoon race and the ever popular camp fire singsong! Thank you to Division Brownie Section Adviser Elaine Briggs for organising this event and bringing the Brownies from different units together.







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Young Guiding Hero



Congratulations to Charlotte, a Brownie from 7th Redhill Brownies who received her Guiding Hero Award.

When she went to Nursery with her mum to pick up her younger sister, she noticed a mum who was upset because her child was very nervous about moving up to her new school class (at a school that Charlotte currently attends). Charlotte immediately comforted the parent by telling her all about the school, the reception classes and how lovely her school is. The parent was immediately a lot happier hearing this and thanked Charlotte very much. Following this conversation, Charlotte decided that she would quite like to talk to all the children in the preschool room about "Starting School".

After a discussion with the owner of the nursery, Charlotte spoke to the children about the different classes in reception, their names/ teachers and what kind of things they would be learning, the different activities that you do at school that differ from nursery etc.

Karen, Redhill District Commissioner at the time and current leader of 7th Redhill Brownies, nominated Charlotte as she had shown fantastic citizenship. The award was presented, together with a county 'You are a Guiding Star' badge, by Beverly Heywood-Jones, County Commissioner. Beverly explained how this showed how Charlotte was living her promise in so many ways by doing her best by helping her community and doing a good turn. 7th Redhill then renewed their promise altogether promising to serve the new King.

Congratulations to Charlotte!

4th Caterham Brownies



After a busy term working on our "Be Well" theme and finishing off some odds and ends, 4th Caterham Brownies had a big award and promise ceremony; alongside our first four Brownies making their promise to the King, we gave out eight Bronze awards, two Silver awards, and two Gold awards. We are looking forward to our trip to Matilda The Musical on 11th December.

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies

St Mary's Church, Ewell Village in Epsom Division invited the Brownies to come and have an exclusive peek behind the scenes to learn more about their local church. Father Mark Stafford and the Church team took the Brownies round the entire building including the bell tower and ringing chamber and they were allowed to go up into the pulpit, try their hand at bell ringing and even playing the organ! Thank you to St Mary's Church for this incredible opportunity.









Guides find the treasure Epsom Division Guides



Epsom Division Guides had a fantastic afternoon in October solving clues and working out puzzles in the Little Acres Treasure Hunt. They were challenged to uncover the hidden treasure at our campsite in Horton Country Park and there were prizes for the winning team and a special limited edition badge for every participant! Thank you to Ranger Leader/Section Adviser Alex Lorenz for organising this brilliant event.

1st Chaldon Guides



We were delighted to enrol four new Guides (our double sets of twins!) and an adult leader! These were the first members of our unit to make their promise to the King.

After their promises, the unit renewed their promise to the King together.



1st Chaldon Guides Poppy Selling at our local Tesco in support of The Poppy Appeal.



1st Chaldon Guides had a chill night where we made Hama bead designs, chatted and played some games. Here are some of our designs!







The adult leaders from 1st Chaldon Guides braved a night in the cold and wet to sell glow sticks and flashing toys at a local firework display raising nearly £500 for our unit. The money will go towards our rent and subsidising future outings and activities for our Guides!

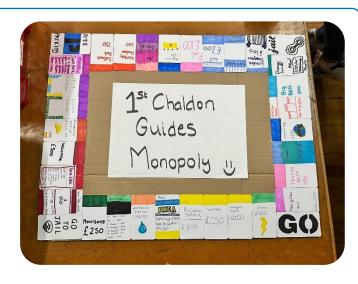


Caterham Hill and Chaldon flag bearers at Remembrance Parade 2022.

Group photo of 1st Chaldon Guides looking super smart for Remembrance Parade 2022.

1st Chaldon Guides

1st Chaldon Guides took part in the LaSER Monopoly Challenge! We each played a different monopoly game in our patrols and designed our own monopoly board!









These 1st
Chaldon
Guides have
been getting
dressed up
for
Halloween!
Check out the
spooky table
tops the
Guides and
Young
Leaders
made.









5th Dorking Guides

We have had a busy term. We are very pleased to say that we have awarded Bronze and Silver awards and two of our girls are well on their way to Gold. We have also given out interest badges and skills builders, so this term has been badgetastic.

We enjoyed attending Wellies and Wristbands at the end of August and shared a camp fire evening with Leith Hill Rangers.

We were visited by Amy, one of the peer educators, who did a resilience session with the Guides. The girls voted it the best session ever. I strongly advise you book a session. I was a little disappointed that they preferred this to my joke telling session but I guess you can't have everything.













I was very proud of the Guides on Remembrance Sunday. They were very smart on parade.

We finished our term with a trip to the Guildford ski slope and a donutting session. It wore me out just watching.

5th Dorking Guides Continued

We also made a traditional Guiding Christmas tree for the tree festival at Dorking URC. We called it Fruits of Faurefold, and I must say the square lashing was very good.

One of our long standing leaders, Lynda Mackie-Gandy, stepped down this term. We will miss her and I would like to thank her for all the time she has given to Guiding and wish her well in her next adventure.



1st Ewell Village Guides



1st Ewell Village
Guides finished off
their term with a
bowling session at
Hollywood Bowl in
Tolworth, where 8
girls also made
their promise.







10th Redhill Guides LaSER Monopoly Challenge



Library £20	Duck Pond £17	St Joseph's Church £12	Train Station £10	Bus Station £20
St Joseph's School £15	CHANCE as many food places as possible £5 each	HAVE FUN! BE SAFE!	STAY TOGETHER AS A TEAM	St Bede's School £30
St Matthew's Church £10	Your team must be back at Redhill Methodist Church by 3pm	HONOPOLY CHAILENGE	£50 Extra for visiting a complete set	Holy Trinity Church £25
Donyngs £12	Collect money for visiting each base	Guide mobile 07999 007260	COMMUNITY CHEST find the trefoil £50	Tennis Club £24
Memorial Park £20	Hatchlands School £17	Redhill Baptist Church £16	Gayton Vets Surgery £15	Redhill Methodist Church - all day Back by 3pm £20

The Guides took part in a wide game based upon the Monopoly Board game so they could complete the LaSER Monopoly Challenge. The board was based around Redhill Town; it included schools, churches and local amenities like the train station, library, park and duck pond.

Each patrol had their own playing piece to take with them and had to plan their route to visit the places on the board and earn monopoly money. They also had the "Chance" to visit food places to earn extra money, as well as having the option of locating the Guide trefoil displayed in another location not listed on the board for Community Chest (the trefoil was in fact placed in the window of The Harlequin Theatre where the Guides later attended to see Matilda).











Guides were given a time limit to be back at the meeting place, although all the patrols arrived early. They took packed lunches with them and decided where and when to eat them.

The Guides enjoyed having the freedom to plan and decide how to achieve the most money, with leaders spotting them out and about and handing out monopoly money.

10th Redhill Guides Christmas Overnight Continued

Guides spent time in the afternoon making Christmas cards, paracord wreaths and candy canes. They made their own crackers and table decorations too, ready for Christmas dinner, when they were joined by the Brownies who were also staying overnight.

As well as enjoying their games and activities Guides also kept their Promise by bringing contributions for the local charity Stripey Stork for their Christmas campaign to help 5000 children enjoy Christmas.

One Guide parent emailed the Leaders saying that her child "loved" the monopoly run and "came home from the overnight sleepover buzzing"; another thanked the Leaders and saying her daughter "had the best time".







1st Chaldon Guides



1st Chaldon Guides enjoyed singing camp songs and toasting marshmallows around the fire!





10th Redhill Guides



10th Redhill Guides went to the final, ready to support Millie Bright who visited their unit a few months ago!

2nd Warlingham Brownies

Congratulations to the 2nd Warlingham Brownies who were chosen to be supported by their local Co-op!



Dinosnores: the Dippy Special Sleepover 2nd Dorking Guides

At the start of the October half-term holiday (22 - 23 October 2022), ten of 2nd Dorking Guides (plus their leaders) headed off to London to spend a night with Dippy and other dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum.



On arrival, we set up camp (we'd been allocated our own floor - complete with 'private' toilets up by the giant sequoia, a tree over 330 million years old, and overlooking the blue whale in the Hintze Hall where most people were sleeping) and then headed back down to start exploring the museum and enjoying the activities on offer.

Dinosnores is normally geared to the 7-11 age group - but as this was the Dippy Special, the museum had interspersed their timed activities with ones that were 'free flow' and opened the event up to young people up to the age of 17 - great news for the Guides!

In order to manage the flow of people, and cut down on overcrowding, we were divided into three teams: we were in the Green Team, and so started with an informative quiz which revealed how much we knew (or didn't) about dinosaurs, the Natural History Museum and geology. The leaders were quite shocked to find out how much more the girls knew than we did...

The Guides decided to use their free time to complete the very popular craft activity, then with the Guides armed with their newly decorated canvas bags, we set off for the Animal Encounters in the company of Dippy himself. Most of the Guides were fascinated with most of the creatures they were introduced to which ranged from snakes to a gecko and from a giant snail to a Madagascan cockroach - though a few declined to go anywhere near the 22cm giant tarantula!

After a well-earned break for snacks down in the basement, another free-flow session followed, where the Guides chose to learn how to draw dinosaurs: as leaders we were most impressed with how realistic much of their artwork was. Clearly we have some naturalists in the making.



Dinosnores: the Dippy Special Sleepover 2nd Dorking Guides Continued



Finally, we headed off for our final 'timed' session which was a presentation about the evolution of dinosaurs and their habitat, which was presented in a most entertaining way in a Doctor Who style approach, with the whole auditorium turning into a Time Machine, where one of our Guides got to help out with the show.

Although 'lights out' wasn't until midnight, by this time the Guides were well and truly shattered (as were the leaders), so we all agreed to fill up our water bottles and head up the 2nd floor and chat for half an hour before settling down for the night on our camping mats and sleeping bags.

After a surprisingly good night's sleep, we packed up our kit and went down for breakfast of fruit juice and Danish pastries (this was our main criticism of the event - we all really needed more breakfast, and certainly if we did it again, we'd take more rations!). Following breakfast, we had the opportunity to explore areas of the museum that had been closed the previous night - journeying up into the centre of the earth was a particular favourite with the Guides - before the shop opened, and they could spend the money that was burning a hole in their pockets. Then, with bags suitably heavier with all their purchases, we headed off back to South Kensington tube station and the journey home.

All in all, an exciting and very different sleepover, which was relatively easy to organise (no activities to sort out and the museum staff were great and really helpful), though of course the risk assessment was different to what I'm more familiar with.

Alison Cotterill
Events co-ordinator
2nd Dorking Guides



1st Chaldon Guides and 9th Caterham **Guides**





1st Chaldon Guides and 9th Caterham Guides had an amazing time at our annual Summer Camp. We camped for a week at Birchmere Campsite in Wisley! Had lots of fun, cooked on fires, played games, did some crafts, made gadgets, campfires and so much more! Here we are taking our teddies to colours and dressed up in

our 'Theme Day' costumes!

Remembrance Day



Woodmansterne Guides have been thinking about Remembrance through painting pebbles. They created some inspiring and impressive designs.



As an act of Remembrance, 1st Walton-on-the-Hill Guides learned how to crochet poppies. It wasn't easy but everyone managed to complete one that they were proud of and Leanne, who taught them, surprised the leaders with their very own crochet Guide badge.



4th and 9th Redhill Guides and Redhill Rangers

4th and 9th Redhill Guides had a wonderful time in July at Scoutabout 2022! It was the first time camping for some girls. They loved the massive range of activities- both crafty and adventures, with fake wounds, high ropes and raft building being firm favourites! We had a wonderful time and are looking forward to doing it again soon!







Redhill Rangers, since reopening in December 2021, have been building up their activities. This summer, we camped alongside some of Reigate Division Guides at Wellies and Wristbands! Some of us had been before as Guides, but all of us had an amazing time- we even slept out under the stars in the last evening and got to see a screech owl as it flew overhead and into a tree nearby. We'll be booking our places again for this August so we'll see you all there!

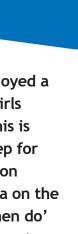






5th Reigate Guides

In August, 5th Reigate Guides enjoyed a fantastic camp at Seaford. The girls learnt campcraft - good job, as this is needed to be able to eat and sleep for the week - raced down the river on homemade rafts, cooked their tea on the beach one evening, and held a 'hen do' with a festival theme for Hedgehog, to name a few of the fun activities.









The new term in September welcomed eight Brownies to the unit, with the term mostly planned by the Guides themselves, to include a bonfire night, visits from outside speakers, including the UK Space Agency and local charity Stripey Stork, and an upcoming trip to the pantomime, Cinderella.

Both Young Leaders of the unit are off on (different) international Guide trips next Summer, with environmental issues being a key theme to both. Therefore, at the end of the summer term, they organised the unit to conduct a litter pick in Reigate Priory Park. The girls were surprised by how much fun and satisfaction they got from this activity, and members of the public thanked them for their efforts. Well done 5th Reigate!



Lingfield Guides and Rangers Summer Camp to the Isle of Wight

Lingfield Guides and Rangers travelled by train and ferry to the Isle of Wight for a week's camp. This was a large camp from the unit. We sponsored Barbara the donkey, from the Donkey Sanctuary, went sailing and on trips to Blackgang Chine, Robin Hill and Alum Bay. Both Rangers and Guides made their promise.



What do you think Barbara the Donkey is thinking after being visited and adopted by the Guides and Rangers?







Bookham Rangers International Trip to Annecy

'It really made me feel like I was part of something. I got to know loads of great people and came home with lots of good memories.'

Bookham Ranger

Thirty members of Bookham Ranger Guide and Explorer Scout Unit visited Annecy on an International Trip. We went to France for two weeks, starting with a four day expedition in the Alps where we stayed in Mountain Huts before spending ten days camping at the lakeside of Lake Annecy and exploring the area (visiting CERN, doing a food tour of Lyon, taking the cable car up Mont Blanc, going summer toboganning and White Water Rafting). We had eight Ranger Leaders on camp. We have a young team who have taken over the running of the Unit in 2020. This was the last international trip for Eileen Wingrove, who has led Bookham Rangers for over 50 years, before she steps down.



There were many new friendships formed, great conversations with young people really finding themselves and who they are; and being able to see them relish being away from their parents for two whole weeks! This group of people have particularly missed out on so much because of COVID. It was great to give them this experience to help combat some of the isolation and challenges they have faced in the last few years. As a leader, I had a lovely two weeks in the South of France with fantastic people doing fun and adventurous activities!



'The young people had such an amazing time. I am so glad we went!'

'It was really special to watch the kids come out of their shells and grow in confidence, and being in the sun made it feel even better!'

'My highlight was seeing the members encourage and support each other through the challenging sections of expedition through the Alps. Their teamwork and kindness to each other was exemplary. It was lovely to celebrate the group's successes at the end of the hike.'



Bookham Rangers

Bookham Rangers meet every Thursday evening from 8-10pm in Bookham Scout Hut alongside 1st Bookham Explorer Scouts as a mixed unit. This term, we kicked off with an evening of 'Get to Know You Games' with our new members, before hosting our AGM where we elected our new committee. Emily Gray was elected as Chair of the Ranger unit and will lead a committee of eight members alongside the Explorers Chair. Our committee run the day to day activities of the unit, setting the programme, organising Thursday evenings and deciding where we go for our camps!

We then spent an evening bowling at Guildford Spectrum, and were incredibly grateful to Dax Patel who came along and ran an evening of Indian cooking for us, with some members commenting it was the most edible food we had ever seen the unit make! Thank you Dax. Our October Camp this year took us to Dorset, camping near Corfe Castle, where we enjoyed a day hike and a visit to Splashdown Waterpark! Other highlights of the term include a construction evening, Halloween games and a wide game down on Bookham Common. We roared with laughter at dinosaur minigolf.

We have also volunteered at Brockham Bonfire, parking cars and enjoying the fireworks. In the run up to Christmas, we are pleased to host a night hike, and do bag packing to raise funds for the unit. We kicked off the Christmas season with a chilly ice-skating trip to Hampton Court and will be getting crafty making decorations. Our end of term extravaganza is our annual Christmas Dinner, where we enjoy a night of good food and good music, with a chance to dress up!

We are always welcoming new members and are holding an open evening in January. If you are interested in joining, please contact Christina Jones and Kate Roberts on bookhamrangers@outlook.com.











'Connecting with Nature' Day

On 1st October, 2nd Horley Brownies & 6th Horley Rainbows, with a few young Guide helpers, had a great time at the 'Connecting with Nature' outdoor activity day run at Blacklands.









The day finished with a nature quiz which was won by the Rainbows.

25 girls and their leaders had a great day out in the woods, making pictures from natural craft materials, planting bulbs and decorating pots, as well as trying abseiling or the bungee trampoline.



Remembering our Patron 1st Ewell Brownies and Guides

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies and Guides in Epsom Division attended a moving service at St Mary's Church in September for the Patronal Festival as well as a celebration of the life of Queen Elizabeth II. We signed the book of condolence and would like to thank all the Brownies and Guides who came, especially our superb flag bearers Megan, Jess and Eliza.



Queen's Green Canopy

A poignant moment happened at Epsom Division's Little Acres campsite in October when the Campsite Committee and supporters planted a hornbeam in memory of our patron Queen Elizabeth II. The tree is now officially registered as being part of the Queen's Green Canopy 2022. Many thanks to Form Plants for the generous donation of this tree which will hopefully provide shade and shelter at the campsite for many years to come.







Reigate and Banstead Mayor Volunteer Awards

Reigate Division won in 3 out of 4 categories at the Reigate and Banstead Volunteer awards.

Emily Raynor took home a Young Volunteer award for her commitment, support and encouraging positivity for volunteering with 3rd Redhill Rainbows and 10th Redhill Guides.

Elaine Rollason from 3rd Merstham Brownies won in the Individual Volunteer category for her enthusiasm and passion to deliver a fun and engaging programme for her units.

Sonia and Emma, Division Commissioners, took home the team award for their hard work regenerating Empire Hall, along with running the Division. The winners were presented with an award from Reigate and Banstead Mayor Councillor Frank Kelly.

We want to thank Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Voluntary Action Reigate & Banstead (VARB) for holding the event and recognising the important work volunteers provide. We want to congratulate all the winners and thank those who wrote in nominations. If you would like to nominate a volunteer for next years awards you can do so at: https://www.girlguidingreigatedivision.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/11/Award-nominations.pdf.







50 Year Long Service Award - Menai Jones

Congratulations to Menai Jones who received her 50 Years Long Service Award at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Originally an assistant leader in Winchester City Guide unit, Menai moved to 3rd Kenley (All Saints) Guides as assistant and then leader for 29 years. She is passionate about being outdoors and has been the County Walking Adviser and County Residential Adviser.

Our County Commissioner, Beverly, asked her for some highlights of her time in Guiding and she recalled the following experiences:

- Seeing a smile spread slowly over a Guide's face when she realised what she has Accomplished;
- Watching a Guide face her fears and having the strength to realise that now is not the right time; telling her peers, who praise her for her decision;
- Getting an oral response from a Guide with comprehension and communication problems within a fortnight of her joining.



Menai is now a leader with 7th Caterham (St John) Guide unit.

Congratulations Menai and thank you for your commitment to Guiding!

Good Service Award



Charity Nicholls received a Good Service Award for successfully carrying out the role of County Communications and PR Adviser over the past 3.5 years. This included essential communications during Covid and organising some fantastic County-wide virtual events during the Covid lock down: the bake off, the Stayabout, and the pet show. She helped to develop the County website, and delivered regular social media updates on the website, Facebook and Instagram. She also managed any queries receive centrally to the right person to address.

Beverly Heywood-Jones, County Commissioner, thanked Charity for all she has done and presented the award at Faurefold in the presence of her whole unit where they were enjoying a Brownie Holiday.

Long-Service Awards



The County team met on Saturday 24th September at Faurefold to develop the County Plan for the next 3-4 years. It was well attended with representation across all six Divisions. We also welcomed the Region Assistant Chief Commissioner responsible for the Girl experience - Sian Reis and our County President Laura West.

Experienced trainer, Kate Fowles ably facilitated an interactive session to consider what we, as a county, do well and areas we need to improve. There is more work to do, but we made good progress with lots of positive input from all the attendees there.

It was a great opportunity to recognise long service, with a 40-year service award for Beverly Heywood-Jones (County Commissioner) and a 30-year award for Lorna Smith (County Training Adviser and Division Commissioner for Godstone). Congratulations to them both whom

were presented by County President, Laura West. Sue Corrance, District Commissioner for Caterham Hill also received her GirlGuiding Going Away With Licence. Congratulations to all the award winners.



Laurel Award

Val Hickmott was presented with the Laurel Award in celebration of her excellent service. In awarding this award to Val, our Chief Guide Amanda Medlar wrote 'We admire what you have done and the impact you've had on the girls, volunteer and wider community in LASER and the UK. Thank you for being so generous with your time and talents, energy and commitment over the years.' Her award is presented in recognition of her significant contribution to Guiding over the years.



It was a double celebration as Margaret King received the Region Chief Commissioner Award. Over 40 years ago, Margaret became the leader of 1st Westcott Guides. During the centenary period, Margaret was on the organising team for the Now and Then 2010 camp and headed up the logistics dealing with transport of people and equipment. She also took on roles in the organising the Opening Ceremony at Lingfield Park.

On the Faurefold Committee, Margaret does a fantastic job in her role as Secretary and is a keen fundraiser. Margaret works tirelessly to keep everyone informed. Margaret can be seen regularly manning the fundraising stalls at events, creating crafts for the girls to purchase and also helping at the Faurefold working days. Margaret also helps with organising the Brownie and Rainbow Fun Days.



Both Val and Margaret have waited to receive their awards, presented during Covid, so that they could celebrate together at Faurefold with friends and family. Val has made a significant contribution to Guiding in organising major events and supporting leaders. Val has been part of the team managing the complete rebuild of Faurefold (our County residential site) and has been instrumental in improving the site and maintaining the old building whilst helping to raise the £500,000 required to build the new holiday house that we can see today.

We congratulate Val and Margaret for everything they have achieved in Guiding and for the opportunities that they have created for thousands over many years.

Epsom Division Awards

Congratulations to Claire Orpin, Unit Leader at 1st Stoneleigh Guides, who was presented with her 20 years' service award at Scoutabout in the summer. Thank you for your dedication, enthusiasm and commitment Claire! Here she is pictured with her unit team (and a future Rainbow!)





Jackie Huitson a Leader at 1st Epsom (St Martin's)
Brownies and Epsom Division Treasurer has clocked up an incredible 30 years' service in Girlguiding! Jackie has held numerous roles over this time and we are extremely grateful to her for her commitment and loyalty to her unit. Division Commissioner Mary Zoeller (left) presented Jackie (right) with her award and certificate at her unit recently. Thank you Jackie and congratulations!

Lucky 9th Epsom Brownies can now go on Pack Holiday because their Unit Leader Sarah Clanfield has gained her Going Away With licence. Well done Sarah and thank you for doing the training to enable your unit to have even more amazing adventures!



The Cripacing Continues of the Cripacing Continu

Another leader in Epsom has passed their Adult Leadership Qualification.

Congratulations to Pamela Keenan who has completed all the relevant training needed including first aid, safeguarding and finance in order to become a fully qualified Girlguiding Leader.

3rd Stoneleigh Brownies unit leader Sue Sparrow (right) received her 30 years long service award at our Division Summer Fun at the Campsite event. Sue's enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment is second to none and we are very grateful to her. Congratulations Sue and thank you so much!



Queen's Guide Award

Are you interested in doing your Queen's Guide Award or supporting a Ranger or Young Leader to do theirs?

The Queen's Guide award is the highest award you can work towards in GirlGuiding. It gives you the chance to develop your skills, whilst contributing to Guiding and your local community at an impressive level. It is open to members aged 16 to 25 and must be completed within three years.

Some elements of the Queen's Guide Award also map onto the Duke of Edinburgh Award if you are interested in both. More information about what the Queen's Guide Award entails can be found here:

https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/our-badges-and-activities/badge-finder/queens-guide-award/



Please do get in touch if you would like me to speak to a young person or at a meeting about the opportunity of the Queen's Guide Award. I am keen to support more young people across the County to take the challenge on. Please email me at kate.l.roberts97@gmail.com if you are interested.



Queen's Guide Award Presentation Group Photo December 2022

Queen's Guide Award Presentation



For the final part of my Queen's Guide, I organised a virtual residential during the pandemic and met lots of other GirlGuiding members of a similar age, who I would never have met if it hadn't been for the adaptations during lockdown.

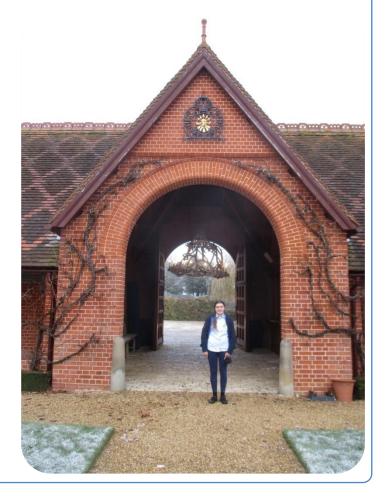
The Queen's Guide Award presentation started with a canapé reception, followed by short speeches from the Chief Guide, Amanda Medler, Queen's Guide Award holders and Sally Kettle, World Record Ocean Rower and Adventurer. We were congratulated in turn by the Chief Guide before having a group photo.

It was a great opportunity to meet other GirlGuiding members who have achieved the Queen's Guide Award. This Award is a fantastic challenge and I would definitely recommend it to any Rangers or Inspire members.



On 11th December, a very frosty day, I attended my Queen's Guide award presentation at The Dairy at Waddesdon Manor. I started working on my Queen's Guide Award back in winter 2016 and completed the majority of the award whilst at University.

Some of my main achievements during my award included passing Grade 8 Piano; helping as an adult for the first time at Scoutabout; being Assistant Caterer at Brownie Holiday; and completing a working holiday with the National Trust. I completed my exploration at Herstmonceux in Sussex, having breakfast in Herstmonceux Castle and attending the Astronomy Festival at the Observatory Science Centre.



Alexia Beale

Surrey East County Standard

It comprises the following elements:

The World Badge and trefoil

The Guiding motto - Be Prepared

The Surrey Lion - first adopted in 1922 when Surrey guides referred to themselves as 'Surrey Lions'

The Fly - Gold background divided horizontally by the silver zigzag band edged with green representing the River Mole. If you have ever had the chance to look at the County Standard you will see that every part of it represents us, Girlguiding Surrey East.





County and all 6 Division standards at County Day 2022



Can you spot your Division Standard?



Young Leader Sarah carried the County Standard at Scoutabout 2022 escorted by Poppy and Jess

And symbols to represent each of the Divisions within Surrey East:

Leatherhead Division	Tradition says there was a royal swannery on the River Mole here.
White swan on a blue river	
Reigate Division	The castle in Reigate was built soon
Castle	after the Norman Conquest due to the towns strategic position close to London.
Epsom Division	The famous racecourse and Derby.
Black Horse	
Leith Hill Division	The tower on the summit of Leith Hill is
Tower on a Hill	the highest point in south-east England.
Downs Heath Division (formerly known as Banstead Division) Woolsack	The sheep runs on Banstead Downs were important to the Medieval woollen industry and the first woolsack in the House of Lords was made from Banstead wool.
	The silver churn with the crossed crook
Godstone Division Milk Churn	and ear of wheat represent the rural nature of the area.

The current Surrey East County Standard was dedicated in 1980. If you would like a cloth version of our County Badge - please order from Jan White, our County Badge secretary (janwhite171@btinternet.com) or from your local Division Shop.

County Training Day

The best things were:
Picking up a craft to use and
chatting with friends who offer
great tips and solutions' 'Seeing
old friends' 'Meeting new people.'

On Saturday 1st October, 60 members of Surrey East Girlguiding gathered at Horley Baptist Church for the County Training Day. The theme of the day was 'Being the best leader we can be and effective festive celebrations'.

We started the day with an update from the county leadership coordinator Janet Conix around the "The Leadership Development Programme", which replaces the Leadership Qualification for Leaders in Training. Next, participants split off into three groups and attended a training session aimed at ensuring they could 'be the best leader they can be'. Session titles included 'Risk assessments', 'Including all' and 'Finance'.

There was a long and leisurely break for lunch, allowing leaders to reconnect with old friends and make new ones too. There was an opportunity to buy items from the Leith Hill Division shop; to support girls going on international experiences by buying their badge or trying the tombola; and to find out about Peer Educators and Faurefold.











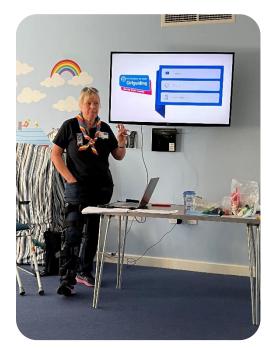
County Training Day Continued

The afternoon session launched with an enjoyable campfire sing song expertly led by Julie Woodland. The rest of the afternoon allowed leaders to try out a range of crafts to take back to their units including ideas for fireworks, Halloween, and Remembrance Day. In addition, there were wooden reindeer and Fimo snowmen for Christmas, pipe cleaner and Kusadma flowers for Mothers' Day and key rings for World Thinking Day. Our popular 'free' raffle allowed people to win some of the resources needed to complete the crafts back with their units.

Huge thanks to all the trainers who delivered sessions; crafters who shared their ideas; and the training team who ran the day.

Lorna Smith
Training Organiser









Leatherhead Division Christmas Crafts Day

For the first time since November 2019, we held a Christmas Crafts Day for Guides and Brownies in our Division. Fortunately, we were able to use the Tithe Barn in Little Bookham, which although it can be cold at this time of the year, is the most magical setting with its beams all strung with fairy lights.

I thought this was going to be a small event, with maybe 40-50 girls; however, as the units started to register with numbers at half term, I soon realised it was going to be more.



At 10am on a sunny Saturday morning, over 90 Guides and Brownies arrived to make their creations and presents. Amongst the presents they made were reindeer jars with chocolate brownie mix, mirror baubles, wood slice coasters, headbands, beeswax lip balm, seed papers, Fimo keyrings, Steampunk bracelets and decorated a fabric bag to put it all in. The Guides and Brownies worked hard to fit in the ten activities; some even managed the final activity of creating a small Christmas scene inside a tin lid!



Thank you to all the leaders and helpers who gave up their Saturday to help the girls with the activities (the knots on the Steampunk bracelet proved to be particularly tricky) and then helped to clear away at the end as well.

Dax Patel
Leatherhead Division Commissioner

Kingswood District Swimming Gala





After a three year pause, Kingswood District was more than happy to get back to normal and hold a swimming gala. We held this at Dorking Pool and it was an evening for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Each section had their own set of races including some fun races, resulting in the presentation of shields for the winning unit in each section. Each and every young member amazed the volunteers and audience by taking part and enjoying the moment. Well done to all the young members and thanks to the leadership team for running a great event.

During the event, we presented Ann Turner with her 5 year award, Tessa Bullimore with her 20 year award and congratulated Gill Utting on her 40 year award - well done to all.

Result:

Rainbows shield - a draw between Lower Kingswood and Tadworth / Walton on the Hill.

Brownie shield - 1st Lower Kingswood Guides shield - 1st Tadworth

Tracey Kingswood District Commissioner



Festival of Remembrance





This event is one of the main fundraising events for the Royal British Legion to enable them to provide the support that so many need. This year was focused on the Falklands war and what it meant to the Islanders 40 years on. It was particularly poignant as this was the first festival since Queen Elizabeth had died.

On Saturday 12th November, 17 leaders from all divisions in Surrey East ventured up to London to volunteer at the Festival of Remembrance, which was held at the Royal Albert Hall. We were spread out throughout the Albert Hall collecting donations for programmes and poppies for the Royal British Legion for both the afternoon and evening performances.









Festival of Remembrance Continued











In the afternoon, we were lucky enough to get to watch the first performance, which was an incredible and moving experience. Several of the group had connections with the military and some had family and friends in the show. It was a long day but an honour and a privilege to be able to help at such a prestigious event.

It was a particularly special event for Menai Jones, who was awarded her 50 years long service award for all her dedication and support of Girlguiding over the years.











Surrey East Trefoil

During the summer with the good weather, several Guilds held coffee mornings or tea parties for their chosen charities. Epsom Trefoil had an evening campfire where the Red Setters, our ukulele group, provided the music. Trefoil Associates met at Faurefold in August for an afternoon remembering our Guiding skills, such as tripods and square lashing. The afternoon ended with an excellent cream tea. We are now planning for Trefoil's 80th birthday next year.

Jenny Powell -- Surrey East Trefoil P.R. Adviser







The next County Newsletter will be published on 7th July 2023.

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 23rd June.

All articles are welcome, from Units, Districts, Divisions or County - please email your contribution to newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com. Any article is always better if accompanied by photos but please ensure that you have permission for them to be used before sharing them. Please give a contact name, email and telephone no. with every contribution (even if you wish it to be published anonymously), and mention that it is for the County Newsletter.

We would love to hear from you - no story is too small to be included. 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!

Alexia Beale
County Newsletter Coordinator
newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com

Twitter: @ggSEcountynews



Find out how to 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/girlguidingsurreyeasthttps://www.instagram.com/girlguidingsurreyeast

