



County Update June 2023



Welcome from the County Commissioner

A belated Happy Volunteering Week and a massive thank you to everyone who helps in units, districts and divisions across Surrey East county. Thank you too, to everyone who supports our properties (meeting halls and campsites). I know what hard work they are to support and maintain, but equally can bring guiding communities together. I am grateful for all that you do. I would also like to thank the county leadership team – who in addition to running units, provide support, training and advice to everyone across Surrey East. You are an amazing team.

I was delighted to see so many Surrey East brownies at Scram 2023 (a brownie and cub activity day organised by Surrey Scouts). There are many pictures on our social media and I'm sure will be in our county newsletter. My particular thanks to Jane Luff and Mary Zoeller who represented us on the committee and Sue Corrance and Elaine Edwards, who helped with leader's teas and to all the leaders who brought their units and ran activities on the day.

Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East County Commissioner



Don't forget to share your guiding stories in the county newsletter by 23rd June

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion in our county newsletter is **today** and we would love to hear your stories. Any article is always better if it is accompanied by photos, but please ensure that you have permission for them to be used before sharing them (if you state this in your initial email, it makes our job a lot easier!).

We welcome all contributions from units, districts, divisions, or county – please email them to newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com. It is fantastic to see what everyone has been up to and see how vibrant the Surrey East county is. I'm looking forward to seeing it.

Alexia Beale

Training and Activity Centres

I'm sure many of you will be saddened to hear the news that Guiding has proposed to sell its 5 activity centres: Foxlease, Blacklands, Glenbrook, Waddow Hall and Ynysgain ([link to the detail here](#)). Many of us have extremely fond memories of times we have spent there over many years, particularly the more local sites and the big events such as Wellies and Wristbands, Magic and Mayhem, Sparkle and Ice. It cannot have been an easy decision. There is still lots to look forward to this summer at the TACS and they are open for bookings for the rest of the year.

Remember, that in our county we have Faurefold and Little Acres and more widely, Heyswood, Heron's Wey, Paxmead and other non-guiding sites that are widely used such as Walton Firs and others too.

Girlguiding hosted two all-members calls this week with chief guide Tracy Foster, chair of the board of trustees Catherine Irwin, and chief executive Angela Salt to explain the rationale for the recent decisions including the announcement to end British Guiding Overseas (BGO). They invited questions and addressed many of them. Don't worry if you missed it as they have shared a recording of it [here](#).

For me personally, one important reassurance is that there are no further big announcements planned.

The plan is that the TACs keep operating until 31 December 2023, with all 2023 events going ahead as planned. It is important that you feedback your questions, impacts and any suggestions to enquiries.property@girlguiding.org.uk as I have done.

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development

Risky business – A guide to keeping everyone safe webinar – 4th July 7pm to 8pm

Click here to register your place - [Upcoming Events › Training › Leadership Development Programme › – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

County Day

Sunday 24th September 9.30am to 3.30pm – training for all volunteers across Surrey East with an

outdoor theme. Firelighting, whittling, nature craft. Register here [Upcoming Events › Training › County Day › – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)



First Response:

[First Response | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

Safe Space 3: Sat 18th Nov 9-12 Face to Face – Fetcham Guide hall.

[Training | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

A leader with safe space 3 is required at all meetings, events and activities. Please do sign up above if you haven't done one before. A renewal e-learning is now available on the learning development platform. It is recommended that all leaders complete safe space 3.

Volunteering Opportunities

Division Commissioner

We are looking to appoint new Division Commissioners in Leatherhead, Leith Hill and Downs Heath. Dax Patel (Leatherhead) is relocating out of the area and Kate Fowles (Leith Hill) has completed her 5-year term in August and Downs Heath is currently vacant. This is an exciting opportunity for people within these areas to join the county team and to support leaders in their local area.

Interested? Please speak directly to Dax or Kate or contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com directly to find out more.

Digital Marketing and Events Volunteers

Have a passion for digital communications?

Love writing snappy news posts?

Girlguiding Surrey East needs a new enthusiastic budding digital marketer to create news and posts for their social and digital platforms. The role involves a keen eye for a story; love of words and offers the opportunity to be a roving reporter at Guiding events.

This is a brilliant development opportunity for anyone interested in marketing media or communications and who is keen to promote all the adventures our units get up to.

Interested? Please contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com directly to find out more.

This role is flexible and just a few hours a week, could be done by an individual or a team.

Lead Volunteer for the Guiding Surrey East at the Lord Mayors Show

Could you lead a county team of volunteers and young members to represent Girlguiding at the Lord Mayor's Show in 2024? Can you attend this year to learn from Surrey West?

Do you have what it takes to build a team to create a float to take part, representing Guiding and showcasing us as an organisation at this prestigious event?

You would need to be member of Surrey East girlguiding and available on 11th November 2023 to attend the event with the team from Surrey West who are leading this year. If you are interested, please contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com directly to find out more and share details of what skills and experience you might bring to the role. For more information about the event [click here](#).

Peer Education

Are you under 25 and interested in becoming a peer educator?

Do you have rangers or young leaders who would be great at leading activities for local Brownies or Guides on some key topics?

Girlguiding LaSER is hosting a Peer Education Basic Training weekend in Surrey East! Participants will learn the skills necessary to be a peer educator, receive training in the Breaking Free resource which enables young members to recognise and challenge gender stereotypes and leave equipped with the ability to start delivering sessions locally.

Who: Members aged 14-25

When: 6.30pm Friday 15 September to 4pm Sunday 17 September 2023

Where: Holiday House, Faurefold, Lince Lane, Westcott, RH4 3LX

Cost: £25

Find out more and [register here](#).

If you have a going away with license and would be willing to volunteer to do the catering for this event, please contact surreyeastcc@btinternet.com now.



Did you know?

Leadership Qualification transition.

We are in the final stages of transitioning over to the new leadership development programme ([LDP](#)) which was introduced last September. The old scheme will be withdrawn completely.

If you currently have a role as assistant leader and have module 4 of the old scheme, we will adjust your role over the summer to be leader. This doesn't affect the role you are doing but will ensure you are aligned to newly qualified leaders who will have the role of leader. Under the new scheme, everyone who completes the LDP will have the role of leader.

If you do not have [module 4](#), you can complete it now, or simply remain an assistant leader without it. If you are a leader in training on the old scheme, time is running out to complete it. Anyone working on the old scheme, that does not complete it by the deadline of end of September, will need to re-register onto the LDP if they would like to become a leader. Early feedback is that people are finding it easier and quicker to complete.

If you would like to become a mentor to support other leaders in your area, please contact Janet Coninx lqsurreyeast@gmail.com.

County Outdoor Day – Sunday 24th September 9.30–3.30 at Faurefold

Outdoor County day will be a fantastic opportunity to spend time at Faurefold learning new crafts, skills and ideas. It is open to all volunteers in girlguiding Surrey East including leaders, young leaders and unit helpers.

Drinks and snacks will be available – If possible, please bring your own mug and let us know about any allergies or dietary restrictions we may need to be aware of.

Session one is a choice of:

- Low ropes Team Challenge**- Leader briefing and entry into a team competition. – A chance to learn how to take your girls on the low rope challenge course at Faurefold, followed by a friendly timed competition to complete the course quicker than your guiding friends.
- Basic Fire lighting** including unit meeting activities (UMAs) and skills builders for all sections. – Perfect for rainbow and brownie leaders and less experienced guide leaders, who would like to gain the confidence to complete some of the 'have adventures' programme.
- Indoor training**- Promote units through social media- including setting up Twitter etc/ rules Facebook pages and using social media and good photos (taking and management / storage)

Lunch

Please bring your own lunch for a long lunch break with chance to socialise with other leaders, verify your identity for your DBS, if required, find out about become a leadership mentor, visit the volunteer shop (pre order available), try the trails and orienteering at Faurefold, attend a campfire sing song.

Session two is a choice of:

- Basic Map reading/ Basic navigation**- the opportunity to learn some basic map reading skills and take some skills and ideas back to your unit.
- Low ropes Team Challenge**- Leader briefing and entry into a team competition. A chance to learn how to take your girls on the low rope challenge course at Faurefold, followed by a friendly timed competition to complete the course quicker than your guiding friends.
- Intermediate fire lighting and cooking** – with links to your section UMAs and skills builders
- Indoor training –effective use of our brand** including ways to update your websites/ Facebook pages/ social media and paperwork with the new branding to help you stay within the guidelines.

Please click here to book

<https://forms.gle/S36x2iN4brDbDwzm6>





Huge thanks to our regular volunteers at the Westfest tea and cake stall –Val, Roo, Margaret, Pauline and all the cake bakers who smashed it as usual and a great day was had by all.

Can you spare some time on **Saturday August 19th** to help Faurefold?



Capel Show

Could you offer an hour or two on our rota to help Faurefold? Friends of Guiding (Capel) have kindly given us the chance to help on the refreshments and bacon butties stalls at the very popular and busy Capel Show. As well as being a fun and rewarding day supporting this excellent event, this is a great opportunity to raise additional funds so we can turn our development plans such as installing soundproofing and improving the car park into reality, making Faurefold an even better place to visit.

If you can't help on the day could you bake cakes for us? Please let us know how you can help by responding here:

Yes I can help!

<<https://forms.gle/7uYDWdM9tKQhBanQ9>>

Guides' Woodland Workshops- Saturday 23rd September

Faurefold 10:00-4:00

Calling all Guide Units- start the Autumn term with a Faurefold adventure!

After successful and fun rainbow and brownie activity days last month we are delighted that bookings are now open for the guide day. This year we are mixing it up a bit and alongside fun giant art, painting the stripy shed and wooden chairs, and wide games we are offering guides the chance to develop their woodland skills learn how to whittle, use an axe and saw, and hone their fire lighting.

We have also moved the day from June to September, so you can get autumn term off with a bang!

<https://www.faurefold.co.uk/guides-activity-day-booking/>>

Sign up on the Faurefold website, numbers limited to 50.

Any questions contact ROO hjharmer@aol.com or 07837164190



Little Acres

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Epsom Division's Little Acres lodge is now open! After over 10 years of fundraising and over £280,000 having been raised, the stunning lodge at our campsite has finally been completed. It comprises a large hall for sleepovers, a leaders' room, toilets and shower, kitchen and large veranda running round two sides of the building. There is full disabled access.

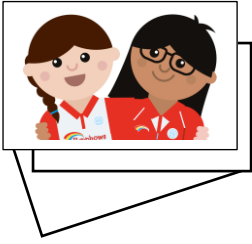
The campsite itself offers a huge camping area with campfire , wood store, concrete bases for smaller fires, outside tap and power in a quiet private area in the picturesque and peaceful setting of Horton Country Park. There is also plenty of camping equipment and other useful items available to borrow free of charge.

We will be holding an **Open Day on Sunday 2 July from 12-3pm** and we would love to welcome you and show you the new lodge and campsite! Please come and have a look round and see the additional facilities we can now offer. There will be a barbecue and other refreshments available. If this date is not convenient please do contact us to arrange to come and visit us another time.

For bookings, further details or to arrange to come and had a look round please contact: littleacresepsom@gmail.com



...



County photo competition

We are launching a Surrey East county photo competition. It will have 4 categories for you to enter:

- The best of unit guiding
- Adventurous young members
- Fun in volunteering
- Including all.



*Its aim is to increase our stock of quality images to use in social media.
To encourage all to consider the new girlguiding photography principles
To have fun.*

Why not have a photography evening and select the best photos for the competition?

Rules:

- Open to units and all members and recognised volunteers in girlguiding Surrey East.
- Photos must be originals that you have taken.
- Young members (under 18) must submit their photos via their leaders or local commissioner to ensure appropriate written consent has been obtained. It is recommended that units select their favourite images to enter one or more of the categories.
- When photographing children and young people under the age of 18, leaders need to get written consent from their parent or carer. This should be noted on their membership record on Go – 'Photos/videos can be shared and published and used for marketing'. Ask the girls as well for their permission when taking photos of them.
- For adult members (18+) obtain their permission too, and ensure they update their membership record on Go as above to given permission for the photo to be shared and published and used for marketing.
- Images should comply with the [girlguiding photography principles](#). They should feel colourful and bright as we're a vibrant youth brand.

We will share the submission form to include links to a secure folder for you to upload your photos next month. The closing date will be Friday 20th October 2023. The winning photos will be used to promote guiding in Surrey East.

If you would like to be on the judging panel, please email me - surreyeastcc@btinternet.com.

Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East County Commissioner