

County Newsletter

 **Girlguiding**
Surrey East county

spring/summer 2023



Welcome to all in Surrey East Girlguiding

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers across Surrey East have had lots of adventures throughout the spring and summer terms. We are excited to share with you some of the many things we have done.

Congratulations to the girls who have achieved all the programme themes for their section and have been awarded their gold, silver and bronze awards and a huge thank you to the leaders who supported them. There are some lovely pictures of units and districts enjoying World Thinking Day when girls around the world think about each other and celebrate being part of a worldwide organisation.

The Coronation was a time for more celebrations, with units focussing their activities on this historic event and also taking part in the Big Help Out with their local communities. Congratulations to Mary Zoeller, who was awarded Coronation Champion for her service to Guiding and to Di Sutherland who was highly commended in the Volunteer of the Year category in the Dorking Coronation Community Spirit Awards! Roberta Wilson applied to support the event and was lucky to have the opportunity to help at King Charles III's first Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey.

Rainbows went to Magic and Mayhem at Blacklands farm and Brownies went to SCRAM 2023. These major events really do show the girls that they are part of the wider organisation. More close to home, our county campsite Faurefold held a Rainbow fun day and Brownie fun day. Faurefold also opened the new low ropes course and 1st Capel Brownies were the first unit to try it out. After 10 years of fundraising, Epsom division achieved a significant milestone in opening their new lodge on Little Acres campsite and are now looking forward to many years of sleepovers there.

It's fantastic to see our first leaders complete the new Leadership Development programme and so many leaders adding modules to their qualifications. Janet, our county leadership coordinator has done a great job in managing the transition which will be complete at the end of September. Congratulations to everyone who received long service awards, particularly to Beverley Kent, Alison Thoburn and Jill Popham who received 30 years, Tracy Lovell and Pauline Austin who received 40 years.

Whether you are a new leader, or one who is celebrating long service, you should be so proud of everything you do for the girls in Surrey East and thank you. A big thank you to everyone who took the time to share their stories for this newsletter.

Enjoy!



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 December 2022.

Epsom Division

Laura Gudge
Caroline Judd

Godstone Division

Carla Barrett
Ella Dawson
Anna Gardner
Sophie Lonsdale
Eliana Merlini

Leatherhead Division

Isabelle Pickett

Leith Hill Division

Louise Holt
Sarah Matthews
Wendy Mumford
Debbie Rodgers
Emily Walker
Leilah Webb
Julia Woods

Reigate Division

Sophie Banham
Nicky Chalder
Megan Harding
Lisa Pointer
Steph Pound
Kirsty Stuart

New Leadership Development Programme:

Congratulations to Elizabeth Tatam from Reigate division for being the first person in Surrey East to complete the new programme.



Leadership Development Transition

Many of you will be aware that the old style leadership development programme will cease on the 30th September 2023. This means that you have until that date to get everything completed. Below Janet Coninx, our county leadership coordinator, has answered some of the more frequently asked questions she has been asked.

I've completed my modules. What else do I need to do?

That's great you have completed the modules. You will also need to have a valid first aid certificate and safe space levels required for your role.

My first aid has expired. Do I have to renew it?

Yes - you will need a valid first aid certificate before you can be signed off. To find out more check in at the county website for trainings.

I want to move sections. Do I still need to complete module 1?

Yes. Please complete module 1. The checklist is available on the Girlguiding website and is signed off by your district or division commissioner. Once completed, please send the approval to me so that I can update your learning record. Email: lqsurreyeast@gmail.com.

I haven't had my mentor observation yet - is it too late?

No, you can arrange your mentor observation at any time but it must be completed before the 30th September.

I'm not going to be able to complete the scheme before the 30th September. Can I change to the new scheme?

Yes, you can transfer to the new scheme at any time. Just let me know by emailing lqsurreyeast@gmail.com and I'll do the rest.

I haven't completed module 4. Is it too late?

No - you have until the 30th September to complete this - contact me by emailing lqsurreyeast@gmail.com to make arrangements to have this completed.

Mentoring **Could you be a mentor?**

We are looking for mentors across the county for all sections; could this be you?

To be a mentor, you need to have already completed your leadership qualification and be willing to support your new trainee. If you want to find out more, then please contact me by emailing lqsurreyeast@gmail.com



Janet Coninx
County leadership coordinator

Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III

Caterham Brownies



To celebrate the King's Coronation, Jasmine Rodrigues visited the Caterham Brownies, who are one of Caterham Co-op UK's Local Community Fund Groups. They did some fantastic activities, supplied by Co-op, like creating crowns and eating delicious Co-op cakes.



1st Chaldon Guides



1st Chaldon Guides'
King's Coronation Picnic



5th Horley Rainbows and Brownies



As part of the King's Coronation celebrations, 5th Horley Rainbows and Brownies had a fabulous evening with a joint tea party inviting parents and siblings to enjoy cream teas and to watch the girls participate in maypole dancing and parachute games. We provided a quiz and bingo for the parents which the girls joined in with. The maypole was decorated with words from the promise, which the girls coloured in, and the coasters were decorated with the theme from the King's Coronation. The girls had a fantastic time dancing around the maypole and sharing the evening with their siblings.



Welly Throwing and Planting

5th Horley Brownies have been making the most of the warmer weather in the garden with a bit of welly throwing, working out whether the larger or smaller wellies travelled furthest. The girls had great fun swapping wellies and trying different throwing techniques. The girls then used the old wellies and planted petunias to take home and look after.



Coronation Champion

We were absolutely thrilled to hear that Mary Zoeller was recognised for her contribution to guiding in Surrey East and was crowned a Coronation Champion. Mary celebrated with her brownies – 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) and went to Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle.



Congratulations Mary – we are all really proud of you!

This followed a call out to the nation to nominate their volunteer heroes. Almost 5000 entries were received, with nominations made for individuals aged 14 up to 103. Mary impressed judges with her volunteering work for Girlguiding and other local charities. For Girlguiding, she runs a local Brownie unit, as well as being the Epsom division commissioner and assistant county commissioner.

Commenting on becoming a Coronation Champion, Mary said: "It's an honour to be named a Coronation Champion. In Girlguiding, we all work hard to make a difference to girls and young women's lives and it's wonderful when our volunteering efforts are recognised."

Mary Zoeller has been recognised by Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort as part of the official Coronation celebrations in conjunction with Royal Voluntary Service.



Catherine Johnstone CBE, Chief Executive of Royal Voluntary Service said: "We were completely blown away by the response to the Community Champions Awards and the huge volume of amazing nominees put forward. Our judges had a tough job selecting just 500 Champions from an array of thousands of inspirational individuals, who all deserve to be recognised and commended. "

"Each of our Coronation Champions displayed a commitment and contribution that far exceeds any expectation and we're overjoyed to honour and thank them during this exciting point in history."

The Big Help Out



We were delighted to be part of Ewell Court Residents Association's Party in the Park and enjoyed talking to lots of people about volunteering with Girlguiding and the huge benefits it offers. This was a fantastic community event featuring many local organisations including us and the scouts and a brilliant Abba tribute band. Thank you to all the volunteers who came and ran our tombola and facepainting stalls and promoted Girlguiding!

Epsom division was delighted to be part of The Big Help Out when they joined 6 million other people who took part in the day on Monday 8th May. The Big Help Out was part of the Coronation weekend and saw people coming together to lend a hand in their communities to experience how rewarding volunteering can be, and the power it has to make a change.



7th Horley Rainbows

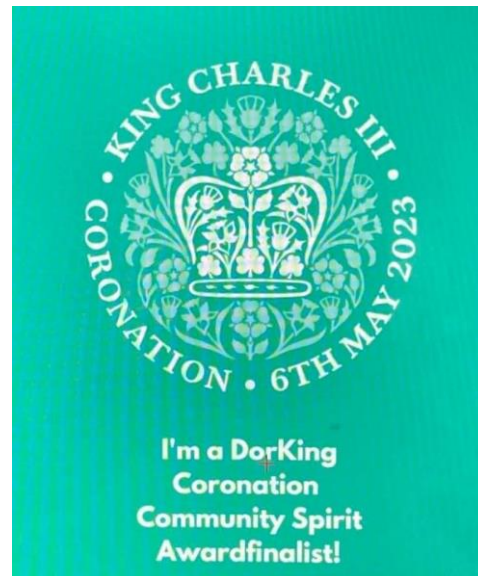


Looking back at some of the recent events, the first that jumps out at me is the Coronation. 7th Horley Rainbows made pictures of the king and completed a hide and seek hunt UMA (Unit Meeting Activity) with items that spelt CHARLES.



Dorking Coronation Community Spirit Awards

Our very own 9th Dorking Brownie leader won highly commended in the final of the Volunteer of the Year category in the Dorking Coronation Community Spirit Awards! Congratulations Di Sutherland, very well deserved!



1st Oxted Brownies



To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, the Brownies planted pansies and petunias as “pots of kindness” which they then left around their local neighbourhood to cheer people up and to commemorate the coronation.



3rd Oxted Guides



3rd Oxted Guides celebrated the Coronation with the patrols dressing as either a king or queen using junk materials. We also enjoyed a party complete with red, white & blue mocktails. Despite the colour of some of them, they were all drinkable (honest!).



9th Epsom Brownies



We celebrated the coronation by making coronation party headbands & eating coronation cupcakes, and then we did our bit for the Big Help Out by doing a litter pick.



2nd Woodmansterne Brownies



We had a coronation party.



1st Ashted Brownies



At the beginning of the term, we had special visitors from Buckingham palace to be awarded HRM King Charles III Coronation 2023 badges.



1st Walton-on-the-Hill Guides



1st Walton-on-the-Hill Guides had a great evening helping by weeding the sensory trail at RDA Epsom, as part of The Big Help Out.

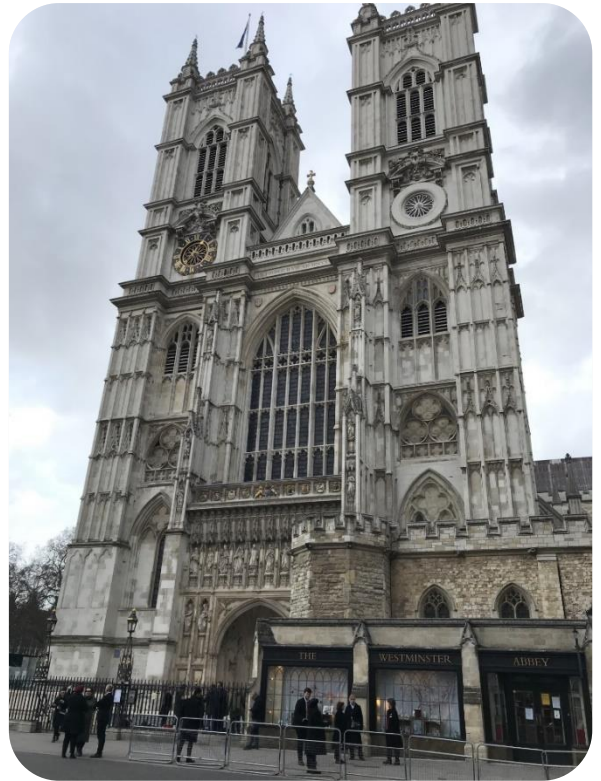


King Charles III's first Commonwealth Day Service

I was very lucky to be selected to be one of the volunteers at King Charles III's first Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey on Monday 13th March this year.

I arrived after lunch and eventually met up with Jooles, LASER deputy chief commissioner. After a while, three more members joined us. We were briefed with the Abbey's own volunteers and took up our positions along the path leading to the west door of the Abbey.

Once all the invitees, some in national costumes, were seated, we watched a few VIP and royals arrive. We then took our seats in the Abbey in the transepts some way back from the king. The commonwealth flags were paraded and some of the flag bearers wore national costumes, which were very colourful.



Apart from the service and the choir of Westminster Abbey singing, the nations of the Commonwealth were represented pieces of music: Africa was represented by the Rwanda National Ballet; the Pacific by Ngati Ranana London Maori Club; Asia by Nuwan Hugh Perera and Roshani Abbey; Europe by The Amalgamation Choir; and Caribbean and the Americas by Yolanda Brown.



After the service, we meet up with several other volunteers, who had been inside all day helping. We also saw Amanda, LASER's chief commissioner, who gave us all her personal LASER badge. She had been to the service representing Girlguiding.

I had a wonderful day and made a lot of memories. Thank you Girlguiding!

Roberta Wilson
2nd Bookham Rainbows

40 year Long Service Award

On Wednesday 11th May, Pauline Austin, Brownie Leader of 1st Newdigate Brownies, was presented her 40-year long service award by friend and former division commissioner, Margaret King. Pauline chose to receive the award during the Leith Hill Trefoil Guild meeting to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Pauline was hosting the red, white and blue themed evening and was joined by local friends, Guiding friends, her husband, Neil, and her daughter and family via video call from New Zealand. Pauline was presented with a cake and a shrub for her beautiful garden in addition to her brooch and certificate.



District Day Out to Godstone Farm

Caterham Hill and Chaldon district had a fun packed District Day at Godstone Farm on 30th April. We were super lucky to have bright sunshine all day and not even a drop of rain!



103 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Young Leaders met with their leaders in the top field at the farm where we all sat together to start the day with a packed lunch. We were then met by two fantastic members of farm staff (one Guide leader and one Scout leader) who knew exactly how to run a large event and make sure everyone had fun!

We split into groups and completed the farm trail, stamping our books as we found each animal. Next it was time for an animal theme craft in the craft barn – we made jumping farm animals which the leaders kept safe until home time!

We had so much fun in the soft play and outdoor adventure play area – we even had some free time to go into the shop and spend our pocket money! The hot day pushed many of us to take a sugar hit and indulge in a tasty ice cream!

After all the fun and exploring around the farm, we joined together again in the top field for some camp songs around the campfire.

The day was a huge success and we got lots of comments from the public about how nice it was to see so many members in uniform and how well behaved they were!

We would like to thank the leaders of Caterham Hill and Chaldon district for taking us and the staff at Godstone Farm for making it happen!

4th Epsom Brownies, 7th Epsom Guides, Epsom Division Rangers

1 Rainbow, 4 Brownies, 9 Guides, 1 Ranger and 6 Leaders joined a record breaking 58 thousand people at Twickenham to see the Red Roses beat France to win the Women's Six Nations in May.



We travelled up by train, joining thousands walking to the stadium. "The journey was busy but the stadium was really nice. It was a great family friendly environment, and the rugby was great," said Milly. We all had an amazing time. "It was fun to watch because there were so many things happening at once. England scored lots of tries and we did a Mexican wave!" Annabel added.

The Little Mermaid: Horley East District

Horley East district did a private hire at Cineworld Crawley on Saturday 2nd June for over 100 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Leaders. We enjoyed popcorn in the munch boxes and everyone was so very good through a very long movie. It was a fantastic experience to see this magical movie together.



1st Hawthorns Rainbows



We had great fun today making Easter biscuits! We have some budding cake decorators in the making!



This week was the Rainbows' choice. The girls voted for a movie night and enjoyed their fruit cocktails as they watched a movie of their choice.

We 'Coloured our mood' and exploring our feelings by thinking about what makes us feel happy, sad, nervous and confused!



Our teddies went all over the world this week! We made passports, talked about what we would need to pack and then visited the different countries to get a stamp.



1st South Nutfield Rainbows



Our favourite game at 1st South Nutfield Rainbows is 'Hedgehogs'. One girl goes into our kitchen with an adult at the door; the rest run round until they hear '*are there any hedgehogs?*'. At this point, they all get to the floor as a hedgehog and we cover them with a blanket.

The girl in the kitchen comes out to guess who it is. They can ask questions to help. (No touching of the hedgehog/blanket!) A great game for time filling or getting to know each other.



Epsom Division Rainbow Fun Day



A great number of very excited Rainbows took part in the Epsom division Rainbow Fun Day in June! The theme was ladybirds and the Rainbows enjoyed lots of ladybird-related crafts, games and food. Thanks to our division rainbow section adviser, Andrea Vaughan and her team for organising this super event.

7th & 8th Epsom Rainbows



7th & 8th Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbows held a sponsored silence at our campsite to raise funds for Little Acres Lodge . The girls had fun making dotty pictures while they stayed silent for 30 minutes. They were absolutely brilliant and one Rainbow enjoyed it so much that she asked if we could do it again! The support from the parents was magnificent (despite doubts that their daughters could possibly be quiet for that long!) and the 32 Rainbows taking part raised an amazing total of £891.50. The Rainbows are looking forward to holding unit sleepovers at the Lodge!

2nd and 3rd Ashtead Rainbows



At the end of the spring term Ashtead Rainbows were please to present two gold awards. Sophie from 3rd Ashtead Rainbows read us a wonderful poem about her time in rainbows, whilst Nancy from 2nd Ashtead Rainbows managed to earn all 12 interest badges during her time as a rainbow.



6th and 7th Horley, and 1st Burstow Rainbows



6th & 7th Horley and 1st Burstow Rainbows all went off to enjoy what hopefully won't be the last Magic & Mayhem at Blacklands farm.



Burstow Rainbows were particularly adventurous and stayed in the big top, which apparently was enormous fun. It was a swelteringly hot day, but for our first time at Magic & Mayhem, all rainbows and leaders had a fabulous time. According to the rainbows, the highlight was 'everything!'



3rd Ewell Court Rainbows



3rd Ewell Court Rainbows celebrated their first gold award with a gold themed evening. They went on a gold treasure hunt and tried panning for gold! Many congratulations to Penny who is the first rainbow in the unit to gain the gold award – the highest award a rainbow can achieve. Division commissioner Mary Zoeller was invited to the unit meeting to present the award along with unit leaders Andrea and Jane. Well done Penny!



Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbows



Congratulations to Charlotte who recently completed her rainbow gold award! She made a lovely poster showing everything she has done at Rainbows and the whole unit celebrated with cupcakes.

Charlotte has been a brilliant Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbow and we wish her all the best as she continues her guiding journey at brownies.



Faurefold Rainbow Day



On May 20 and 21, we enjoyed perfect weather at Faurefold for the Brownie and Rainbow activity days. There was lots of fun to be had in the woods including willow weaving, mud sculptures, a blindfold trail and campfire cooking, as well as old favourites such as snail racing and bug hunts. Many thanks to all the leaders and volunteers who helped make both days such a great success.



Faurefold Brownie Activity Day



6th Horley Rainbows and 2nd Horley Brownies



After being approached by Youth United Foundation, 6th Horley Rainbows and 2nd Horley Brownies teamed up with Intergenerational Music Making to attend music therapy sessions at the local care home, Wykeham House. There was music making, dancing, singing, balloons, bubbles, a parachute; fun for all ages from 3 to 93! We had so much fun, the units are returning to the care home for a community sports day on 1st July. It's open to all so why not come and join us!



7th Horley Brownies



7th Horley Brownies took part in the Horley Carnival on Saturday 17th June.



7th Horley Brownies also enjoyed completing the 'in a fix' and 'find that tool' UMAs (Unit Meeting Activities) to make hedgehog door stops that are really cute.



Surrey East Brownies SCRAM with the Cub Scouts



2,700 cubs, brownies and their leaders came to Hook Road Arena to celebrate just how brilliant being a cub or brownie is! The triennial event for Surrey cub scouts and brownies was the first time that brownies have been invited to join in. The cubs and brownies had an incredible range of activities to try including a cave bus, metal detecting, pancake making, as well as a high ropes course and many, many more. Some activities were just for fun and other were a real challenge, all supporting the fact that Girlguiding and Scouting helps young people develop skills for life and know they can do anything. Thank you to Surrey Scouts for inviting us!



Leatherhead Division Brownies at SCRAM



For the first time, Leatherhead division brownies had the opportunity to take part in Surrey Scouts triennial event SCRAM: a full-on activity day with well over a hundred activities. Over 60 girls and 16 leaders took part.

For some of our brownies, this followed on from a school sleepover the night before! The start of the day was a little slow for some of us due to the coaches and many cars trying to get into the Hook Road Arena. Once off the coach, the atmosphere took over, excited voices mixed with SCRAM radio and music! It had the feel of a fairground, with bouncy castles, bungee runs, a climbing tower, and zorbing plus activities everywhere you looked. The brownies (and leaders) had a fabulous if tiring day!

SCRAM (Continued)



Bookham & Effingham and Fetcham & Leatherhead districts had three different activities: UV bead bracelets, nail painting in snazzy colours and pipe cleaner animals.

Ashtead district arranged two different activities; origami and poopla (throwing fake poo in dummy toilet seats). Both proved to be very popular with cubs, brownies and leaders. It was a long day, but enormous fun was had by all.



We would like to thank Mary Zoeller (assistant county commissioner) and Jane Luff (county outdoor adviser) for representing Surrey East on the SCRAM committee and also all the leaders who took their brownies to SCRAM and helped on the day.

2nd Leatherhead Brownies



This term, 2nd Leatherhead Brownies had an amazing evening at Leatherhead fire station with Red Watch! We got to use the hose and ride in a fire engine with the sirens on. We also waved to brown owl, snowy owl and our guide helper Abbie when they went up on the big ladder!



4th Stoneleigh Brownies



Jessica aged 10 from 4th Stoneleigh Brownies saw an urgent appeal advertised locally and she decided to help. SOS:SEN Worcester Park has a number of shelves inside its charity shop providing food bank items to those in need. Their stock levels were really low and with half term coming up, more items were urgently needed. Jessica appealed to her brownie unit and local rainbow unit to help and set up a donation day. With the support of APSA Auriol Junior school, families also donated. The response was amazing! Jessica was invited to go and re-stock the empty shelves and help promote the project. Well done Jessica!



9th Epsom Brownies



We are also very proud of Izzy from 9th Epsom Brownies who a few months ago donated 12 inches of her hair to the Princess Trust. Her hair will be used to make wigs for children and adults with cancer. By doing this, Izzy also raised £270 for charity. Well done Izzy!



5th Reigate Brownies



5th Reigate have been working on Skills for the Future and designed a room in a box.



75 girls from Reigate district enjoyed a busy day working on their Space Badge at the Empire Hall, Horley with visitors from the Astronomy Dome in the morning and in the afternoon from Mr NASA where we learnt all about the future of space exploration and tried on real astronaut suits. The guides joined the Sixers and Seconds in the evening for tent pitching, wide game, campfire and Smores.



9th Caterham Brownies



9th Caterham Brownies perfected their chopstick skills with sweets!!



1st Oxted Brownies



As part of her charities badge, one of our Brownies held a Cookie Sale at the end of one of our meetings to raise funds for Cancer Research, the charity she had chosen to support. Well done to Emma, who raised £35! The cookies were delicious.



2nd Woodmansterne Brownies



We have had a busy term. We went away on pack holiday to the Radcliffe Centre in Croydon. For many of the Brownies, this was their first sleepover, so it was a very special weekend. Our theme was journey through Africa, and we slept in dreamy dens.



At our unit, we had a visit from Roo and made wooden animals. We made fishtanks for World Ocean Day and we had a trash fashion and Euro Vision night.



9th Epsom Brownies



We had an outdoor meeting in the June heatwave, with water games and activities.

Our Brownies wanted to finish the meeting with buckets of water being thrown over them!



2nd and 7th Horley Brownies



7th Horley Brownies organised an activity afternoon for World Thinking Day 2023 and invited 2nd Horley Brownies to join them.



Based at Bluewoods campsite in Crawley, the brownies enjoyed activities based around the WAGGGS pack, learnt about a young girl called Miku and followed her on her adventures around the different world centres, exploring environmental issues and helping to create a peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere.



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies made an amazing £166.71 for Cancer Research UK by running a cake sale!

Between them, the brownies decided which charity they wanted to support, what they wanted to do to fundraise, how much to charge and how best to display the cakes and advertise the event. We had an absolutely brilliant evening thanks to these lovely brownies and their fab parents who baked, donated and bought cakes, and to 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Guides who came and bought cakes too!



Congratulations to 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies who won the Wildlife Aid iDot Challenge! This challenge has been created through a collaboration between Wildlife Aid Foundation and Girlguiding to support taking small actions collectively that overall make a big impact on wildlife and the natural environment. Wildlife Aid Foundation is based in Leatherhead and is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured or orphaned animals.

iDot stands for "i Do one thing". The aim is to encourage everyone to do one thing, every day, to help wildlife and protect the environment. Overall, Girlguiding Epsom division recorded a massive 3,802 iDots and have pledged to continue to do as much as possible to protect wildlife and the environment.



The brownies were delighted to welcome Douglas from Wildlife Aid to their unit meeting who presented them with their winners' badges. Thank you to 13th Epsom Brownies unit leader Carla Woodcock for organising this fantastic challenge!



1st Capel Brownies



1st Capel Brownies were the first group to use the new low ropes course at Faurefold, and they loved it!



1st Hawthorns Brownies



Making Brownie Beads



Tie dying



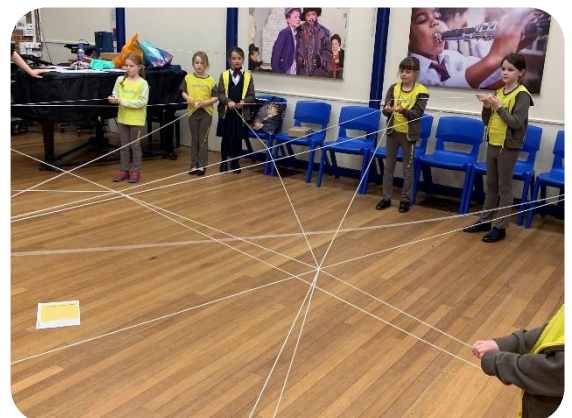
Experimenting with turning something that's 2D into 3D, making crafty pop cards for someone special.



We made adorable DIY Chinese lanterns to celebrate the "year of the rabbit"



Testing our acting skills, we worked in teams to create mime plays focused on the brownie law and promise.



Our World Thinking Day session was split into 3 sections: "without balance, without peace", "settlers for peace" and "create your own butterfly feeder". The girls created a complex cobweb using yarn to illustrate the connection of humans and animals in one ecosystem.

9th Caterham Brownies



We are a very small unit with only 12 girls, but we pack in lots of fun!! Just before Easter, we had a special visitor who delivered an Easter bunny chocolate gift to every brownie. He was very well behaved and the girls loved him. It seems that Buster could be a regular visitor in the future!



5th Dorking Brownies



In the spring, 5th Dorking (URC) Brownies had a wonderful talk about looking after birds, from Ray, an RSPB member. He showed us pictures of birds we might see in the garden, explained how to make fat balls and encouraged us to sign up to the Big Garden Birdwatch, which a number of the brownies and leaders did. We finished the fun evening by making birds out of roll out icing.

Ray then met us a few months later at Faurefold, the local Guiding holiday house and campsite, and took us on a fascinating and fun bird watching walk in the local countryside. We now know so much more about birds and are very grateful to Ray for his time and expertise.



1st Ashtead Brownies

1st Ashtead Brownies have taken advantage of the warm weather and longer light days by arranging a number of outdoor meetings this summer term.

Our new starters made their promise on the bridge in Ashtead Common and had fun celebrating their promise ceremony.



As a unit, we turned the generous donation from the Ashtead garden nursery into a good deed: the brownies donated their plant pots to our neighbours and soon got recognition on the Ashtead parents Facebook page.

Lastly, our end of the term party is being held at the Barnett Wood swimming pool.

Many thanks to the Rainbow Garden Nurseries in Ashtead for welcoming the unit to their garden centre and showing us around the bee hives, fish pond, and chicken coop. They also showed the girls how to pot and look after a plant.



What a lovely surprise from the Brownies this evening thank you so much what a thoughtful thing to do



Just had a lovely surprise from ashtead brownies doing a good turn today! Made my evening. Thank you



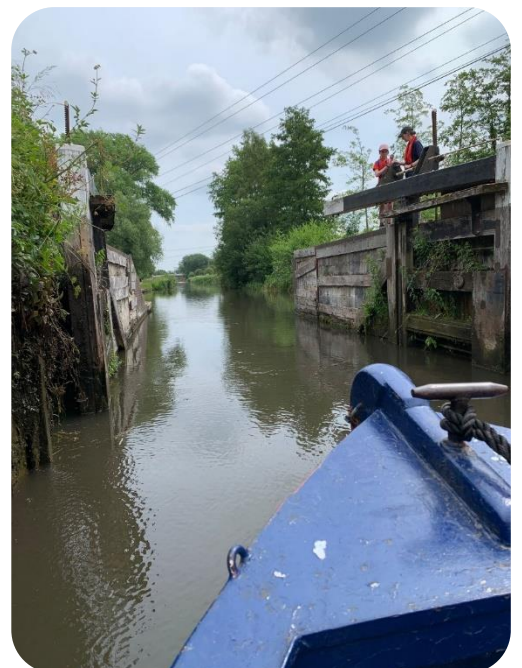
2nd Dorking Guides



In June, 2nd Dorking Guides took to the water for a narrow boating weekend on the Falcon Adam. After a night of getting to know the boat, we travelled from Aldermaston to Newbury on Saturday learning how to operate locks and swing bridges, steer the boat and observe the nature along the canal route. On Saturday evening, we enjoyed some time in Newbury (I think Poundland were happy to see us!) and enjoyed a delicious meal on board the boat.



On Sunday, after a bacon sandwich, we were back on the water making crafts including Nordic gnomes and knot keyrings. The Guides had a lovely (if a bit hot and sweaty) time and a huge thanks to our fearless skipper Jan, our trip saviour Lesley and QM extraordinaire, Jo!



3rd Oxted Guides



Congratulations to Victoria on completing her gold award!

This is the highest award guides can complete, requiring them to complete all 6 theme awards. Victoria has worked incredibly hard to complete all the elements and is the first not only from our unit, but also from the other local Guide units in Oxted district to achieve it.



As well as Victoria's gold award, we have presented 4 bronze awards and 2 silver awards.

For our Easter canal trip, we travelled down to Stratford upon Avon. Under supervision, a number of our older girls are becoming very competent at steering.

Whilst in Stratford, we visited the butterfly farm.



10th Redhill Guides



10th Redhill Guides have been 'Taking Action' and identified two needs for our town after having been on a litter pick in the large car park opposite our meeting place. During Covid restrictions, the guides met in the space next to the car park and noticed a lot of litter around. They decided that they would do a litter pick to make the area look better. The rubbish collected amounted to eight large bags and a tyre (as well as some shopping trolleys which were returned to the shop), and it was all picked up by the council the following day.



After this, they thought there should be more litter bins around the town and also that there needed to be some public toilets (the ones in the Memorial Park had shut when the kiosk closed). After doing activities for Parliament Week, the guides took the opportunity to have their voices heard by speaking to the mayor when he visited the unit to present one of our leaders, Emily Rayner, with her very well-deserved Young Volunteer Award. Emily has volunteered for several years with rainbows, brownies and guides and still re-joins the units again on her return home for breaks from her university course. The guides voiced their concerns to the mayor regarding the toilets and litter picking and he invited them to attend a council meeting to ask their questions publicly, which they did.



The guides also gained support from a wider group by raising petitions for each cause. They got their schools and their girlguiding district involved.

The guides attended the council meeting and asked for more litter bins. They were told that the council are putting new bins in place that power generated from solar panels that will compress the rubbish so that they can contain more litter. They also asked for public toilets to be open 24 hours a day so that the lorry drivers and homeless would have access. The council advised that although they could not manage 24-hour toilets, the toilets in the park would be open for the Easter holidays. The girls are definitely well on their way to earning their campaigning badge!



Fetcham Guides



Last term, Fetcham Guides had a fantastic evening reaching new heights on all these fun obstacles in Esher!



4th Bookham Guides



4th Bookham Guides went to White Spider Climbing in Tolworth. We have also been tie-dying, litter picking, to the theatre and cooking Easter cheesecakes.



1st Chaldon Guides



1st Chaldon Guides had a fun night of experiments! We started the evening with leader led experiments and then let the guides loose with 'ingredients' to make their own concoctions! One group made rather nice smelling lemon play dough from flour, oil and lemons!



A huge well done to Mia and Emily from 1st Chaldon Guides who have completed their young leader qualification and we're presented with their certificates and badges at guides by our division commissioner Sue Corrance. A great achievement...we're super proud of them!



1st Chaldon Guides junk marble run fun! All made from our recycling boxes at home and recyclable sellotape!



1st Chaldon Guides had an amazing time rock climbing at Blackland Farm! A chilly evening ended with a warm hot chocolate to defrost everyone's fingers!

1st Fetcham Guides



1st Fetcham Guides made the most of a warm light evening by playing the treasure hunters UMA (Unit Meeting Activity).



7th Horley Guides



7th Horley Guides have been busy – we enjoyed a walk to Gatwick to try out the AdventureLab geocaching app and went swimming at Blackland Farm. The guides tried manufacturing and selling coasters to the leaders in a fun trading activity.

For the coronation, we did litter picking around Horley. Afterwards, as a reward for all the hard work and rubbish collected, we made scones and jam.



1st Effingham Guides Celebrate 50 Years



On May 28th, 1st Effingham Guides celebrated their fifty year anniversary at Walton Firs, Cobham. The event began with a district campfire with the Bookham Guides – everyone sang 'happy birthday' and enjoyed sparklers and marshmallows. We then enjoyed a sleepover in the site's wooden camping pods and threw themselves into conquering the adventure course the following morning. Everyone worked hard to prepare for the celebration: decorating Richard's Barn and preparing a delicious buffet lunch. Jessica King, a current guide and keen baker, had made a beautiful cake which was the centrepiece of the celebration.



They were joined by Anne Parker who opened the existing guide unit in 1973, past leaders Clare Mahony and Caroline Ford, Queen's Guides from the 70's and 80's, and county commissioner, Beverly Heywood-Jones. Five new members made their guide promise and everyone enjoyed Jessica's delicious cake. The unit also enjoyed looking at the photo archives and designed a special anniversary badge.



Anne Parker commented "It was lovely to see the guides in action and to meet up with old friends". Lis Stanford later wrote "Caroline I were honoured to be invited [...]. We were at the very first meeting, [...] I dug out my badges and uniform for the occasion.

Bookham Rangers

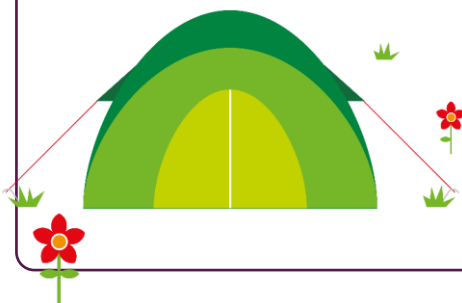


Bookham Rangers meet every Thursday evening from 8-10pm in Bookham Scout Hut alongside 1st Bookham Explorer Scouts as a mixed unit. For our spring term, we kicked off with an evening of Wii games and some sushi making, before hosting our annual open evening where our committee shared what we have been up to in the last year. We then spent an evening swimming at Coral Reef. We were incredibly grateful to vicar Alan Jenkins who came along to chat to us about his work and answer all and every question we had about faith and religion. Thank you Alan!



Our Easter Camp this year took us to the Mendip Hills, camping near Cheddar Gorge where we enjoyed an overnight hike, a caving adventure, and an escape room at a local prison! Other highlights of the term include a casino evening, cooking pancakes and a visit to watch the Howard musical of the Wizard of Oz. In the run up to summer, we are pleased to host outdoor cooking, water games, a campfire at Faurefold, and volunteering with conservation on Bookham Common.

Our summer camp this year will be in Pembrokeshire, where we plan to surf, go coasteering, enjoy go-karting and our usual four-day hiking expedition! We are always welcoming new members, if you are interested in joining, please contact Christina Jones and Kate Roberts on bookhamrangers@outlook.com



Little Acres Lodge

We are absolutely delighted to announce that the lodge at Little Acres campsite in Epsom is now open!



After over 10 years of fundraising raising over £280,000, the stunning lodge 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.

If you would like to book the campsite please email: littleacresepsom@gmail.com or visit our website at www.girlguidingepsom.org.uk/little-acres/

World Thinking Day Epsom Racecourse



Nearly 300 rainbows, brownies, guides and rangers enjoyed a fantastic sleepover at Epsom Racecourse celebrating World Thinking Day 2023, a day when all girl guides and girl scouts around the world think about each other. Epsom division girlguiding enjoyed a disco run by DJ Spoon, a yoga session from Yoganory, an early start to see the sun rise over Epsom Downs and remade their Guiding promise. Thank you to the 50+ adult leaders who made this happen, making amazing and happy memories for these lucky children.



House of Commons Volunteer Celebration

Leaders from Girlguiding Epsom division were delighted to be invited to a drinks reception held on the terrace of the House of Commons to thank volunteers from lots of incredible local charities working in the borough of Epsom & Ewell.

27 leaders from Epsom joined representatives from a number of other great local organisations, including Epsom Rotary, Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Ewell Changemakers, Age Concern Epsom and many more. Thank you to The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP for inviting us. We had a wonderful evening!



40 Year Long Service Award

Val Hickmott was awarded her 40 year Long Service Award by Margaret King. During her time in girlguiding, Val has been a division commissioner, brownie Leader and brownie Advisor. She has also helped at the Lord Mayor's Show and was on the committee to organise the fundraising to rebuild Faurefold.



Monopoly Run Live



In March, a group of leaders from Epsom division took part in Monopoly Run Live, a monopoly themed event for scouting and girlguiding using the real streets of London as the game board. The main aim of the day was to visit as many properties as possible with extra challenges to earn extra "money". Teams used an app to log the places they had visited. 8,000 participants including the Epsom division team participated in this event and had a brilliant day.



Epsom Division

Local Ukrainian families had a great time today at a fantastic party organised by Epsom Rotary Club. 2nd Stoneleigh Guides and Epsom division leaders helped out by running activities like glitter tattoos, enamelling necklaces, scratch art, henna and much more which the children loved! Well done and thank you Michelle Hall for arranging for us to take part.



Epsom Division Awards

Huge congratulations to Jill Popham unit leader at 7th & 8th Epsom Rainbows who has been given her 30 year long service award in June! Jill has held many roles during the past 30 years including division and district commissioner, brownie leader, adviser and has also been a hugely inspirational mentor to many of us. Thank you for your commitment Jill and well done on this incredible achievement!

More congratulations go to a number of other Epsom division girlguiding leaders who were awarded at the World Thinking Day celebrations.

Louise Beadle and Alison Kearn of 2nd Stoneleigh Rainbows have worked incredibly hard and are now qualified leaders. Beverly Heywood-Jones, Surrey East county commissioner awarded them with their adult leadership qualifications.

Margaret Seppings was awarded her 5 year long service award, Rachel King gained her 20 year long service award and Ali Thoburn was given her 30 year long service award all by Beverly.

We are incredibly grateful to all our leaders who devote their time and energy to units in Epsom and we congratulate these amazing ladies in particular on their achievements!



Surrey East Trefoil

2023 is Trefoil's 80th Anniversary, so at our annual review in March we celebrated with a lunch prior to the meeting and ended with tea and birthday cake.

In addition to reports from Beverly Heywood-Jones on guiding in Surrey East and Janice Posner on Surrey East trefoil over the last year, we listened to a speaker, Ken Bare, from Surrey Hills Society on the theme of 'little acorns to giant oaks'.



A group of members from our county walking group recently went to the Centenary Wood by Epsom Downs for an enjoyable walk.

We will be joining with other Trefoil members from LaSER on Sat 1st July in 'Seeing Red' either on the Kent & south coast or along the Thames to celebrate the 80th anniversary.

The next County Newsletter will be published on Friday 5th January 2024.

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is Friday 15th December.

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

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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/>

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