



County Update November 2024



Welcome from the County Commissioner

I recently attended the national conference 'Leading Together' in Manchester. With over 200 participants, it included senior Girlguiding head office staff and county commissioners from across the UK. In addition to important insight into the strategy review and plans for the future, we also spent time face to face learning, sharing ideas and experiences with like-minded friends.

We were delighted to be able to represent Guiding at the Lord Mayors' show and thanks to Nicky, Sonia, Kate and Mary for creating such an amazing walking float to take part with over 40 Guides and Rangers/young leaders from across the county. Next year Surrey East will be leading the feeding station for this event, so watch out for the opportunity to sign up for this in the new year.

Congratulations to Iris Aryeetey from Epsom Rangers who has now been officially appointed Lord Lieutenants' cadet for the next 12 months. We wish her all the best in her new role.

As we progress through the Autumn term with the darker evenings, its fun to see the range of activities that our units are doing – falling leaves, poppies and of course all the festive activities. Enjoy the rest of the term!

My thanks to every volunteer who supports Guiding in Surrey East. A massive thank you for all you do as a volunteer in girlguiding Surrey East – we can't do guiding without you.

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



Safe space? If any of your safe space modules 1, 2 or 3 is due to expire before 31st May 2025, it is strongly recommended that you go into the learning platform and renew the module(s) before 3rd December 2024, when they will be replaced by safer practice.

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development If you are doing the leader development programme and would like to meet others and do your training face to face, please sign up to our Leadership Development day on 2nd March 2025 – [book your place here](#).



First Response

If your first response is expiring soon, please book yourself onto the next available course:

Full course – 9am to 4pm on 26 January 2025 at Empire Hall Horley. [First Response one day full course | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

To attend a course, please register your interest by emailing surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com.

Safe Space modules/Safer Guiding :

Safe Space modules 1,2,3 is being replaced with 'Safer Guiding'. This new 3-hour e-learning covers data protection, safeguarding, inclusion and health and safety in one and will be available via the learning platform from 4th December.

It's important for you to continue to renew your current safe space levels if you have received a reminder to do so before this date. Your renewal date will be extended by 3 years and whatever is your highest level will become the renewal date for Safer Guiding. Thereafter all girl-facing roles will be required to do the Safer Guiding e-learning and there will be a safer guiding basics course for all those who don't have contact with girls, for example an ID verifier.

Did you know?

Trustees

In Guiding we are all trustees of our units and follow the guiding code of conduct and supporting policies to ensure we are compliant with charity law. Some of you are also trustees of a guiding charity (typically where the local area owns or leases property). In this case, are you have responsibilities to the charity commission and to girlguiding. Are you up to date?

Test yourself in the <https://charity-commission.involve.me/trusteequiz>.

Annual subscriptions

For 2025, the [annual subscriptions](#) due on **18 February 2025** per member will be £33 for CHQ, £11.25 for Region and £1.75 for County plus any levy set by your Division/District. Please ensure you budget to pay this by the deadline. If you think your unit will struggle to pay this, please contact your commissioner or me directly via surreyeastcc@btinternet.com.

Commissioners only

All commissioners are required to complete [Safe space 4 training](#), however it is no longer necessary to renew this, unless you would like to do so for your own knowledge.

Leadership Development day

Are you a commissioner, adviser, co-ordinator or county role holder?

Are you interested in getting involved in Guiding beyond the unit in a leadership role? Leading volunteers?

Are you interested in becoming a commissioner and would like to meet others who do the role and understand more about what the role involves?

Please register to our Leadership development day to be held at Empire Hall on Sunday 22nd March 2025.

Volunteering Opportunities

County LQ Mentors

We have a few leaders in training who need mentors. If you are interested in becoming a mentor to support new leaders, whether this is for one or more sections, please do contact Janet Coninx

lqsurreyeast@gmail.com to find out more.

Bazzaz 2025

Fun and Adventures for Rainbows and Beavers!



The triennial activity day for Surrey Beaver Scouts and Rainbows will be held at Merrist Wood on the Saturday 14th June 2025.

If your unit has been before, you will know what good things are in store! If you are new to Girlguiding or have never been, prepare to be amazed! It really is a day to remember. We ask all units to bring an activity so there are loads for the Rainbows and Beavers to choose from so even if you don't volunteer with a Rainbow unit please do offer your support to the Rainbow leaders, they will be delighted and very grateful and you'll have a great day!

The deadline for units to signup to this event is 31st January 2025.

Register here - <https://www.surrey-scouts.org.uk/events/bazzaz>

County Newsletter

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion in our next county newsletter is Friday 13th December. We welcome all contributions from units, districts, divisions, or county – please email them to newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com.



Musicals 2025 will be held on **Saturday 29th March 2025** at **Leatherhead Theatre**.

All units should now have received the information packs for Leaders and Parents. Please encourage your girls to take part—we would love a range of individual and group acts.

The deadline for submitting ideas has been extended to the end of term.

All cast rehearsals are on the afternoons of: **Sunday 19th January 2025 1pm–5pm**
Sunday 9th February 2025
Sunday 23rd March 2025

If you would like any more information or have any questions, please contact your Division Rep (see below)

Godstone – Julia Bennett – cjbennett7542@gmail.com

Leatherhead – Sarita Amin sarita173@yahoo.com

Reigate – Karen Shepherd 7thRedhillbrownies@gmail.com

Leith Hill – Amelia Hulbert amelia.brockham.rainbows@gmail.com

Epsom – Elaine Edwards eledwards@talktalk.net

Downs Heath – no representative at present – please contact any member of the committee.

Other Committee members: Mandy Elliott, Hannah Chandler, Catherine Nicholson.

If you would like to advertise a company/ business in the programme, please get in touch.

Please email: musigalsinfo@gmail.com

[Musicals 2025 | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

Want to join? If you are reading this and are not a volunteer – please do [signup here](#) and join us. You don't need to have been involved in guiding before or have loads of time to make a big difference. Whatever your skills and interests, whether it's volunteering with girls directly or supporting behind the scenes, there's a role to suit you.