



## County Update December 2024



### Welcome from the County Commissioner



It's has been great to see the fun that units have enjoyed in the build up to the festive break. Singing in care homes, random acts of kindness, charity fundraising, supporting the Foodbank – showing the commitment to your Guiding promise actively in the community. Its also fun to see units celebrating together, adapting activities to have a festive feel – upcycling badges to make guiding tree decorations, Christmas craft, cake decorating and gingerbread houses – plus end of term parties.

You will see that the county team will be hosting some 'coffee and chat' time next term which will give all volunteers the opportunity to drop in and share what's working for you and things we need to focus on. They're all around the county and on different days of the week, so hopefully there will be one to suit you. It would be great to see you.

You will also see the recent launch of safer guiding, which is aimed to help volunteers by being simpler, clearer, and easier to know what is needed. Please be patient as the changes settle, and if you are reminded to renew, please action it soon after so that you remain compliant and up to date.

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



### Sad News

We are very sad to share that Avril Crane (Hancox) passed away this week after a short illness. She held many roles in Epsom Division and many people in the county knew her. Avril was a well-loved friend, fellow leader, and mentor to many of us in Epsom Division. She was DC for Stoneleigh, Epsom Division Commissioner, County Secretary as well as running her beloved 5th Stoneleigh Brownie unit. When Avril moved to Littlehampton with her husband Phil, she missed Guiding and started helping at a local unit. She was a great asset to them with all her wisdom and knowledge. Avril will be greatly missed by us all, but we have wonderful memories of her to cherish.

## Surrey East county 'coffee and chat'

I have two years of my tenure as county commissioner remaining and I would like to provide the opportunity for me and the county team to hear more about your experiences of guiding in Surrey East and any ideas and suggestions for the future, by simply getting together at a coffee and chat drop-in.

To make this accessible to all, we will hold face-to-face coffee and chats around the county. You don't need to register, just drop in to one of our events. All members are invited, and this is an informal drop-in where uniform is optional. Everyone who attends will receive a badge.

The dates are as follows:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at Bookham Guide hall, Durlleston Park Dr, Great Bookham, KT23 7.15 to 9.15pm

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at Oxted Guide hut, Limpsfield RH8 0EW 7.30 to 9.15pm

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at Empire Hall, Victoria Road, Horley RH6 7AW 9.30am to 12pm

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at Banstead HQ, The Drive, Banstead SM7 1DA 7.15 to 9.15pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February – virtual via [zoom](#), 8pm to 9pm

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February at Little Acres, Horton Lane, Epsom Surrey KT19 8PT 6pm to 9pm

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March Faurefold, Lince Lane, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3LX 11am to 1pm

We value all feedback we received, so we will soon also share a form for you to provide your input too.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com).

### **Safer Guiding:**

This new 3-hour e-learning covers data protection, safeguarding, inclusion and health and safety in one. It's divided into topics and is designed for you to dip in and out of. For those that prefer a trainer-led session, there will be webinar or face-to-face options available for you to book on the learning platform. You don't need to do the training until your highest level of a safe space is due to expire but you're welcome to complete it at any time before then if you wish.

Safer guiding basics is a shorter course specifically for a limited number of volunteers who do not work directly with girls.