

County Newsletter

 **Girlguiding**
Surrey East county

Autumn/Winter 2024



Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of our Surrey East county newsletter and thank you to everyone who contributed to it.

As county commissioner, this provides a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the past six months and all that we have achieved together. I am so proud to be a part of Girlguiding and to lead Surrey East – you are all simply amazing!

We have had some incredible county events this term with Brownie Revels, the Young Leader weekend and the Leaders' weekend. All credit goes to those who volunteered to organise these events and you will see what fun was had by all. These events bring us together and give everyone the opportunity to meet new friends and experience more of what guiding has to offer.

Our walking float in the Lord Mayor's Show showcased Guiding. Not only was it an amazing experience for all those who took part, we also got great coverage on the BBC. Congratulations to you if you have completed the leader development programme. I hope you enjoy being a leader. We would love to have a few more mentors supporting new leaders, so please do consider this.

I'm particularly impressed by the pictures this time which really do capture the essence of what we do in our meetings, events and residentials. It's lovely to read some of the comments from girls in the articles and how important being a member is to them too.

Congratulations to all our award winners. Particularly to Alexia and Kayla who were recognised at Guiding Celebrates and to our young members who received gold, silver and bronze awards. Also congratulations to those who received long service awards particularly Bernie who celebrated 40 years.

On 26th April we have our county celebration and training day at Horley Baptist Church. It would be great to see you there to enjoy spending some time together. Also please come along to our Coffee and Chats we are holding this term – an informal drop-in to get volunteers together, share your thoughts about guiding in Surrey East and chat with some of the county team.

My thanks to Alexia, our newsletter coordinator who has done an awesome job, yet again.



Enjoy the spring and summer terms and hope you have lots of lovely stories to share in our next edition.

To become a volunteer with us, simply select the Register now button and enter your details and we will contact you to find a role to suit you.

Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East county
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Leader Development Programme

We have had a busy 2024. A **BIG** thank you to all our mentors who have helped leaders complete their training.

Have you completed the new scheme and want to help other leaders complete their training? Please get in touch we are always looking for new mentors. A mentor is a supportive leader for those in training who carries out five check-ins (one for each of the modules and then a final check-in). Could this be you?

Congratulations to those leaders who have completed the leadership scheme since the last newsletter:

Cara Byford	1st Bookham Rainbows
Vicky Thornton	1st Hawthorns Brownies
Rachel Avery	4th Reigate Brownies
Demi Hull	2nd Woodmansterne Brownies

If you are a leader in training and looking to complete the mandated webinars, there is a one-day training session on the 2nd March at Little Acres Epsom. Remember you can sign up to e-learning for any area via the learning portal. If you have any queries about your training then please get in touch: lqsurreyeast@gmail.com



Smarty Owl completed all the training and is now officially a Brownie leader at 1st Merstham Brownies.



Lord Mayor's Show

The Lord Mayor's Show is the oldest and longest civic procession in the world. This year, nearly 50 Surrey East Guides, Rangers, young leaders and leaders were lucky enough to be chosen to take part representing Girlguiding!



The spectacular walking float themed around a traditional Girlguiding campfire was created by event lead Nicky Naughton and got a lot of attention and positive comments. The participants were cheered on all the way round and were particularly delighted to see lots of Girlguiding groups there who joined in with the campfire singing.

The vibrant float was featured on the BBC1 coverage of the event and thanks go to the organising team Nicky, Sonia, Kate and Mary and Bev and Mark for supporting them.



Fiona and Jo, from Merstham District, were very happy to represent Surrey East at the Lord Mayor's Show's feeding station. This is where thousands of picnic lunches for the various participants get bagged up in the right combinations and numbers. We were shadowing Sussex West county this year in readiness for it being Surrey East's role next year on Saturday 8th November 2025. It's a great event to be part of, but please note you will need to be fit and able to lift heavy boxes. Be prepared to stand outside in potentially wet and cold weather from early in the morning until after lunch (six or more hours). So you'll also need a great sense of humour! If you'd like to help please email Fiona Exley on: Smartie.Owl.Exley@gmail.com

Remembrance Day



9th Caterham Brownies decorated pebbles for Remembrance Sunday. It was a relaxing evening after a busy day at work for the leaders, and everyone left with a smile on their face.



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) leaders helped to sell poppies for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Bourne Hall, Ewell.



Lingfield Guides decorated cakes for remembrance.

Remembrance Day



3rd Merstham Rainbows took part in our community act of remembrance



6th Merstham Guides at All Saints remembrance parade



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Fetcham after their remembrance service



1st Chaldon Guides ready for their remembrance parade



9th Caterham Brownies. My young leader did a superb job while I was at another church watching my son in the Air Cadets



Representing Ashted District at the remembrance parade

Remembrance Day



5th Dorking Guides ready for the parade



Brownie and Guide flag bearers at St Marys Church Ewell Village representing Epsom Division



Effingham Guides and Brownies joined Scouts and Cubs at St Lawrence Church in Effingham for the remembrance parade and service to honour those that gave their lives for our peace



Wreath laying, 5th Dorking Guides



1st and 3rd Ashted Rainbows



Chaldon and Caterham Guides raising money for The Poppy Appeal



7th Bookham Brownies made poppies out of pipe cleaners



3rd Merstham Rainbows

Ewell Yule

Epsom leaders braved the rain to join Ewell Rotary collecting for local charities. They also accompanied Epsom Rotary's Tilly the Train who led the way as Father Christmas and his elves walked the streets raising money. Another great way for Girlguiding to work together with other organisations raising our profile and helping the local community.



Epsom Leaders also helped at the annual Ewell Yule event in Ewell Village, manning the first aid/lost children tent and also the lolliland and 'guess the name of the gorgeous Brownie' stall. They were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom and Ewell as well as local MP Helen Maguire to their stall!

Moana 2

Girlguiding has been collaborating with ODEON to offer special screenings of films featuring strong female leads, providing memorable experiences for members across the UK.

Ashtead district's Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enjoyed watching "Moana 2" at the ODEON Epsom.



1st Ashtead Brownies



Merstham district sailed away to Motunui with Moana 2. Just over 100 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides took over a screen in The Light, Redhill.

Caterham Valley District Camp



In July, Caterham Valley District held a weekend camp at Paxwood Lodge, Kent. We camped on the woodland campsite, and we were incredibly lucky with the dry weather all weekend! For a lot of the girls, this was their first time camping.



During the weekend, the girls enjoyed taking part in a variety of different activities including trampolining, going on the zip wire, playing in the adventure playground, orienteering, nature trail and taking part in nature themed activities in Nina's Activity Hut. On the Saturday, the Rainbows came to visit for the day, and the girls enjoyed doing some pond dipping and crafts. On Saturday night the girls really enjoyed the campfire, singing a variety of campfire songs and toasting marshmallows over the fire, and making 'smores.

Epsom Mural

The amazing mural in Epsom town centre that members of Girlguiding Epsom division worked on recently has now been completed. The team worked with street artists Positive Arts to revitalise a tired walkway with a community mural depicting significant women from Epsom and Ewell's cultural and historic past. They even included a Girlguiding trefoil in the design!



GirlGuiding Star

Poppy of 10th Epsom Rainbows was awarded the Girlguiding Surrey East Guiding Star badge recently. Poppy was very brave and calm when a family emergency occurred and she had to raise the alarm and get help to call an ambulance in the middle of the night. Well done Poppy, everyone is very proud of you!



Merstham District

A group of Brownies and Guides from Merstham district were invited to the KSS Air Ambulance base at Redhill Aerodrome to learn about what they do and for the launch of the new region 'mission pack' and badge.



Awards



Congratulations to all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in Surrey East who have achieved their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards this year! Here are some highlights of girls who have put lots of hard work into completing these awards.



A big well done to Emily of 1st Ashted Rainbows who worked so hard over the past two years, not only did she earn all 12 interest badges but she was also presented with her Rainbow Gold Award at her last Rainbow session!



10th Redhill Brownies recently had six girls complete their Gold award. These girls have enjoyed so many activities and adventures, during their three years at Brownies. For the final elements of their gold award, they ran a variety of activities: making armpit fudge, hot chocolate cones, mini piñata, origami bookmarks and learning a dance routine, 'Strictly' style! They have already enjoyed a fantastic trial evening at 10th Redhill Guides where they rainbow dipped candles and carried out rainbow experiments. They are all looking forward to the next stage of their Girlguiding adventure.

Awards



Congratulations to Annabel of 4th Stoneleigh Brownies for achieving the highest award in Brownies. She's also an exceptional baker too according to her unit leaders!

What a talented Brownie - well done Annabel!



Congratulations to three girls from 3rd Oxted Guides, Erin, Holly and Amber for achieving their gold award! Well done girls!



8th Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbows celebrated the completion of two Gold awards this evening. Congratulations to Willow and Isla who both did lovely presentations telling us about their Rainbow journey and shared the things they are looking forward to when they go to Brownies.



Our first 3 Guide Gold Awards at 6th Merstham Guides:
They all joined the term before we all went into lockdown, they have experienced regular guide meetings, online and socially distanced meetings outside freezing cold! All 3 have embraced all the challenges Guides have given them over the last 4 years and are looking forward to Rangers after Christmas. Well done girls!

Awards



Four Brownies from 2nd Caterham Brownies received their Gold Award. They have all worked really hard. These are the first Brownies in our district to receive Gold Awards. Nicola Edwards district commissioner for Caterham Valley District, came to the unit meeting to present the awards to the girls.



On Friday 6th December, two 7th Caterham (St John) Guides were presented with their Silver Award, the first Guides to achieve this in our unit. They are just one Skills Builder and their Outdoor Challenge away from completing their Gold Award when we will have a big celebration.



1st Fetcham Guides gave out their first ever silver award.



2nd Fetcham Rainbows have been pleased and very proud to give out Bronze and Silver awards this term. All the Rainbows have worked hard for their badges.

Rainbows



2nd Fetcham Rainbows



On Saturday, despite the weather and having completed the necessary risk assessment, we braved it to visit Santa at the Leatherhead miniature railway.

We had a great morning, splashing in puddles, going on train rides, visiting Santa's grotto to collect presents and see the elves, and having hot chocolate and marshmallows.

The girls all were very happy, a lot of laughter and great fun!



Oxted Rainbows



Oxted Rainbows had fun in the autumn leaves.



3rd Ewell Court St Clements Rainbows



Fairy Doors

Over the last six months, we have done many activities. Here's some of the highlights:

- Meeting at Little Acres Campsite to make natural confetti wands
- Fun at the campsite with an animal theme and songs around the campfire



Decorating our
Christmas gift bags



1st and 3rd Ashtead Rainbows



This term 1st and 3rd Ashtead Rainbows have enjoyed working toward the Skills for my Future theme. You can see some of the amazing creations the girls brought in for the construction badge task. We painted pebbles for Remembrance Sunday and laid them at the memorial. We made some tea-rific jam tarts for our enrolments of 10 new Rainbows. We ended the term watching Moana 2 with Ashtead district Brownies and Guides, and we said goodbye to five Rainbows who will hopefully move up to Brownies to continue their Girlguiding journey very soon.



7th and 8th Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbows



7th and 8th Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbows had another super sleepover at Little Acres Lodge last weekend. They completed lots of crafts and activities, and also managed to get outside to enjoy the campsite in between the rainstorms! We had a lovely time: the girls worked together really well and the leaders even managed to get to bed before midnight this time!



3rd and 6th Merstham Rainbows



3rd and 6th Merstham Rainbows enjoyed a wonderful fun day at Jordan Heights Scout camp on Reigate Hill. The girls had a great time on the assault course, had a go at (plastic!) axe throwing, learnt how to light fires and made some lovely autumn crafts. We ended the day in true Girlguiding style with campfire singing and 'smores!

3rd Merstham Rainbows took part in the local remembrance parade where we were very proud to use our new flag for the first time. We were made very welcome by both the Scouts and the church and it was a really special community event. The girls created wonderful poppy fields canvasses, enjoying the finger painting and listened to the WWII stories of women at war.



1st Chaldon Rainbows



1st Chaldon Rainbows have been looking at recycling and reusing materials. They used glass jars and made pumpkin lanterns.



Brownies



Brownie Revels 2024



In September, almost 700 Brownies from across Surrey East attended a brand new, day-long event at Walton Firs Activity Centre in Cobham.

'Brownie Revels 2024' offered the girls a huge variety of activities such as climbing wall, caving, crate stacking, archery, high ropes, adventure course, maze, skittle alley, bouldering, night line, bridge building, STEM activities, crafts and giant games.

'I liked spending time with my friends'

'Crate stacking was great'



Brownie Revels 2024



Everyone who came was given a special badge, exclusive to the event, and went away with a variety of crafts they had made.

One of the event organisers Mary Zoeller said: "The Revels organising team are immensely grateful to over 100 Girlguiding volunteers who came to help run this event, whether it was bringing their Brownies, helping on one of the numerous activities, running a craft making area or manning the first aid hub. Brownie Revels is a traditional name going back years to describe occasions when Brownies get together with girls from other units for games, activities and fun. Our Brownie Revels certainly lived up to its name!"



A huge thank you to Roo Harmer, Wendy Amer, George Ede, Christine Moss, Rosemarie Belcher and Mary Zoeller for putting together and running such an amazing event.



Christmas Party



60 Rainbows and Brownies from the Tri-District (South Godstone, Oxted, Lingfield and Hurst Green) enjoyed a fantastic Christmas party to celebrate the end of the term on a very wet and windy weekend.



10th Redhill Brownies



10th Redhill Brownies enjoyed a wonderful Christmas themed Brownie Holiday at Blackland Farm in November. We took advantage of Blackland's winter offer and the girls enjoyed doing four different adventurous activities during the weekend: archery, nightlining, abseiling and crate stacking. We had a lovely Christmas dinner, crackers and pigs in blankets galore! The girls made mincemeat swirls for pudding which were very popular. We had an indoor cosy campfire and a gorgeous autumn walk in the sunshine on Sunday. We really loved being back at Blacklands and all of the instructors were great.

5th Reigate Brownies



We started off the term at Revels which the girls loved – even the blue tongues!

We had a great term refreshing our first aid, having Pilot Chan from Easyjet talk to us about flight and making rockets, and loved painting our pumpkin and raven bags.



We finished the term on HMS Belfast where we had tea in the Stoker's Cafe, had a morse code session and learnt all about life on board. The next day, we had a learning session from our hosts and then went for lunch at Pizza Express.



5th Reigate Brownies



We then visited the Open Wounds exhibition at the Tate Modern and learnt about abstract art. The lone visitor sitting on the bench enjoyed listening to the girls' chatter and stayed for the session! We have lots of ideas for our next artistic project.



6th Merstham Brownies



6th Merstham Brownies made winter pots with spring bulbs and flowers with Growing Redhill.



1st Ashtead Brownies



The excitement was in the air as the Brownies embarked on their much-anticipated first sleepover since lockdown, themed "I'm a Brownie, Get Me Out of Here!"

The sleepover was packed with activities – whether it was working together to complete scavenger hunts, creating art from nature, or simply enjoying marshmallows and singing songs around the campfire. The girls shared laughter, built friendships, and created memories they will treasure forever.

The highlight of the camp was the "Bush Tucker Trial" where the girls bravely tasted quirky (but delicious!) snacks, conquering their fears in true Brownie style.

Woodmansterne Brownies



The Brownies did a reverse Christmas calendar over a period of six weeks and brought in donations for the local food bank. They collected lots of donations, including cans of soup, shower gels and tubs of hot chocolate which all went to the Pantry in Banstead.



We also had seven girls gain their Silver awards, six Bronze awards and two Gold – the girls for their gold challenge ran an evening on teaching the other Brownies art techniques and shading – results were amazing!

Stoneleigh Brownies



Stoneleigh Brownies had an amazing adventure to the Paddington Experience in London. They tried marmalade sandwiches too!



1st Fetcham Brownies



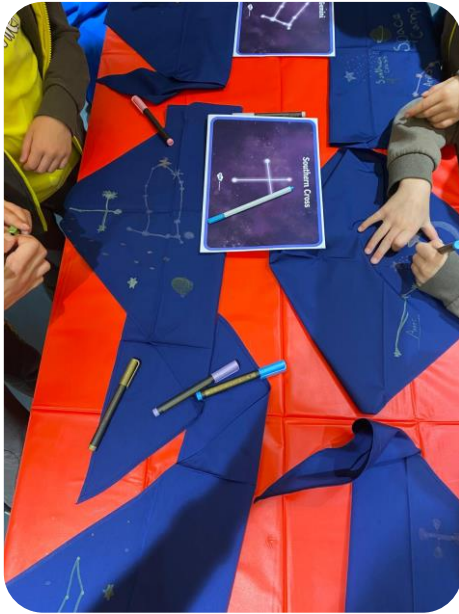
1st Fetcham Brownies had a great evening at Wisley Glow.



1st Hawthorns Brownies



1st Hawthorns Brownies had lots of fun at Space Camp sleepover in INCANDO at our London HQ.



5th Dorking Brownies



5th Dorking (URC) Brownies were asked if they would like to decorate a Christmas tree for the church's Christmas Tree Festival. The theme was Heroes and Villains. The Brownies chose to make decorations for a heroes' tree and chose 'The Surrey Wildlife Trust' as their heroes. Sarah, from the Trust, was invited to a Brownie meeting to tell us about the conservation work they undertake. We then held a bring and buy sale, just for the Brownies, to raise some funds. Special mention should go to Isabelle who raised £100 on her own by selling handmade friendship bracelets. With match funding, in total we raised £286 for the Trust and earned our charities interest badge in the process.



6th Merstham Brownies



6th Merstham Brownies and Growing Redhill planted spring bulbs in Redhill memorial park. We're looking forward to seeing all the colourful flowers in the spring.



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies



Chip shop owners in Ewell Village were quaking in their boots as the chippy taste testers from 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies put them through their paces assessing colour, smell, crispness and flavour in their search for the ultimate chip! It was a split vote with no overall winner agreed upon, but all the chips got the thumbs up from the discerning diners.



1st Ashtead Brownies



1st Ashtead Brownies learnt Indian dance within minutes, incorporating the Express Myself theme, a bit of diversity and just having fun.



10th Redhill Brownies



10th Redhill Brownies went shopping for their harvest donations! Each six was given £10 and a portion of the local foodbank's wish list. Sainsbury's kindly matched our spending and gave us a £40 gift card to double what the girls could buy. We had some great discussions with the girls about choices and keeping our promise by serving the community and helping other people.



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies had a great evening in their Sainsburys Local! Each six had a budget of £20 (£10 from the unit and £10 kindly donated by Sainsburys). They were given a list of items the local Foodbank needed and asked to spend as near as they could to £20 and get as many items on their list as possible. There was some excellent budgeting and the six who spent the closest to the budget was Pixies who spent £19.85 by popping a Freddo Frog chocolate in at the last minute! We then took everything back to the church who are a Foodbank collection point. Thanks to Specsavers in Epsom for the high vis vests ensuring we were safe on our travels too. Definitely kept our promise to serve the community and we all left feeling like we had helped local people in need.

7th Bookham Brownies



7th Bookham Brownies had fun making bonfire biscuits, having sparklers and making structures from spaghetti and marshmallows (edible architecture UMA). Our unit mascot, Donald, got to try them out.



1st Epsom (St Martins) Brownies



1st Epsom (St Martins) Brownies had fun making firework biscuits. They couldn't wait to eat the rocket they made so sadly no photos of that!

Christmas Crafts



1st Epsom (St Martin's) Brownies have been busy upcycling some old Brownie badges into a Christmas bauble. A new skill learnt and a great keepsake that will remind them of the fun they had at the unit!

Woodmansterne Brownies exploring types of shading.



1st Fetcham Guides



In their last meeting before the Christmas break, 4th Caterham Brownies enjoyed getting messy with potato printing to make beautiful placemats as gifts.



Guides



2nd Dorking Guides and 2nd and 12th Dorking Brownies



Kip in a Ship aboard HMS Belfast

One Saturday morning in early October saw 23 intrepid Brownies and Guides from 2nd and 12th Dorking Brownies and 2nd Dorking Guides, rucksacks on their backs, heading off to London for our sleepover on the warship HMS Belfast and our 'Kip in a Ship'. Having stowed our kit in our sleeping quarters, and had a safety briefing from our lovely concierge, Nyree, we broke up into small groups to explore the ship using our treasure trail (which led to the munching of chocolate goodies!). This was followed by the inevitable visit to the gift shop, after which we left the ship to explore the local area, get a breath of fresh air and take lots of photos of the ship from Tower Bridge.



On returning to HMS Belfast we met up again with the lovely Nyree who, having explained the overall plan for our 'sleepover proper', left us to make our bunk beds and settle in. Nyree then escorted us up to the Stoker Café, where we enjoyed our evening meal of fish and chips, or sausage and mash, which was served up in original metal mess tins – quite an unusual, and absolutely delicious, dining experience!



Sunset on the ship

After dinner we split into two groups (logically Brownies and Guides) for our evening activities, with one group having a guided tour of the upper part of the ship, including the Admiral's Bridge and the other having a very practical session 'sending' and 'reading' Morse Code messages – after which we swapped activities, so everyone experienced everything. Our group of very tired, but happy, girls then joined forces and headed off to bed.

2nd Dorking Guides cont.



Following a sound night's sleep, we packed our kit before heading back to the Stoker Café for breakfast of cereals, porridge, toast and jam and fruit juice. Those of us who enjoyed the porridge certainly found this both substantial and delicious, and there was plenty available. Our final activity before leaving the ship, was our learning session with Nyree, who truly brought the experiences of those who lived and worked aboard HMS Belfast during the hardships of the Arctic Convoys in the Second World War to life. As one of our Guides, Jessica, said: "It was a really fun trip. It was interesting to find out about the people who worked on the ship and it was an adventure that was completely unique."

Having experienced a very different sleepover, we waved goodbye to HMS Belfast, and headed back to London Bridge station to catch the train back to Dorking, and a well-deserved rest.

5th Dorking Guides



5th Dorking Guides created this tower as part of the Build It Up skill builder. It was built in three sections by three groups and then joined together.

The Guides did us proud at Remembrance Parade with Isabell laying our wreath on behalf of the division. A number of the Guides also wore their uniforms to school on Remembrance Day.



We were very well represented at the Lord Mayors show with Isabella, Maya and Abi taking part with Kate and Fiona trying to be the responsible adults in the group. This was a fantastic day and one I'm sure we will remember for a very long time.

1st Capel Guides



This term has been a busy one for 1st Capel Guides. Looking back through our posts and photos, we have completed programme cards from 'Totally Ga-Ga', 'Wish You Were Here' to making rainbow jars. We went into space making intergalactic snacks and creating star constellations too. We have painted under pressure, been wartime Guides and made some edible sparklers for fun.

At half-term we had a fantastic trip to Cardiff to complete a city-wide game with other members of London and South East Region (LASER): Converge on Cardiff. For those that couldn't join us we have been working on the Cluedo badge in Guide meetings this term too. The trip involved four modes of transport, navigating around Cardiff solving clues and completing challenges, meeting new people and having fun.



We met the Chief Guide for LASER and in international style, Emily and Claire from Kent joined our contingent. Emily, who used to be a Ranger leader in our division, has moved to Cardiff so joined us in the wide game and we met some "old" Guide friends of Jodi's (who used to be a leader in Cardiff) along the way. The sun was out for the challenge day but we weren't so lucky waiting for the bus back to the train station!



1st Capel Guides



We were lucky enough to be invited to Graylands Cat Clinic for an evening to find out what a cat only vet does and why it is so special. On the tour we saw a cat only TV, space the cats can climb the walls to settle, their special sleeping area and where blood and other samples are tested on site. The Guides were lucky enough to be shown how to suture and given a go too!



We crafted for Christmas too, hedgehogs by book folding, gift bags from paper, mini wreaths from beads and pipe cleaners. We ended the term with a trip ice-skating and a disco where one of our Guides made her promise.



Two Guides successfully achieved their Bronze Awards this term, with four more completing all their challenges for their Gold with celebrations to follow in the New Year.



We supported the Village Christmas Lunch by dipping 50 candles a Christmassy red and also filling 50 jars with hot chocolate and marshmallows, making reindeer gifts for everyone that attended. The Guides also donated items for the church hamper collection to go a family in need.



Christmas Crafts



4th Redhill Guides completed some Christmas crafts – we made cards and snowmen/reindeer pegs.



1st Fetcham Guides made gingerbread houses.



4th Bookham Guides also made gingerbread houses.



Effingham Guides



Effingham Guides completed a treasure hunt in the dark, and created this tealight trefoil.



9th Redhill Guides



9th Redhill Guides shopped for, wrapped, labelled and hid some random acts of kindness around Redhill town centre.



1st Fetcham Guides



1st Fetcham Guides went out collecting for Leatherhead Lions Christmas charity.



1st Chaldon Guides



1st Chaldon Guides made fairy light jars by covering old jars/bottles with coloured tissue paper and putting mini fairy lights inside. The fairy lights were then used at the enrolment of five new Guides into the unit.



1st Chaldon Guides had an evening run by some of our young leaders who did a fab job! The young leaders planned and ran an evening full of fun and games, keeping the momentum going and all of the Guides engaged throughout! This is the first evening these Young leaders have run at Guides and they did an amazing job! Adult leaders were on hand to step in and support them but they didn't need us at all! The Guides loved all the games and all left the meeting with big smiles on their faces.



1st Chaldon Guides kicked off the Christmas season by making advent calendars out of seed trays! Our leaders filled each of the 24 holes with 'something' and covered them. We designed and decorated our own doors to go on and when the time comes, we will have a little surprise revealed when we pull off each of the little doors!

Leaders from 1st Chaldon Guides spent an evening at their local charity firework display selling glow and flashing products to fundraise for our unit.

1st Chaldon Guides had a fab time seeing Wicked and defying gravity at The Light in Redhill.



Rangers and Young Leaders



Warlingham district Rangers



Warlingham district Ranger unit avoided the rain and enjoyed a horse riding session at Tandridge riding centre. They took turn to lead and ride Oz, Mary, Jazz and Louis. At the end of the session, they helped put the horses to bed and topped up their hay.



Leith Hill Rangers



The Rangers welcomed a new unit helper to the group. Welcome back Karin to the Leith Hill family. Amongst other activities this term including being part of the Lord Mayor's Show, Leith Hill Rangers made and decorated Halloween cookies.



Bookham Rangers



Bookham Rangers have had another busy term, with membership increasing to 26 girls. Thursday nights have involved everything from a fashion show, to a ghost walk, to a Spanish cooking evening and our yearly ice-skating trip.

We have been getting our hands dirty with fundraising this term, mainly in preparation for our international camp to Catalonia in the summer, with our usual car parking activity at Brockham Bonfire, bag packing at Waitrose and the Christmas tree collection coming up over Christmas. We are also looking forward to our annual Christmas dinner, where we get dressed up and dance the night away!

One of the highlights of our term was our October Camp. This year we went to the South Downs. It was a touch muddy over the weekend but we had glorious sunshine for our day hike along the South Downs way and sheltered from the rain on Sunday doing an exciting escape room! Lots of fun was had by all.

In the New Year we will be hosting our usual Open Evening at Bookham's Old Barn Hall on Thursday 23rd January. Please get in touch via Surrey East's website if you or any of your members are interested in coming along for the evening to hear from the Rangers about what we get up to.



Young Leader

Huge congratulations to Beth, young leader with 12th Epsom Guides, who has completed her Young Leader Qualification.



Lord Lieutenant's Cadet

At the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet evening at Loseley Park, HM Lord Lieutenant Michael More-Molyneux thanked the outgoing cadets and welcomed the new ones including Epsom Ranger Iris representing Girlguiding Surrey East.

Brigadier Paul Evans, Deputy Lieutenant, briefed the seven new cadets on their cadet role to support the Lord Lieutenant or his deputy on royal visits and a wide variety of civic duties and occasions in the county. Iris joins other outstanding cadets from uniformed organisations in Surrey representing the best of Surrey youth.



Young Leader Weekend at Bentley Copse



In September, a group of dedicated and enthusiastic young leaders gathered at Bentley Copse for an unforgettable weekend of fun, personal growth, and camaraderie. The event was centred around introducing the new Young Leader Development Programme, offering participants a chance to develop their skills while fostering friendships with other like-minded Girlguiding members. They had training sessions in the morning and in the afternoon the young leaders took part in a variety of adventurous activities, including archery, crate stacking, and going on the zip line. These activities not only provided plenty of thrills but also reinforced the importance of teamwork, resilience, and communication – essential qualities for any young leader.

The weekend was filled with laughter, learning and developing their skills. Reflecting on the experience, one participant shared, “Every single girl was enthusiastic and passionate about Girlguiding, which meant we all had such a great time learning more about our roles together.”

This sense of shared passion and purpose was echoed by another young leader, who added, “Amazing trip!! I loved meeting new people as well as learning new skills.”

With memories of new friendships and exciting challenges fresh in their minds, the participants left Bentley Copse ready to take on their roles as young leaders with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Thank you to Epsom division’s young leader adviser Alex Lorenz for organising this great weekend.



Leaders and Trefoil Guild



40 Years Service Award

Congratulations to Guide leader Bernie Dunne who has reached her 40 years service award! Bernie has held numerous roles in Epsom division and we are very grateful to her for her commitment and enthusiasm. Thank you Bernie! Division Guide Section Adviser Michelle Hall was delighted to present the award to Bernie recently.



GirlGuiding Celebrates

On 29th September, Alexia and Kayla from Surrey East joined other Girlguiding Award recipients at Girlguiding Celebrates. The unique event was held at the ODEON Luxe, Leicester Square where award winners were given red carpet treatment. Alexia was celebrating her Queen's Guide Award and Kayla was nominated to attend by her division commissioner for her leadership skills. They met the Chief Guide team and also Girlguiding ambassadors including adventurer Anna McNuff.



Leaders' Weekend at Pax Lodge

44 leaders enjoyed a weekend at Pax Lodge World Centre in October.

Friday night saw us gather in an informal setting and enjoy games and maybe a visit to a local hostelry for sustenance.

Saturday dawned and the weather was wet, however Kate being a true Guider predicted the sun would shine from 11 and indeed it did. The leaders enjoyed a London wide scavenger hunt that entailed venturing as far north as Maida Vale, as far east as the City of London, as far south as the South Bank and as far west as Kensington, a true pan-London event.



Beautiful blue skies greeted the mascot for the photo challenge and our intrepid Surrey East leaders did not disappoint. In true Guiding spirit, they rose to the challenge with outstanding results.



Leaders' Weekend at Pax Lodge

Back to Pax Lodge World Centre for refreshments and a buffet before counting the steps that had been done that day. I think most people were in the 25,000 range, which means over 1 million steps were done that day. I think we can claim that as a record and one to challenge at the next event!

Sunday dawned and we were all honoured to take part in the Pinning Ceremony. This was a moving occasion and very humbling to reflect on the tiny part we play in the worldwide organisation that is Girlguiding. During the ceremony I must admit I was thinking of the time I made my promise as a Brownie all those years ago and how although the world is now a totally different place, the values of Girlguiding have not changed in all that time. Thank you to all who took part and made this event possible.

Through fun, friendship, challenge and adventure we empower girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community.

Thank you to Kate Fowles and Jane Luff for organising this fantastic weekend!



Faurefold

We would like to thank all the lovely volunteers who help at Faurefold events. This year, with their help we have run stalls and activity days. For example, we ran a tea, coffee and cake stall at WESTfest. The cakes were yummy! Also, a big thank you to all the ladies who knit animals for the shop: the girls love them.



Godstone Donkey Derby

The tea tent at Godstone Donkey Derby was a popular place to be. Thank goodness we had an excellent team of Girlguiding volunteers! There was lots of interest in our little badge sale and 'memory' sheet.



We hope the happy memories will encourage adults to lend a hand!



Capel Show

Volunteers served delicious bacon rolls, tea and coffee at Capel Show in support of Capel Friends of Guiding and Faurefold. We used about 200 litres of water in the urns over the day! That's a lot of tea and coffee! Fabulous work everyone!



Epsom Division

Girlguiding Epsom's Quiz Night in aid of Little Acres Campsite was a great success thanks to the superb organisational skills of our lovely supporters from Epsom Rotary! The brain-stretching questions set by ace quizmasters Andy and Barb put the teams through their paces with the winners (after a nail-biting tie breaker) announced as Simple Minds! Thanks to Tracey and Clare from the campsite committee and Jackie and Martin for helping on the night. A lovely evening for a great cause.



Surrey East Trefoil Guilds

During the summer, several Guilds held tea parties with raffles, to which other Guilds were invited, with the money collected for different charities. During the last couple of months, this has changed to lunches. As you will have realised, Trefoil Guilds like events involving food!

At the end of August, several members went to Canterbury for the Region Annual Meeting where the speaker told us about Anne Boleyn, one of her distant relatives. It gave us a chance to catch up with friends from other Guilds.



During the year, members, either on their own or within their Guilds, have been challenging themselves with 'Motivate', a UK wide challenge badge. There are three sections: Air, Land and Water, with members needing to complete two challenges from each section. We are trying to complete the challenges by incorporating the Trefoil key messages which are 'find friendship, get involved, get active and give support'. The Trefoil magazine provided some suggestions or we could choose our own. Some ideas undertaken were a talk from Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance with a raffle and collection to help support them, a visit to the Centenary Wood on Epsom Downs and a quiz about the River Thames.



On November 11th, the Out and About group along with other Trefoil members met at the Field of Soldiers at the Centenary Wood for the 2 minute silence at 11am. Woodland Trust's Remembrance Wreath was in situ for November allowing anyone to add their own message of Remembrance. The walk continued through Jutland field and the orchard.

Reigate Trefoil Guild held an excellent quiz which along with a raffle raised money for Renewed Hope, a local charity, which supports the homeless.

The next County Newsletter will be published on 12th July 2025.

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 4th July 2025.

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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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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