



County Update January 2025



Welcome from the County Commissioner

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025. I'm delighted to share our Autumn/Winter edition of the [County Newsletter](#) which provides a fantastic opportunity to reflect on guiding in Surrey East and some of the amazing things we have done of the past 6 months.

We have held the first of our county [Coffee and Chats](#), to 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.

We are also excited to invite you to our **County Volunteers Together** day – a county day where volunteers can come together and share ideas and celebrate being part of Guiding. You will also spend some time exploring how to adapt the activities for various situations, such as non-readers, physical disability, limited space, no resources. Please do [sign up today](#). Leaders, unit helpers, young leaders, commissioners, advisers – everyone is welcome.

Thank you for everything you do and have fun in the Spring term.

Beverly Heywood-Jones

Surrey East County Commissioner

Surreyeastcc@btinternet.com



Year-end accounts and annual subscriptions

If you are a commissioner, unit leader/unit administrator: Please ensure your annual accounts are completed, independently reviewed and a copy of your annual accounts statement and statement of assets and liabilities is shared with the level above, together with the signed and dated independent reviewer checklist and confirmation form **no more than 3 months** after the end of the financial year. [Check here for further details](#) and requirements for charities with an income over £10k.

Your **trial invoice is now available on Go**. You'll need to check it's correct before the **deadline of Monday 17 February 7pm**. Any changes you make on GO will be shown on your trial invoice the following day. If you're a commissioner, please make sure everyone in your area has checked their invoice. Payments will be due from midday on Tuesday 18 February 2025. Any issues please refer to your commissioner or contact me directly.



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

Join us for an evening of songs, dancing and entertainment featuring over one hundred members of Girlguiding Surrey East from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild!

Tickets £20- on sale from 1st February

[Events from January 26, 2025 – December 10, 2025 › LIVE SHOWS › – The Leatherhead Theatre](#) or Box
Office: 01372 365141

Surrey East leaders are welcome to bring their units to watch the dress rehearsal at 2:30pm for the reduced price of £10 per person.

Email: musigalsinfo@gmail.com for further details.

We would love to see you there!



May-hem 2025 will be held on **Saturday 10 May 2025**
at **South of England Showground, Ardingly**

700 young members in Surrey East will be going to May-hem, an activity day organised by our region LASER. Registration for girls is now closed, but if you would like to volunteer, please do [sign up directly](#). Our arrival time is 9.15am.

Travel has been subsidised and funds will be distributed to enable coaches to be arranged by Division. If your unit has signed up, we will be in touch shortly with more details.

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.

Just to let you know, registration for BAZZAZ 2025 at the end of January! Don't miss out on being part of this exciting adventure for Rainbows and Beavers across Surrey. Full details can be found here:

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

We hope you can join us!

Best wishes

The Bazzaz Team

International Opportunities



Being a leader on an international Girlguiding trip is an amazing experience. Over 18 months, you and a team of leaders and young members will shape your plans for an unforgettable adventure. You'll learn new skills, make new friends and create special memories. Leaders from all sections are welcome and you don't need to have been on an international trip with Girlguiding before. [Find out more and apply](#) by 10pm on Friday 31 January 2025.

Applications are now open for young members to take part in region international adventures in 2026. Do you know a Guide, Ranger or young leader who will be 14-17 in Summer 2026 who would be interested? If so, please make sure they find out about our international adventures. Use these [downloadable flyers and text](#) to help you share the word.

To express an interest in being part of this adventure, young members are required to complete the application form before midnight on 31 March 2025. [Find out more on our website.](#)

Lord Mayor's show feeding station

On Saturday 8th November 2025, Surrey East volunteers will be responsible for the Lord Mayor's Show feeding station. We will need a limited number of adult volunteers who are fit and able to lift heavy boxes, are 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

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 Sunday 2 March 2025 at Little Acres in Epsom – [book your place here](#).



First Response

New dates for First response training are coming soon – [First Response | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#). Please book yourself onto the next available course before your current qualification expires or register your interest by emailing surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com.

County Volunteers Together

Combines training and celebration in one day. All volunteers are welcome to attend county day on Saturday 26 April at Horley Baptist Church. [County Volunteers Together Celebration and Training Day | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)



Residential training

Planning to take your unit on a residential? Interested in learning what involved in the Going Away with scheme? Looking for assessment? [Going Away with Scheme | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#). If so, please sign up to our Residential training day on Saturday 1 March at Little Acres in Epsom – [book your place here](#).

Commissioner/Advisers day

held Empire Hall on Saturday 22nd March 2025 from 9am to 1pm

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 or find out more about what the role involves?

[Please register your interest here.](#)

New Appointments

I'm delighted to share that **Maria Young** has been appointed **First response coordinator** with effect from 1st January 2025. Maria is a division helper from Leith Hill division who has previously held various roles including district commissioner, training adviser and leader in Westcott guides. Thank you, Maria for taking on this important role and to Angela for supporting the handover.

Volunteering Opportunities

Young Leader advisers

Could you be a young leader adviser in your division?

The young leader development programme is new. If you are interested in supporting young leaders in your area, please do [get in touch](#) to find out more.

Residential advisers

We are actively looking for volunteers across the county to become residential advisers to support leaders in progressing their Going Away with qualification. You would need to have some experience of guiding residentials – holidays, camps. This role is seasonal and varies from one year to the next.

Interested? Please contact our county outdoor adviser [Jane Luff](#) for more information.

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.

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 15th January at Bookham Guide hall, Durlleston Park Dr, Great Bookham, KT23 7.15 to 9.15pm

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday 16th March Faurefold, Lince Lane, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3LX 2pm to 5pm

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

Did you know?

Staying Connected

In Surrey East, we have a few ways we communicate with our volunteers:

County Update – this document is issued monthly via email to all volunteers in Surrey East and provides essential updates about our county, including news, volunteering opportunities, up-coming training and county events.

County Website – [Girl Guiding Surrey East | The County website for Girlguiding Surrey East.](#)

Facebook and Instagram – we have 1300 followers on Facebook and endeavour to share news and stories using these platforms.

County Newsletter – published twice a year, this provides a showcase of all the amazing things we have done in the county. Units, Districts, Divisions can all contribute by sending articles to newlettersurreyeast@gmail.com

We would love to do more with our website and social media to promote guiding and encourage more people to join. If you love social media and guiding, please do consider the becoming a county comms and marketing rep for your area.

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.

Surrey East County Residential Training day

Do you wish to find out how to take your Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers on a residential adventure (camp or indoor)? Do you want to complete a Residential, Catering or First Aid Qualification? Would you like to take your Patrol Camp Permit or Lead Away Permit?

Then come to the [County Residential Training](#), being held at Little Acres Lodge and Campsite, Horton Country Park, Horton Lane, Epsom KT19 8PF on Saturday 1st March 2025.

This is a full day training commencing at 9am.

The training is free, but you will need your own books (details supplied on booking) as well as your lunch. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

If you have any queries about the event, please [contact Jane Luff](#) for further details.

Closing date for applications to join the training 25th February 2025

Camp – Holiday – Sleepover

