



County Update May 2025



Welcome from the County Commissioner

Thank you to everyone who attended County Volunteers Together and congratulations to the award winners. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the planning and running of this event, and particularly to Lorna who organised it.

It was lovely to catch up with volunteers across the county, hear about the young leader development programme, how to adjust the programme for limited time, resources or to make reasonable adjustments for individuals and very inspiring to hear about Debbie Rodgers journey from a new volunteer to completing her Queens Guide award.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at Mayhem this weekend joining units across the whole of London and South East England at the South of England showground in Ardingly. We had over 1000 members of Surrey East arriving by 17 coaches and it has been great to see the pictures of everyone having such an amazing time in the sunshine.

Thank you for everything you do.

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



County Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2025

If you would like your activity or event included in our next edition of the County Newsletter to be published in July, please submit your article 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. The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 4th July 2025

I look forward to hearing from you!
Alexia Beale County newsletter coordinator

Sad News

We were sad to hear that Elaine Crooks, Tawny Owl at 10th Redhill Brownies has passed away. Elaine was a dedicated brownie leader of over 20 years and will be greatly missed. Her funeral in celebration of her life is planned for Monday 19th May at Reigate Park Church at 11.15am. Please contact [Jo Hayward](#) directly for more information. Donations to: [Justgiving: Renewed Hope in memory of Elaine Crooks](#).

We are also very sad to hear about Jill Campbell, who passed away peacefully aged 93. Jill was a Diploma trainer and held a Beaver award, she held UK, Region, and local appointments and was both a Guide and Ranger Leader and at one stage was Chair of Foxlease Management committee. Her funeral will take place on Tuesday 20th May at 11.45 at Surrey and Sussex crematorium, a service at 2.30pm at Reigate Park Church, followed by tea and reminiscing in the Church hall. If you would like to attend, you would be most welcome.

You may also have seen in the region spotlight about Mel Ford, MBE, passing away. Mel was known to many as a region trainer. The celebration of life for Mel will be held on 28 May at Chichester Cathedral. Please [register here](#) if you wish to attend.

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development

Surrey East and West organise one day face to face training for leaders in training, which includes the mandatory modules. We have dates available through 2025 – so [please register now](#) to attend. Modules are available on the learning platform, and you can choose one in another area as they are webinars. If you have a training query, please refer to county training led by Lorna Smith surreyeasttraining@gmail.com.



First Response [First Response | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

Please book yourself onto the next available course before your current qualification expires. New dates available for [28 September](#) and [4 October](#). Any questions please refer to our first response training coordinator, Maria Young, surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com.

Residential training

Planning to take your unit on a residential? Interested in learning what involved in the Going Away with scheme? Are you a leader who needs to refresh your knowledge? Please register for the next residential training day in March 2026 – [Residential Qualification Training Day – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#).

Looking for assessment? [Going Away with Scheme | Girl Guiding Surrey East](#). If you need any additional support, please [contact Jane Luff](#), our county outdoor/residential adviser.

Did you know?

Serious incident process

GGUK have updated their process for responding to serious incidents. If an accident or incident occurs at a Girlguiding event or meeting that requires emergency services – such as a life-changing injury or fatality – our new emergency health and safety line (0207 592 1828) must be contacted within 1 hour. Support is available 24/7. Please can all leaders/event coordinators add this to any risk assessments going forwards.

Digital Pilot – [Girlguiding is improving volunteering through technology | Girlguiding](#)

Surrey East is one of two counties in England that has been asked to help pilot a new digital tool that enables you to register your unit meeting on your phone, ipad or laptop. 36 leaders in Surrey East volunteered to support the pilot and a number are now actively part of a 100-unit trial and their feedback will influence its development going forwards.

Safe Space 3/safer guiding

It is still essential to have someone at **all** meetings with a valid safe space 3, or the full safer guiding completed since December 2024 when it was introduced. If you did safe space 1 and 2 previously, it will say on Go and the learning platform that you are compliant with safer guiding as required for your role, but if you didn't have safe space 3, you still don't! If you want to address this gap, please complete safer guiding on the learning platform. All girl facing roles must complete safer guiding.

Needs Supervision

Leaders/commissioners – have you noticed the new section on Go titled 'Needs Supervision'. Please check this for your unit and address the reason why any volunteers are in it. It may be because they have not completed the mandatory recruitment checks or training necessary for their role and may be at risk. It may also be because their role has expired, at which stage they should discuss with their commissioner whether to continue in the role or to explore another role.

Residential Event Notification (REN)

It's a busy time for units that are planning residentials. Please remember that you should submit your residential event notification (REN) via GO under event administration, initially **at least 12 weeks** before the event and the final details **4 weeks before the event**. This allows time for commissioners and advisers to review the plan, the risk assessment and ensure that all the compliance requirements are met for all participating volunteers (including aged 14+ young leaders and dofE volunteers).



Thank You

Whatever your role is in Guiding, thank you for volunteering with us and helping girls and young women in Surrey East know that they can do anything.