

# County Newsletter

 **Girlguiding**  
Surrey East county

spring/summer 2025



Welcome to all in Surrey East Girlguiding.

It is such an amazing thing to see spring/summer edition of the Surrey East county newsletter which highlights what we have been up to in recent months. Thank you to everyone who shared their stories.

What a fabulous day May-Hem was, giving the opportunity for units of all sections to come together for an activity day at the South of England showground. We also loved Musicals, a county musical extravaganza at Leatherhead Theatre, with delightful performances from members of all ages. Well done to everyone who supported these events and also VE Day, Thinking Day and lots of events in our local communities.

With nearly 200 units in Surrey East, I know that this is a summary of what we do best and really hope that it inspires you. Thank you to every volunteer for everything you do. Just looking at all the smiling faces, we know that we are helping girls and young women in Surrey East to know that they can do anything. There is so much to celebrate and be proud of, particularly seeing our young members achieving their section gold awards too!

Congratulations to our newly qualified leaders and to all our award winners, particularly to Poppy who received the Guiding Star, Debbie who completed her Queen's Guide award and to everyone who received Long Service awards - particularly Jeanette Ralph, Michelle Hall and Jocelyn Fallows who received 30 years, to Ann Turnbull and Janet Coninx who received 40 years and Margaret King who celebrated an incredible 60 years. Congratulations also to those who received county good service awards for their continued support of Faurefold: Margaret King, Val Hickmott, Barry Hickmott and Roo Harmer. Well done to young leaders who have completed the old young leader qualification ahead of the final deadline. Lots of young leaders are now working on young leader development programme introduced last year, which is proving to be very popular.

It has been a pleasure to see people out and about and to be part of Guiding in Surrey East. Thank you for all you do and enjoy the summer!



Beverly Heywood-Jones  
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commissioner  
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# Newly qualified Leaders

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have completed their Leadership Qualification or added modules to their qualifications.

## Epsom division

Bethany Hatton,  
12<sup>th</sup> Epsom Guides

## Godstone division

Maddalena O'Donoghue,  
9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Guides

## Leatherhead division

Kelly Headen,  
4<sup>th</sup> Ashted Brownies  
Szilvia Kovacs,  
4<sup>th</sup> Ashted Brownies

## Leith Hill division

Christine Edwards,  
Capel Rainbows

## Reigate division

Andrea Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> South  
Nutfield Rainbows  
Lucinda Mould, 2<sup>nd</sup> South  
Nutfield Brownies



# May-Hem

Massive thank you to everyone who supported May-Hem – as a leader, commissioner, adviser, event volunteer, unit helper, home contact, parent helper. What an amazing day!

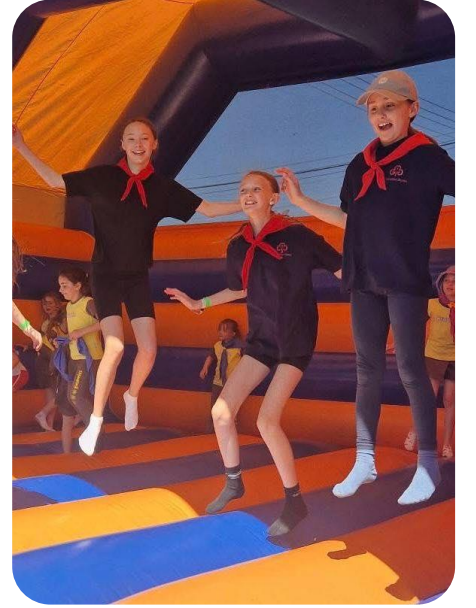
Surrey East had 715 young members there and 153 volunteers who arrived in 17 coaches, 2 minibuses and a few cars. It was great to see so many of you there having fun with your units in the sunshine and enjoying catching up with each other too! Congratulations to those who received awards.

From Surrey East – thank you LaSER May-Hem team and everyone involved in the planning and organisation of the event and also all the VIPs for their support. We had a blast....!





# May-Hem





# Awards

Congratulations to Lucy E. and Annabel H. from 1st Capel Guides! They have completed their Young Leader award, helping every week with the Guide unit. They also volunteered with the Service Crew at Scoutabout. They have been with Capel Guiding units since they were Rainbows. We look forward to welcoming them as leaders in the future. Thanks to all the leaders involved in their Guiding journey - what role models you must have been.



Well done to Rose from 1st Capel Guides on achieving her gold award. She celebrated her award with 'bowled over', her favourite craft activity and homemade shortbread, made by Lou, one of the leaders. Congratulations Rose!



Congratulations to Ivy from 4th Caterham Brownies who received her Gold award at Easter. Ivy is moving up to Guides in September and we are delighted that she will carry her initiative and leadership skills with her.



# Awards



Congratulations to Isabelle, Rosamund and Simran, Young Leaders at 12<sup>th</sup> Epsom Guides who have completed their Young Leader Qualification! Well done!



Jessie, Mia and Megan from 1<sup>st</sup> Capel Guides were awarded their GOLD at the unit's Sparkle and Shine party (with a 'decades' theme). All three girls have been in Guiding since they were Rainbows.



Congratulations to Charlotte from 9<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies who has earned her Gold award, the highest achievement in Brownies! Well done Charlotte! We are very proud of you!

# Awards

1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Guides recently gave out their first ever Gold award! Abbie moved up to Guides during lockdown and did her first term totally virtually, then was enrolled at one of our earliest socially distanced meetings.



She's completed her Guiding History, Confectionery, Photography, Meditation, Mixology, Navigator, and Be Prepared interest badges and was the first member of our unit to complete an interest badge independently.

Abbie is about to go on her fifth residential with us and has been on many other day trips in her four years with the unit. She's also been a Brownie helper at 2<sup>nd</sup> Leatherhead Brownies for more than three years. She moves to Rangers in September and will continue as a Young Leader with Brownies. Well done Abbie!



2<sup>nd</sup> Fetcham had their first gold award. One very happy Rainbow!



Congratulations to Maddie and Flurr from Warlingham district Ranger unit who completed their Ranger Gold award. We are very proud of them and excited to support their journey on to the leadership development programme.



# Awards



1<sup>st</sup> Oxted Brownies ended the term with a Gold presentation for three of our Brownies (Emily, Gwen & Isabelle) and celebratory teddy bears' picnic. Special mention also goes to Emily who has also managed to complete all the interest badges in the badge book.



Three more Guides from 3<sup>rd</sup> Oxted Guides have completed their Gold awards. Amy, Georgia & Lara were presented with their awards at our last meeting of this term, and what seems to have become a unit tradition with unit Gold awards, the chocolate fountain made its way out again – fruit and marshmallows all round.



Congratulations to Poppy of 13<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies who has been honoured with the Guiding Star. This prestigious award recognises exceptional guiding young members. We are very proud of her. Poppy showed incredible resilience when she was a member of 10<sup>th</sup> Epsom Rainbows by raising the alarm in the middle of the night to assist her Mum who was very poorly. The award was presented by Region Chief Commissioner, Amanda Teasel who summed up how Poppy, who was a Rainbow at the time, had truly lived her promise.





# VE Day – 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies



When Brownies make their Girlguiding promise, they promise to serve their community. 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies carried out service to their community by cleaning and tidying the Commonwealth War Graves at Redstone Cemetery. The girls enjoyed taking it in turns to fill their buckets with water and gently brush the headstones.

We were accompanied by a volunteer from Commonwealth War Graves commission who told us lots of interesting information about the stones, the designs and the people. The girls were very interested to know that there is a grave there which is for a lady who was in the auxiliary territorial service.

We were very glad to have the opportunity to carry out this act of community service and remembrance ahead of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day.





# VE Day – 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Rita Thompson, an ex-leader in Epsom division was aged seven on VE Day and she came and spoke to the Brownies about her memories of that day and answered lots of questions.

Dressed in red, white and blue, we made fabulous union flags, went outside to hear the church bells with the vicar and enjoyed a street party with delicious sandwiches and cakes listening to some wartime music!





# Musigals



More than 150 girls and adults from Girlguiding units across Surrey East performed in a hugely successful evening of entertainment at Leatherhead Theatre.

This was the third time that the "Musigals" event has been held, with those taking part from groups in Fetcham, Reigate, Redhill, Brockham, Chelsham and Oxted. The cast included Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders, as well as unit leaders and members of the Trefoil Guild.



Girls and adults performed well known songs from a variety of musicals, including The Greatest Showman, Six, The Sound of Music, Wicked, Mary Poppins, Matilda and Hamilton. The programme included several numbers where all the cast members appeared on stage at the same time.

The packed auditorium at Leatherhead Theatre loved the show, even calling for an encore of the final group song, "Reach" by S Club 7.





# Fetcham and Leatherhead district



Fetcham and Leatherhead district got together for a glassmaking workshop.

# World Thinking Day



4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies were a bit perplexed when we asked each of them to colour in a square of paper. There were lots of questions and comments like, "It's got a funny pattern on it!" and "Why can't I see the whole picture?" A couple of the older Brownies stuck it together using the number code on the back, and then.... the big reveal! A great demonstration of how we all look and think and work differently, but when we come together we achieve great things!



# World Thinking Day



2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
Dorking Guides  
with the Guiding  
Lights for World  
Thinking Day.

10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies celebrated World Thinking Day at ICANDO, GirlGuiding HQ, doing activities relating to the five world centres. We also met the Chief Guide and the LaSER Chief Commissioner before walking up to Buckingham Palace to renew our promise.





# World Thinking Day

Guides and Rangers from Epsom division enjoyed an empowerment day celebrating World Thinking Day! The fabulous event included sessions on motivational art, life skills, car maintenance, finance, sewing, first aid and meditation. Thanks to Epsom Rotary for helping run this amazing event and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council for supporting us. Everyone (leaders, volunteers from Epsom Council, Epsom Rotary and Epsom Trefoil and the Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders ) left feeling hugely positive and happy by “doing our best”. What a great way to celebrate this special date in our Girlguiding calendar!





# Caterham Hill & Chaldon district Celebration



Thank you to everyone who was able to join us on Sunday for Caterham Hill and Chaldon district celebration, when all our sections and units came together to mark some significant milestones, not the least of which was the 30 years that Janette has been Robin, leader of 9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Guides. She also set up 4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Rainbows and rebooted 4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies 25 years ago, and many of our district leaders are in role today because of her influence.



We also recognised the 20 years that Robin Claire has been leading 9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies. It was a really lovely relaxing afternoon with family picnic, crafts, a waterfight and Robin hunt, followed by tea and cake and campfire. Lots of Girlguiding legends came to support and celebrate too, including some of the team from 30 years ago. Plus, not everyone gets the county commissioner to award their very special badge!





# Walton-on-the-Hill Girlguiding



We had a wonderful debate in the chambers with Walton-on-the-Hill Brownies and Guides, chaired by the Mayor of the Borough of Reigate and Banstead, on whether you should volunteer. Then we did a tour of the town hall.





# Bazzaz



Bazzaz, the triennial activity day for Beavers and Rainbows from Surrey was held this year with amazing activities and things to try! Bazzaz 2025 brought nearly 2,000 Beavers and Rainbows together from all over the county to celebrate.



We were delighted to welcome Mhairi Mackay, assistant chief guide who got stuck in and tried out a number of activities! Thank you to all the lovely Surrey East Rainbow leaders who brought their units and ran activities.





# Summer fetes

Unit volunteers across Leatherhead division have been spreading the word about Girlguiding at local village days and fayres in Fetcham, Bookham and Ashted.



At Bookham village day, we had a tombola on our stall, with baskets and gifts donated by our girls and their parents and beautifully wrapped by Christine Moss. There was something for everyone – toiletries, toys, sweet treats and books. We spoke to lots of lovely Bookham residents during the course of the day and are looking forward to welcoming some new members as a result. The stall raised almost £200 for district funds.

A sterling job was also done by our district team in the Bookham old barn hall kitchen, where they served more than 80 rounds of sandwiches, 300 cups of tea and coffee and 200 bacon rolls to raise funds for the old barn hall – all in very hot conditions!



On a lovely sunny day in June, we had a cake tea and coffee stall at WESTfest in Westcott.

Thanks to many bakers, we had lots of yummy cakes and slices to sell. We raised money for Faurefold and joined in with the local community which is so important. We also lent them some of our big games to have in their free kids' games area which was very popular. If anyone would like to join this fun group, please contact us via the Faurefold website.



# Summer fetes



Merstham district had a stall at All Saints summer fair in Merstham.



Lingfield leaders manned the chocolate fountain stall at Lingfield Old Town church fete.



Leaders from South Godstone and Oxted ran the tea tent at the Godstone VE day celebrations.



Ashted district had a fantastic day at our village day, where we proudly hosted a couple of fun-filled pitches. The Guides did a brilliant job selling raffle tickets for our beautifully presented hampers. The Brownies were a real hit, drawing in the crowds with their lively "poopla" game, full of energy and smiles. And not forgetting our amazing volunteers who were on-hand, chatting to visitors about what Girlguiding is all about and encouraging others to join our wonderful team.



# Rainbows





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Fetcham Rainbows



2<sup>nd</sup> Fetcham Rainbows had a lovely walk on Norbury Common, despite the rain showers, hunting for natural shapes.



Because of the heavy downpour we'd just had, the leaves wouldn't stick but we carried on. They found lots of things, with lots of fun and laughter too as we went along.

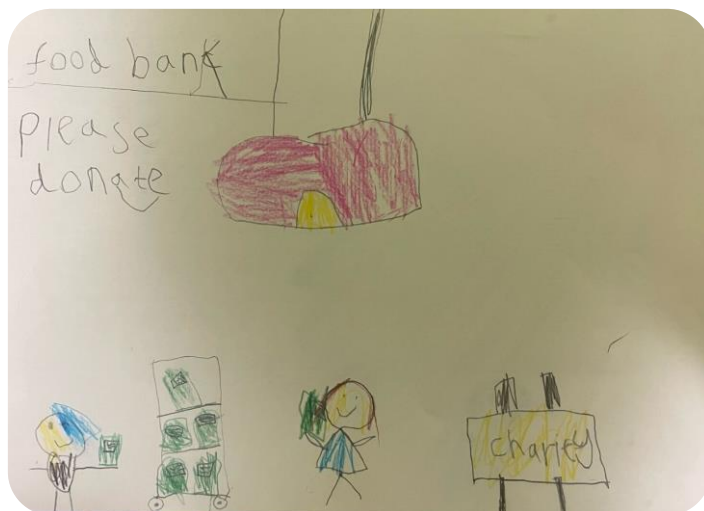
# 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Rainbows



Merstham Rainbows celebrated the Chinese year of the snake by meeting some snakes (Royal and Burmese pythons), as well as a bearded dragon, tortoise and a blue tongued skink.



# 4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Rainbows



4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Rainbows learnt about what charities do and how they can get involved, including donating items to shops to be re-sold to raise funds, or designing a poster to persuade someone else to support that charity too. Here are some of the posters they drew. We then voted for our favourite charities, out of a choice of oceans, animals, woodland or Caterham foodbank. The Foodbank received the most votes, followed by Animals, Oceans and then Woodland. We shared the winning result with the team at the Foodbank who were really moved.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Banstead Brownies and 1<sup>st</sup> Banstead Rainbows



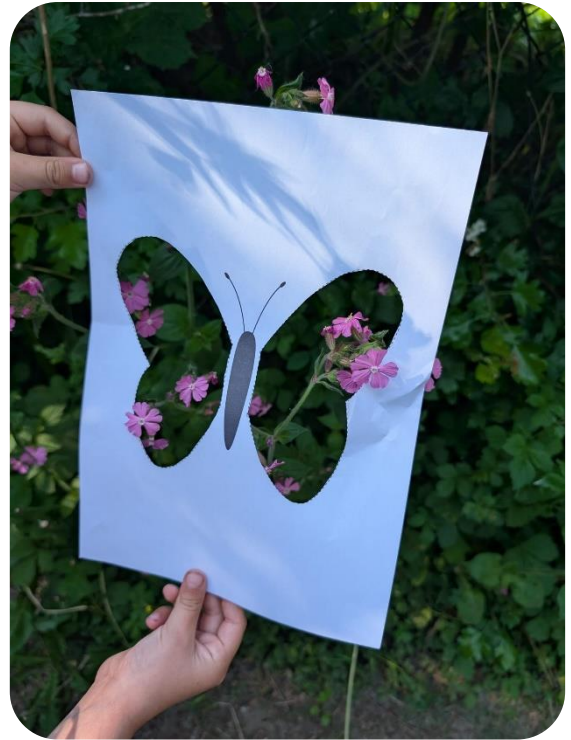
5<sup>th</sup> Banstead Brownies and 1<sup>st</sup> Banstead Rainbows had a fantastic visit from guide dogs. We learnt so much about how to cross roads with guide dogs, what Braille looks like and how to use a mobile phone!



# 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Rainbows



6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Rainbows went on a nature walk around Mercers Lake. They looked for different insects and birds, different leaf shapes and shadows. We also created lots of butterfly silhouette art with the cutouts. Lastly we checked if we all liked butter with buttercups.



# 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Rainbows



7<sup>th</sup> Horley Rainbows started their recycling badge by turning an old t-shirt into a superhero cape (part 2 in book). One even wore it into school on the next day to 'inspire others' (for part 3).





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stoneleigh Rainbows



Over the Easter break 2<sup>nd</sup> Stoneleigh Rainbows, along with a 4<sup>th</sup> Stoneleigh Brownie and a helper visited a care home in Ewell to run Easter bingo with the residents! They shared an afternoon tea together afterwards. Everyone loved the opportunity and we will definitely visit them again soon!



## 7<sup>th</sup> Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbows



7<sup>th</sup> Epsom (St Barnabas) Rainbows had a special visitor. Mala is a Ranger commissioner in Sri Lanka and also grandma to Joy, one of our youngest Rainbows.

Mala was in the UK visiting her family and joined us to experience a Rainbow meeting. In true guiding fashion, she soon got involved, helping the Rainbows to make slime.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Fetcham Rainbows



2<sup>nd</sup> Fetcham Rainbows had a great sleepover at Faurefold. Cooking, games, scavenger hunts, crafts, fairy doors and making fairy homes, singing, bear faces with Roo, and lots of laughs!

We were very proud of our girls, the first one for all of them as our unit has not organised a sleepover for a few years! They all had a great time and they actually slept as well!





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Fetcham Rainbows



## 7<sup>th</sup> Horley Rainbows



7th Horley Rainbows supported Blackland Farm events at pirate island. They did the nightline, craft, bushcraft and a treasure hunt. We even stayed dry, which was a bonus. All of our leaders agreed that it was particularly nice to spend a longer period of time with the Rainbows to get to know them better, especially the quieter ones. The Rainbows were all super brave having a go at everything.





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Rainbows



3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Rainbows have been completing their 'have adventures' theme this term. We've done the agility badge together, designing an obstacle course and trying out the new park in Merstham. We've completed camp 1 skills builder and have particularly enjoyed den building and cooking dampers bread and chocolate bananas on BBQs.



3<sup>rd</sup> Merstham Rainbows had great fun at Faurefold for the Rainbow fun day. The girls enjoyed nature trails, Bug hunts, snail spotting, bag printing and planting. They also had lots of laughter on the space hoppers and loved the campfire songs and snacks.

## Rainbow Activity Day



The Rainbows had a wonderful time at their recent activity day at Faurefold. It was filled with colour, laughter, and lots of hands-on fun!

The girls took part in a variety of craft activities, making everything from sparkly creations to colourful keepsakes. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to explore their creativity, make new friends, and enjoy being part of something special. A big thank you to all the leaders and helpers who made the day so memorable!



Rainbows cooked dampers on the fire and completed a blind fold trail, made mud pies and played with the giant games. They did a natural art, completed the nature trail and searched for the clues to draw the amazing tootle-warbler bird.



**Brownies**





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Cuddington Brownies



3<sup>rd</sup> Cuddington Brownies had an amazing evening completing the Epsom division town challenge, catching the train to and from Epsom from Worcester Park. It was very exciting!



**'We met Julia and her Brownies on the train down from London. What a lovely sight. All well behaved and looking great representing Surrey East Girlguiding!'**





# 9<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies



We had our annual Easter bunny visit. Buster was very well-behaved and the girls enjoyed stroking him. He even went shopping and bought them all an Easter bunny chocolate!



# 1<sup>st</sup> Merstham Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Merstham Brownies had a fantastic holiday. We flew to so many different destinations. We had some very difficult customers – some tried to smuggle liquids on flights, but everyone made it to their holiday resort. A huge thank you to Starry Owl for planning such an amazing experience.





# 5<sup>th</sup> Banstead Brownies



5<sup>th</sup> Banstead Brownies had a fantastic "festival themed" Brownie holiday at Cudham Shaws this weekend, despite the heat! We tried axe throwing, a zip wire and grass sledging. We also did tie dye scrunchies, rock painting, had a water fight and made bracelets and earrings. We even snuck in a campfire with some Beavers from Welling (we taught them some new songs!). We all survived on ice poles, water and lots of snacks!



# 9<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies



9<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies explored the WWI Centenary Woods at Langley Vale Woods on a sunny Friday evening in May. They visited the Regiment of Trees and Witness sculpture, as well as the Jutland Wood sculptures commemorating important WWI naval battles. The trip ended with the Brownies trying out the Poppy Play Area.





## 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Brownies



6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Brownies have been learning about different flowers and foliage. They made floral arrangements with one of our ladies from All Saints church.



## 9<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies



9<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies painting on Redhill common on a lovely sunny Monday.



# 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies



In May half term, 27 Brownies and leaders from 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Epsom Brownies went to Legoland Windsor for a sleepover. We met at 9.45am and were taken down into the park to where we were staying in the Legoland Education Centre. After a welcome from our Legoland hosts, we had the day going on the different rides, watching the shows and playing with Lego. As the theme park closed to the other visitors, we had a private 4D film showing, a Lego robotics workshop, and then some really good pizza, followed by a film whilst the Brownies settled down in their sleeping bags. We woke up in a very quiet empty Legoland for breakfast and then got ready for another day of going on rides. The final walk with suitcases back up to the start to meet parents in the afternoon made sure that everyone was properly exhausted!



# 4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies



Sometimes you just have to abandon the plan. 4<sup>th</sup> Caterham Brownies made the most of a fine evening, doing their own thing – unstructured play at its best.

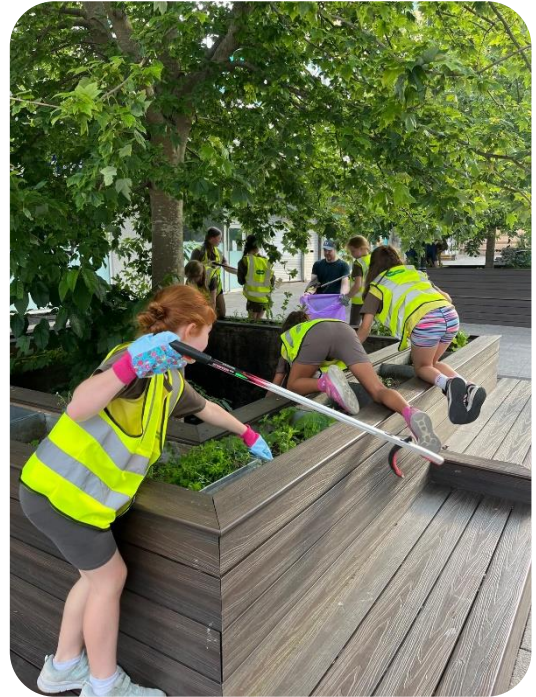




# 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies



10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies did one of their favourite activities this term: litter picking! We always do a careful health and safety briefing before we go into town and the girls are so thorough in their efforts. They found it hilarious that there were 'lost' trousers!



10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Brownies had the opportunity to try out some bell ringing at St John's church recently. We were pleased to do this to demonstrate to the girls what Brownie Bells are all about!



# Brownie Fun Day at Faurefold



We had a lovely sunny day at Faurefold for the Brownie fun day. One of the activities was land art. The Brownies did a great job!



## 1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies had a fantastic time at the Faurefold Brownie day, where they took part in a range of creative and outdoor activities. These included making willow snails, crafting leaf keyrings, and using hammers to press leaves onto fabric bags. The most enjoyed activity of the day was the blindfold string trail – an adventurous challenge that required no equipment or supervision. It was described by Brownie Calla as an activity that allowed them to “face their fears”.





# 1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies hosted a heartwarming mother's day tea party. Mother's day is the perfect time to show appreciation for all the love and care our mums give us.

In preparation for the event, the Brownies got creative, designing handmade colourful table mats and coasters to brighten up the tables. Using paint, stickers, and their artistic flair, they personalised each piece, making sure every mum had something special to take home. To make sure Brown Owl felt just as included and appreciated, her daughter joined in the celebrations and helped with the arrangements. It was a touching moment that made the event even more special for everyone.



A tea party wouldn't be complete without tasty treats! The Brownies worked together to prepare an assortment of sandwiches, carefully spreading butter, layering fillings, and cutting them into neat little triangles. They also arranged plates of biscuits and cakes, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy. 1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies worked hard to create a special afternoon filled with love and gratitude.

The mother's day tea party was a beautiful success, leaving both the Brownies and their mums with wonderful memories.





# 1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies had a rugby football session at Sutton and Epsom. Brownies had a brilliant time – it was fun, engaging experience and some are eager to sign up for more sessions.



This father's day, 1<sup>st</sup> Ashtead Brownies celebrated with a special daddy and daughters' sports day, filled with fun, laughter and unforgettable memories.



From wheelbarrow to skipping rope, three-legged races to piggyback rides, there was plenty of giggling and cheering all around. And to top it all off, our wonderful dads even joined in the Brownie Bells- they were all a good sport!

A huge thank you to all the fantastic fathers who made it a day to remember.







## 1st Oxted and 1st South Godstone Brownies



In March, Brownies from Oxted and South Godstone enjoyed a sleepover at Heartsease, with others joining the fun just for the day. We did the region 'in the spring' pawprint badge, which included sitting outside and listing all the sounds they could hear, and the list did not just include 'Brownies talking!' They heard various different birds, including the woodpecker who was tapping away in the woods.



The weather was kind to us, so we did lots of outdoor activities including a making a 'house for a mouse', but this was not just any old mouse house, it was palatial mouse accommodation with swimming pools, gardens, numerous rooms and even a mouse gym! Everyone also made their own pizza for lunch and decorated cupcakes. A fun time was had by all.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Oxted and 1<sup>st</sup> South Godstone Brownies and 3<sup>rd</sup> Oxted Guides



As other units headed to Ardingly for May-Hem, the Brownies, Guides and a couple of Rainbows headed to Cadbury World in Bourneville. Naturally, lots of chocolate was involved, starting with the free bars of chocolate handed out on arrival.

We learnt about how Cadbury's was started and watched a demonstration showing how chocolates were originally made by hand. We enjoyed the 4-D cinema and went on the Cadbury quest ride. We added our own choice of filling to chocolate pots, saw how chocolate items are decorated, and had a go writing with liquid chocolate and how to temper chocolate – although in the case of the young leaders, how to make a mess with chocolate! We also met some of the Cadbury characters.

We had lunch in the playground where a couple of Guides and young leaders made their promises, then of course we had to visit the shop before starting our journey back home – not sure all of the chocolate made it back home (or to those it may have been bought for!)





# 1<sup>st</sup> Banstead Rainbows and 5<sup>th</sup> Banstead Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Banstead Rainbows and 5<sup>th</sup> Banstead Brownies had a great time cooking. The Rainbows made cupcakes and iced them and put sprinkles on! And 5<sup>th</sup> Banstead Brownies had great fun with colander fires and made hot dogs, bananas and chocolate and chocolate cake in an orange! The hot dogs and the bananas were a hit!



## 1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Brownies spent a lovely evening feeding the sheep and seeing the lambs at Bocketts Farm.





# 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies were visited by their local MP Helen Maguire who presented 9 year old Elodie with a certificate and special badge for having completed all 18 interest badges! This is the first time in the unit's history that a Brownie has earned all the badges that are completed at home in their own time. Well done Elodie!





# 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies



1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village Brownies regularly support our local church St Mary's, the Parish church of Ewell, which is a registered eco-church due to their environmental engagement within the church and local community. The Brownies spent an evening clearing the churchyard of litter. Our favourite find this time was a very old pair of glasses!



Little Acres campsite in Horton Country Park, Epsom now has a time capsule buried there waiting to be dug up in twenty years! Filled with items chosen by the Brownies, the contents includes a promise badge, set of coins, letters from the Brownies, photos, information about Girlguiding and lots of badges. We enjoyed discussing what we thought everyone would be doing in twenty years' time!



# 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies



The Brownies celebrated lunar new year by making themselves into snakes and dragons.



Pancake mayhem at 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies.



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies had a fantastic visit to Epsom Fire Station finding out all about the role of a firefighter and what callouts they attend. It's not just fires and cats stuck up trees! Thank you to Colin and the Epsom team for a fascinating and great fun evening.





# 5<sup>th</sup> Reigate Brownies



5<sup>th</sup> Reigate Brownies have had another busy term. We loved Musigals. The vast majority of our pack took part. They certainly earned their Performer's badge!



Jenny helped us sew mini owls and we completed our art projects. We have some great budding impressionists. Our Gold girls ran a sports evening and presented trophies, and we have grown potatoes which aren't ready to cook yet!



We worked hard at Being Well and Expressing Ourselves, as you will see from the pictures. We had a magical weekend at Faurefold and a cowgirl party at Paxmead. Hannah spoke to us about Resilience. We were entertained by the science master.





# 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Brownies



One weekend in June, 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking (URC) Brownies celebrated 100 years of Brownies, meeting at and being sponsored by, the URC church in West Street, Dorking. They celebrated on the Saturday night by having a sleepover in the church hall, playing numerous fun, wet and messy party games and decorating their birthday cake.



On the Sunday they took part in the church parade service by writing and reading out their own prayers, reading the Bible readings and helping the minister in various activities.

After the church service they planted a cherry tree in the new remembrance garden bed, at the front of the church. This cherry tree replaces one which was planted 50 years ago, by the then Brownies, to celebrate 50 years of Brownies being at the church. Unfortunately, that tree died last winter, so it seemed very appropriate that a new cherry tree should be planted by the Brownies, this year, to celebrate 100 years.

After the planting, the Brownies and the rest of the congregation enjoyed refreshments, including the lovely birthday cake.



*Some of the Brownies with the cherry tree in the background.*



# Guides





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Oxted Guides



3<sup>rd</sup> Oxted Guides set sail on the canals for seven days. The Guides enjoyed their trip, travelling down from Braunston down to Oxford where we spent an afternoon. (All that history and the Guides want to go to Primark!!) The girls decorated Easter eggs, did some diamond painting and completed an Easter challenge. All the Guides had a go at steering, and are now competent at opening locks and lift bridges – especially the one in Banbury where you have to check no pedestrians need to cross before opening! We were accompanied on a lock by a couple of ducks, and the sun shone all week (that doesn't happen often on a canal trip).





# 4<sup>th</sup> Bookham Guides



4<sup>th</sup> Bookham Guides had a great evening with "The Forensic Experience" learning how to examine a crime scene and trying out various different forensic techniques.



# 12<sup>th</sup> Epsom Guides



12<sup>th</sup> Epsom Guides enjoyed solving a murder mystery around Epsom town centre.





# Epsom division Guides



Nine teams enjoyed an afternoon at Little Acres campsite, participating in the Epsom division Guide cooking competition, where they had to create a main and dessert!



All teams demonstrated commendable skill and should be proud of their achievements. Congratulations to 2<sup>nd</sup> Stoneleigh Guides, Team 1 who came 1st place, and a big thank you to our two judges Clare and Jill.





# 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Guides



10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Guides made some special memories the weekend residential. They were at Stonehenge for sunset on summer solstice. A unique experience – especially for those who made their promise by the stones.



After sleeping over at the local church hall, we then travelled on to Portland. We stayed in the old lighthouse which is now a bird observatory. The girls took part in bird recording, ringing and releasing and joined in with their moth catching research project.



# 10<sup>th</sup> Redhill Guides



We climbed to the top of the working Portland Bill lighthouse where some more Guides made their promise. We came home via the sculpture park at Tout Quarry, Chesil beach and a beautiful spot in the New Forest. A really special weekend for all.





# 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Guides



6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Guides had a great evening at Faurefold completing their outdoor cooking badge. The chocolate cake in an orange was a huge favourite!

6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Guides started on the new Eco award with a litter pick at Battlebridge running track with the support of local Graham Norris who provided the equipment. They gathered a huge pile of rubbish ready for the council to collect.





# 6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Guides



6<sup>th</sup> Merstham Guides had a fun evening at WILDFIT Surrey. Climbing, swinging, jumping and zip lining through the field and trees, we ended the evening with s'mores at the fire pit and two Guides making their promise on top of the cargo net.



# 9<sup>th</sup> Redhill Guides



9<sup>th</sup> Redhill Guides celebrated lunar new year with chopsticks practise and making dumplings from scratch! They made the dough, cut and prepped the filling and then obviously had to do a taste test! We cooked some fresh prawn crackers too!





# 1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Guides



1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Guides designed new floor tiles for our hall.

1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Guides learnt to use digital cameras for part of their photography badge.



1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Guides learned about the binary code system and made bracelets with their names in code.



1<sup>st</sup> Fetcham Guides started off the summer term with a rounders match.



# 1st Fetcham Guides



1st Fetcham Guides visited Paxmead. They had a great morning giant paddle boarding.



They went to Thorpe aqua park.





# Ashtead Guides



Ashtead Guides visited Wembley stadium to watch the UEFA women's nations league match between England v Spain. The Lionesses defeated the world champions, with England winning 1 – 0 against Spain. With an 8pm kick off, we didn't get home until midnight, but the girls enjoyed the rare treat of a late night on a weekday!



**“Going to Wembley was fantastic because I saw the Lionesses and the atmosphere was brilliant. I loved the chanting and singing.”**

Elizabeth



**“The England vs Spain match was such an amazing experience. It was a very exciting game with England scoring early on. If I had the chance I would love to go back again!”**

Alexandra



# 1st Chaldon Guides



Chaldon Guides were split into six groups and given a budget to spend in Tesco to support the Foodbank. Groups were given this weeks Top 10 most needed list from the Foodbank and challenged to get as many items as they could for £11 or under. Everyone worked really well in their groups and rose to the challenge! This challenge went towards the Guides' 'money confident' badge. Volunteers from the Caterham Foodbank came to meet us at the end of our meeting and collected the food items we donated to them. We hope our donations are able to help lots of people in need over the coming weeks.



Chaldon Guides met at Kenley Aerodrome for a glow walk. We were lucky with the nice dry weather and super clear sky. We managed to spot lots of different constellations and even saw Venus and Mars shining bright!



Chaldon Guides learnt what different metal fixtures were called and used them to make little nut and bolt person keyrings. We used pliers to make sure the metal rings were well fitted to the bolts so we didn't lose our little people!



# 1st Chaldon Guides



1st Chaldon Guides had the best time at The Gatwick Escape Rooms! The teamwork in each room was insane, so much so that we all managed to escape! Well done Guides – and leaders to of course!



THE GOVERNOR GATWICK ESCAPE ROOMS



1st Chaldon Guides had a great activity weekend sleepover at Blacklands. We scaled crates, scrambled over rocks and under tree routes, leapt from the top of the zip wire tower, challenged ourselves to make it round the bouldering wall and went head-to-head in a game of Aeroball! This group showed us that sub zero temperatures and mud cannot stop them when there is a challenge in the distance. The mud washes away but the memories last forever.

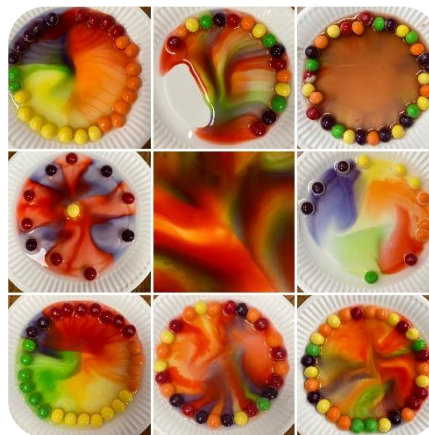




# 4<sup>th</sup> Ashtead Guides

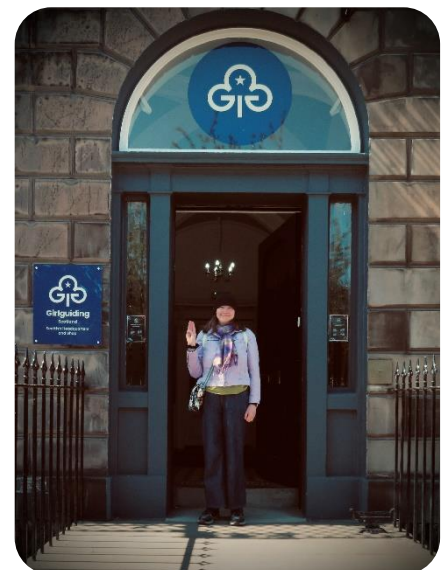


We completed the investigation badge, by extracting DNA from strawberries which was great fun, learning about dye with colour chromatography, growing our own crystal hedgehogs, and learning about detective work.



Leader Finch volunteered at the LaSER May-Hem event and visited Girlguiding Scotland's HQ whilst on holiday in Edinburgh.

The girls had success building their 'house of Guiding' completing UMAs learning about Guiding structure and teamwork.



Finally, the unit has been able to enjoy the lighter evenings and complete the photography badge.



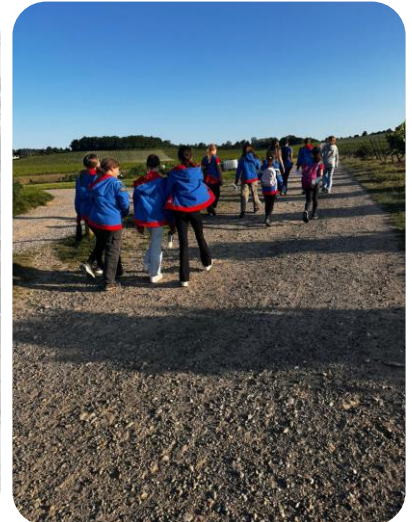
# 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Guides



2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Guides celebrated the return of the light evenings with a walk from Faurefold to the Nower, and on to St Paul's church. It was a beautiful sunny evening.



Dorking Guides learned to square lash and did a great job!



Dorking Guides completed the navigator badge. We caught the train from Dorking to Box Hill and then walked to Faurefold. We learnt map reading and trainline safety. Five miles walked and smiles all the way.



The leaders proving that running a Guide unit is keeping loads of plates spinning.



2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Dorking Guides learnt circus skills.



# Lingfield Guides



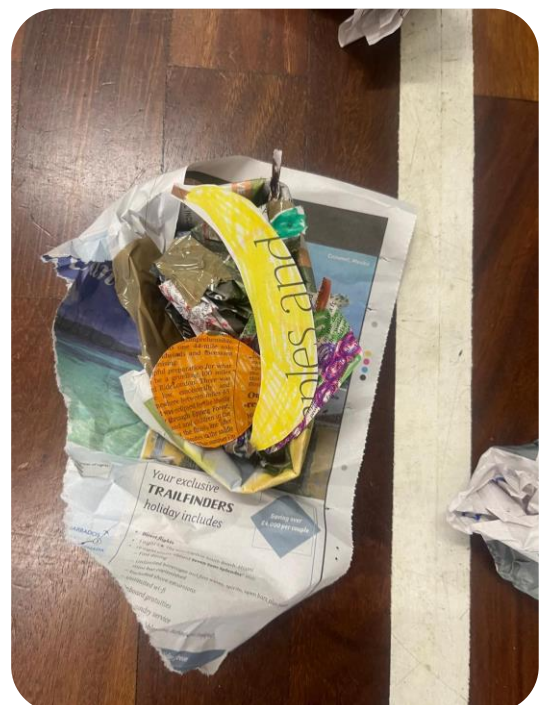
Lingfield Guides had great fun trying out 'bubble football'.



# 1st Capel Guides



1st Capel Guides enjoyed an evening with the paper planner and mission managed skills builders. Lots of teamwork, leadership skills, planning and more importantly laughter and giggles.





# Leaders and Trefoil Guild





# Little Acres Campsite



Leaders from Epsom division used this years Monopoly Run to promote Little Acres Campsite to anyone who would listen! 11 miles round London, 32,500 steps, we're still smiling.....just!



Volunteers at Little Acres Campsite in Horton Country Park Epsom spent a weekend getting everything ready for more visitors coming in soon! The lodge is spick and span, bulbs have been planted and the brambles have been banished, reclaiming a large area back!



# County Volunteers Day 2025



Around 60 people gathered at Horley Methodist church on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April for the County Volunteers Together: Celebration and Training day. We learned about the new young leader development programme and how to support our young volunteers.

The main part of the day focused on the six theme awards within the girls' programme, and attendees travelled around the venue, taking part in different activities in the different themes collecting trivial pursuit style 'pieces of pie' to complete their cards and be entered into the prize draw.





# County Volunteers Day 2025



Epsom



Godstone



Leith Hill



Downs Heath

The day finished with the presentations of some Long Service awards by Beverly. Highlights of the day were the scones prepared by Clare and the inspirational talk given by Debbie Rogers, who was presented with her Queen's Guide award.



# Queen's Guide award

Huge congratulations to the incredible Debbie on achieving her prestigious Queen's Guide award!

Having joined Girlguiding as an adult volunteer, Debbie was looking for a new challenge – and she didn't hold back. For her personal challenge, she took up powerlifting and went on to win a competition. For her Guiding challenge, she led an international trip, supporting 12 girls across LaSER to fundraise and Inter-rail across Europe. And for her community action challenge, she supported YMCA East Surrey in their fundraising for a new youth minibus – finishing that journey by climbing Ben Nevis alongside them!



From smashing a powerlifting competition, to conquering Ben Nevis, to empowering young members in Guiding, Debbie has truly found her heart in Girlguiding. She's shown strength, passion, and dedication every step of the way.



Her award was presented at the County Volunteers Together day where she thanked those who had supported her, particularly Janet Rumble, her mentor, county queen's guide adviser, Alex Lorenz and her division commissioner, Sue Corrance. What an inspiration – who knows what Debbie will take on next?



# Long service awards



Margaret King from Leith Hill division was presented with her 60-year Long Service award on 11<sup>th</sup> June at Faurefold. She was joined by family, friends, Guiding colleagues past and present and Trefoil Guild members for the celebration. Leith Hill Trefoil organised an amazing spread of refreshments.

Several of Margaret's close friends gave tributes to her dedicated and unwavering service to Girlguiding. They all acknowledged her calm manner in everything she does and the laughter she shares with so many. Her contribution to her units, district, division, county and Trefoil Guild were applauded.





# Long service awards

Beverly Heywood-Jones, Surrey East County Commissioner, and Amanda Teasel, LaSER region Chief Commissioner, joined the occasion to present the award and thank Margaret for her years of commitment to Girlguiding. The evening was a lovely opportunity to reminisce, and the weather was perfect for some campfire singing and s'mores outside. Many congratulations Margaret!





# Long service awards

Leatherhead division sent huge congratulations to Jocelyn Fallows on her 30-year Long Service award!

We were so proud to celebrate Jocelyn at May-Hem this year. Jocelyn's Guiding journey has been nothing short of inspiring – starting as a Rainbow leader in Wilmslow, Cheshire, and then serving as District Commissioner from 2003–2007. She's also been a Leadership Mentor for Wilmslow district and a County Mentor and Advisor for Cheshire Border County.



*Left to right:- Jocelyn Fallows, her daughter Nicki and granddaughter Mia, with Bookham and Effingham District Commissioner Sharren Bridges.*

Now living in Sussex, Jocelyn continues to give back by supporting Bookham Guides and our County Holiday House and Campsite, Faurefold and volunteering to make sure events like May-Hem happen.

The award was presented by District Commissioner Sharren, and it was a truly special moment, made even more meaningful with Jocelyn's daughter and granddaughter there to share in the celebration. Jocelyn, thank you for your unwavering commitment to Guiding over the years—you continue to inspire all of us!

Assistant county commissioner Mary Zoeller was delighted to present Michelle Hall, leader of 2<sup>nd</sup> Stoneleigh Guides, with her 30-year Long Service award at her unit meeting! Michelle is an inspiring leader who volunteers not only with Guides but as Outdoor Activities Adviser and Guides Section Adviser for Epsom division as well as being a hardworking member of the Little Acres campsite committee. Congratulations Michelle and thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm!





# Long service awards



Janet Coninx received her 40-year Long Service award at a surprise party with her unit 2<sup>nd</sup> Woodmansterne Village Brownies. Each Brownie presented her with a yellow rose with a personalised message. The award was presented by county commissioner, Beverly Heywood-Jones. Thank you to Chrystal and Demi for organising such a lovely celebration.



Congratulations to Ann Turnbull aka Brown Owl of 1<sup>st</sup> Epsom (St Martin's) Brownies who was presented with her 40-year Long Service award. Thank you Ann for your commitment, kind nature and enthusiasm!



Congratulations Jo Carr of 1<sup>st</sup> Capel Brownies, who received her 20-year long service at May-Hem from assistant county commissioner Mary.



Congratulations to Emily Walker who was presented with her 5-year service award at the silent disco at May-Hem. Emily is the Brownie leader at 2<sup>nd</sup> Dorking Brownies and provides support to 12<sup>th</sup> Dorking for trips and residentials too.



# Long service awards



Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> Ewell Village (St Mary's) Guide Leader and Little Acres Campsite chair Tracey Pettit who was given her 20 years Long Service award. Tracey runs both her Guide unit and the campsite with huge enthusiasm and dedication, and we are very grateful to her for her outstanding commitment. Well done Tracey and thank you very much for all you do for Girlguiding in Epsom!



Congratulations to Sam:  
20-year award



Congratulations to Chris from  
Lingfield Rainbows and  
Brownies who received her  
10-year service award. Thank  
you for all that you do!



Congratulations to Fiona:  
5-year award

Congratulations to Amy Prior of 1<sup>st</sup> Stoneleigh Brownies: 10-year award



# Surrey East Trefoil Guilds

In March we held our Annual Review and Gathering at Reigate Park church. We were pleased that several members of Surrey East Girlguiding were able to join us for the afternoon along with Gill Crook & Lou Salmon from LaSER Trefoil Exec. for tea and a sociable time. We thanked Janice Posner having been County Chairman for five years and welcomed Lesley Bailey as our new County Chairman. Our speaker was Amy Lovell who came and told us about her trip to Japan. This got us all thinking about holidays.



The Trefoil Guild's contribution to 'Musigals' was to show that we have fun in Trefoil and enjoy joining in with county events. From a casual remark during a walk, an answer for the teamwork clause of the Trefoil Guild's Voyage award started – kangaroo blankets. Members were invited to knit 24 squares for each blanket. One day this spring, a number of Trefoil members met at Faurefold where they completed 27 blankets which were delivered to the Special Care Baby Unit at St George's Hospital along with further blankets already completed.

Kingswood Guild held an afternoon tea in aid of Princess Alice Hospice while Bookham Guild had a coffee morning in aid of DYSCOVER. There is a further tea party during the summer organised by Banstead Guild.

Twice a month on a Tuesday morning members meet at Tadworth for table tennis and tai chi. They are always looking for new members if anyone is interested.





# Surrey East Trefoil Guilds



Surrey East Out & About group had a day out at Worthing and while there put in some putting practice in Marine Gardens.

Recently the County Trefoil arranged a 'midsummer day' at Wychcroft where about 25 members spent the day either quietly relaxing or going for walks in the local area. With the excellent weather, a very pleasant day was spent by all. Lunch and afternoon tea was very enjoyable, and the afternoon finished with some chosen poetry and prose by several members.



We are pleased to say that Lesley, our County Chairman has been chosen to join a TOPAZ team to Thailand next January, so we are all supporting her in raising the money for the trip. Our next county outing will hopefully be to Denbies on Oct 8th for the tour followed by afternoon tea.



The next County Newsletter will be published in January 2026.

**The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

All articles are welcome, from units, districts, divisions or county – please email your contribution to [newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com](mailto: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

County newsletter coordinator

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Twitter: @ggSEcountynews



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/>

You can also follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/girlguidingsurreyeast>  
<https://www.instagram.com/girlguidingsurreyeast>