



## County Update February 2026



### Welcome from the County Commissioner

It's that time of year when most units are completing their end of year accounts, ensuring GO is up to date so their annual subscriptions trial invoice is correct and they are ready to pay the annual subscription on time.

Please do give your local commissioner time to amend any volunteer's roles if your invoice is not correct and don't leave this to the 16 February deadline. We have also asked all district/division treasurers to ensure they have details of the unit bank accounts within their area including confirmation of signatories. Please support their request for this detail.

Don't miss the opportunity for your unit to be the one to represent Surrey East at the Trooping the Colour, if you are interested. Details of how to apply are in this county update. In case you missed it – here is our Autumn/Winter edition of the [County Newsletter](#) which provides terrific round up of our guiding adventures in Surrey East for Autumn/Winter 2025! Happy Thinking Day to you all!

Beverly Heywood-Jones  
Surrey East County Commissioner  
[Surreyeastcc@btinternet.com](mailto:Surreyeastcc@btinternet.com)



### Sad News

We are sorry to share the news that Janette Chapman, leader at 10th Redhill Brownie Unit, passed away suddenly on 18th January. Janette supported guiding in Surrey East for 38 years including being Redhill District Commissioner from 2012 to 2016 and running 3rd Redhill Rainbows for 10 years.



Janette was passionate about guiding and continued to support her daughters; Joanne, also a leader at 10th Redhill Brownies, Amanda, a leader at 10th Redhill Guide and Ranger unit and Tanya who is a leader at 4th East Grinstead Brownies as well as being the safe practice coordinator at Girlguiding headquarters. Janette will be sorely missed.

Janette's funeral will take place at 2.15 on 13th February at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, with time for us all to remember Janette afterwards at Heathy Farm pub. Everyone is welcome and please do wear uniform if you would like to. Janette's family have requested [donations to British Heart Foundation](#) in lieu of flowers please. Our condolences to her family and friends.

## Upcoming Training

### **Leadership Development**

We have one day face to face training for leaders in training, which includes the mandatory modules. The next one is 8 March at Faurefold, Westcott, so [please register now](#) to secure your place. More dates will be scheduled in Surrey West later in 2026. Modules are available on the learning platform, and you can choose one in another area as they are webinars.



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

Please book yourself onto the next available course before your current qualification expires.

[First Response Full Day – 28 Mar – Beare Green](#)

Any questions or to be added to the waitlist for the next available course, please refer to our first response training coordinator, Maria Young, [surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com](mailto:surreyeastggfirstresponse@gmail.com).

If you have an external, non-guiding first aid qualification based on a recognised course that is a minimum of 6-hours, you can ask region to verify this via this process – [Approving non Girlguiding 1st Response courses | Girlguiding LaSER](#).

### **Residential training**

Planning to take your unit on a residential? Interested in learning what's 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 – 7 March](#).

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.

If you have a training query, please refer to county training led by Lorna Smith [surreyeasttraining@gmail.com](mailto:surreyeasttraining@gmail.com).

## Assistant Leader Roles

We are planning to update the role type for volunteers who have 'assistant leader' roles but already have the old leader qualification module 4. The role of assistant leader was withdrawn so all leaders who complete the new leader development programme (LDP) are now assigned a role type of 'leader'. This change does not affect the local agreements you have for current leadership roles and responsibilities.

This also does not affect people who don't have the LQ module 4 and wish to remain Assistant Leader however please be warned this may result in issues if you change units or become non-compliant as the role can only be assigned by membership systems. Existing Assistant leaders are welcome to complete the [LDP top-up module](#) on the learning platform to become Leaders too if they wish.

## Trooping the Colour 2026 (Kings Birthday Parade)



I'm delighted to share that Surrey East has been offered 30 places to attend this year's [Trooping the Colour](#) 2026 (Kings Birthday Parade) on Saturday 13 June 2026. We're sure this is an opportunity many units would like to take up, so we have setup a ballot to enable you to apply for your unit, or to apply on behalf of two local units together as a group.

We need a group main contact to complete the application form and if selected be the main contact to lead the group. The group itself must be a maximum of 30 people (young members and their leaders, in ratio (ie no more adults than needed)).

The event is open to all sections but please note that the Youth Enclosure is a standing area and, as space is limited, people will not be allowed to bring camping chairs or seating with them. Ground sheets are allowed if people wish to sit on the ground. Units would need to be at the entry point to the Youth Enclosure for around 8am and any units not arrived by 10:00am will not be allowed access as it will interfere with the parade. The organising team expect that the event will be finished by about 1pm.

All participants will need to wear smart uniform and have active roles on Go. Attending adults must have enhanced DBS checks and be able to provide valid photo ID on arrival at the event. Participating units would need to arrange and fund their own travel.

The lucky group will be confirmed by the county commissioner who will need to confirm the main contact and the names and email addresses for all adults attending the event and the total number of young members by section and any accessibility/welfare requirements on the day by 9 March. There is a small chance we may be offered some additional tickets so we will select a backup group too.

[Trooping the Colour 2026 \(Kings Birthday Parade\) Ballot Application form](#)

Applications to this ballot is open until 13 February.

### Surrey East

### Young Leaders' Weekend 2026

*We are excited to offer an activity weekend exclusively for young leaders*

**Friday 11 September to Sunday 13 September 2026**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Signup details will be shared next term.

## **Surrey East Leaders' Weekend 2026**

**25–27 September 2026**

*Join us for a weekend of fun and friendship*

Our county weekend for Surrey East volunteers is being held at [Youlbury Scout site](#), based in Oxford, costing £135 per head. This price includes all meals from Friday evening including Sunday lunch (some of which will be catered by us), plus 3 adventurous activities and a badge for all participants. We have booked Bear's Den, a purpose-built lodge with en-suite rooms of 1, 2 and 4 people. It includes a kitchen, hall and drying room. If you would like to go please email Kate at [kate.fowles@ggse.org.uk](mailto:kate.fowles@ggse.org.uk).

A deposit of £70 will be required by 6 March. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Payment to be made to "Girlguiding Surrey East" sort code 40-52-40 and account number 00022824 and state the reference "LW Oxford".

## **Annual subscriptions 2026**

Your trial invoices are now available.

Unit leaders/administrators: Please do check that the data is correct and contact your commissioner if any volunteer roles need to be changed. All volunteers should be paid for at the unit level or the nearest level above if they do not eg District/Division.

The deadline for any required changes in Go to be made is 16 February at 7pm – but please do ensure your trial invoice is correct in good time and don't leave it to the last minute.

Please help us by ensuring your official invoice is paid promptly when it is available on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Contact your commissioner or [surreyeastcc@btinternet.com](mailto:surreyeastcc@btinternet.com) if you have any issues.

## **Thinking Day**

**22 February**

Every year on this day, we celebrate World Thinking Day.

We're part of a bigger movement – the [World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts \(WAGGGS\)](#) – and World Thinking Day is a chance for us to connect with 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the globe. And to shout about the amazing things we do.

This year the theme is 'Friendship' and 100 years of World Thinking Day!

Happy Thinking Day to everyone in Surrey East!