



## County Update March 2026



### Welcome from the County Commissioner

I'm delighted to see that over 90% of the annual subscriptions across the county are now fully paid – thank you. If your unit's payment is still outstanding, please ensure you pay it now by card, or make sure you post it in plenty of time as it must be received by HQ by Friday 27 March 2026 by 12pm.

Well done to everyone who celebrated World Thinking Day! It was fantastic to see so many units celebrating 'Friendship' and thinking about our association with Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world at your weekly meetings, in Districts or Divisions and some great pictures shared. Congratulations to everyone who received awards at these events too.

As I've mentioned before, recruitment remains high on our agenda and the new volunteer recruitment tool seems to be helping. It's fantastic to see that 15 volunteers completed the leadership development programme last year and 38 are currently actively working on it. I'm also delighted to have appointed Fi Exley as division commissioner designate for Reigate division.

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



### County Mentors

We currently have 38 leaders in training actively working on the Leadership Development programme, which is fantastic, however 7 still need mentors to be assigned. If you are actively volunteering and are interested in helping others as a mentor – please do take a look at this [Become a leader in training mentor | Girlguiding](#) and/or contact Janet Coninx directly on [lqsurreyeast@gmail.com](mailto:lqsurreyeast@gmail.com) to find out more.

For more information about the leadership development programme, please take a look at the website [Become a Girlguiding leader | Girlguiding](#)

## Upcoming Training

### **Leadership Development**

We have one day face to face training for leaders in training, which includes the mandatory modules. 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. All events/meetings must have at least one person with a current first response qualification. Next course is [First Response Full Day - Beare Green 12 July](#) or [First Response Full Day - Faurefold 20 September](#). Any questions, 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? 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).

## Faurefold Activity days



Booking is now open for the Rainbow and Brownie activity days at Faurefold  
[Rainbow Activity Day Booking – 17 May 2026 10am to 4pm](#)  
[Brownies Activity Day Booking – 16 May 2026 10am to 4pm](#)

Fun outdoors – with games, trails, nature table, woodland crafts,  
outdoor cooking, campfire singing and more.

## Did you know?

### Commissioner

The role of the commissioner has evolved over time with most role holders juggling family, work and running units too, however being a commissioner can be very rewarding as it's a role that makes a real difference to Guiding in the area that you represent – welcoming and supporting local volunteers to deliver good guiding. No one has all the answers, so we are all reliant on the support of the volunteers around us.

We have a few areas where there is no commissioner – if you are in Reigate Park district, Leith Hill division, Downs Heath division, Epsom division – please do consider this role and get in touch directly to find out more if you are interested –[surreyeastcc@btinternet.com](mailto:surreyeastcc@btinternet.com).

### Compliance

To be fully compliant as a volunteer you need to maintain your mandatory training and have an up to date Girlguiding disclosure check. New volunteers need to complete checks within 40 days of being appointed a role. There must be first aid cover at every unit meeting or activity or event and at least one leader who holds a safe space level 3 or safer guiding. Please do monitor these things within your unit and make sure you take the necessary action yourself to stay up to date.

### Going Away With (GAW)

Have you held a GAW residential qualification for years? The new GAW scheme has top-up modules available on the Learning platform, so you can be up to date with current practice including Teamwork, Programme and Venue management.

It includes a comprehensive resources bank with items such as fire, gas and safety guidance, contingency planning, catering and food safety resource. Are you fully up to date with current practice? [Going away with scheme | Girlguiding](#)

## County Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2026

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](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. The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 3 July 2026.

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

## 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*

31 have signed up so far from all divisions

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 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".

## County Badges



We have identified that the woven county badges are now only available as a bespoke order with a minimum quantity of 1000 and for the metal county lion the minimum order is 50.

Leaders can buy these badges individually or volunteer shops can now buy smaller quantities from [Jan White](#), our county badge secretary, so they are available locally to unit leaders/administrators.