



County Update July 2026



Welcome from the County Commissioner

It's great to see so many units enjoying being outdoors and planning summer residentials. Thank you for making these amazing memories for our members and may your efforts be rewarded in the fun and adventure that you have.

Last week we celebrated with volunteers in Godstone with an afternoon tea. Congratulations to Sue Corrance who was awarded a county good service award at the end of 3 years as Godstone division commissioner. It was celebrations all round in Reigate too where some of 2nd Horley Rainbows and Brownies received bronze, silver and gold awards and long service awards were presented to their leaders – with Helen Prosser receiving her 40 years long service award and a thanks badge for her term as district commissioner.

As we look forward to the summer holidays – we have many units off on residentials. Good luck to you all and wish you all an amazing time. You will see next term we have arranged another round of Coffee and Chats – please do pick a date and time to suit you and pop down. We would love to see you, hear your guiding stories and answer any questions that you have. All volunteers are welcome.

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



Are you a Queens Guide?

The Queen's Guide award is 80 years old in December and Laser region would like to celebrate by publishing stories from people who achieved this award on their social media pages.

To take part, send a photo of yourself either now or your younger self in Girlguiding – along with a few words about your Queen's Guide award and/or what you are doing now, either within or outside of Girlguiding.

[Queen's Guide Award memories | Girlguiding LaSER](#)

Upcoming Training

Leadership Development

We have one day face to face training for leaders in training, which includes the mandatory modules plus risky business) and the opportunity to meet other Surrey volunteers. The next one is planned for 14 March 2027 at Faurefold – please [register here](#) if you would like to attend. Modules are available on the learning platform, and you can choose one in another area as they are webinars. If you would like to [become a qualified leader](#), logon to the learning platform and complete Becoming a Leader.



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 – Faurefold 20 September](#). Any questions, please refer to our first response training coordinator, Maria Young, 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.

Other training

Is there a specific training that you think would be helpful or a topic that you would like to explore with advisers and other leaders? If so, please contact your local training adviser or Lorna Smith, our county training coordinator directly surreyeasttraining@gmail.com

Surrey East Young Leaders' Weekend 2026

Last chance to register

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

From 7.30pm on Friday 11 Sept to 3.30pm on Sunday 13 Sept 2026

At Bentley Copse, Guildford

[Young Leaders' weekend 2026 – Girl Guiding Surrey East](#)

[Sign up now!](#)

Surrey East county 'Coffee and Chat' drop-in

You are invited to an informal drop-in. Meet members of the county team or simply catch-up with your guiding friends. We have dates to suit everyone. All volunteers welcome.

The dates are as follows:

Sunday 20 September 11-1pm for brunch in the Faurefold marquee, Lince Lane, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3LX

Monday 28 September 7.30-9.30pm at Fetcham Guide HQ, Cannon Grove, Fetcham KT22 9LH

Saturday 3 October 3-5pm at Empire Hall, Victoria Road, Horley RH6 7AW

Wednesday 7 October 7-9pm for a sausage sizzle at Little Acres, Horton Lane, Epsom Surrey KT19 8PT

Tuesday 13 October 7.30-9.30pm at Banstead HQ, The Drive, Banstead SM7 1DA

Monday 19 October 7-9pm (half term) Oxted Guide hut, Limpsfield RH8 0EW

You will be able to visit guiding properties in Surrey East

See some of the new uniform and books

Pick up some marketing materials to promote guiding in your area

Find out about local training opportunities, young leader development and the leader development programme and finance and gift aid.



Dates to suit everyone

Uniform optional

Everyone who attends will receive a badge

It would be great to see you!

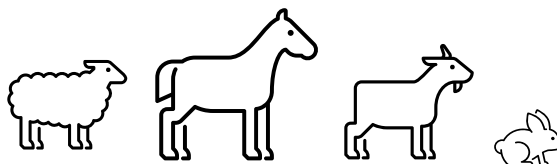
Rainbows at Godstone Farm

Saturday 12 June 2027

Rainbows will be celebrating being 40 in 2027
Surrey East is planning a county Rainbow celebration
at Godstone Farm



Save the date to bring your Rainbow unit
Details will follow.



Did you know?

DBS checks

Please be aware that DBS checks are taking longer than usual to complete. Please do them when you receive the first reminder, particularly if you are planning to attend a residential, to give the maximum time for this to complete before your event.

Unit finances

The Girlguiding [accounts package](#) gets better every year and now includes a budgeting tool and a Gift Aid register. If your unit doesn't currently use the package, please do consider using it for next year's accounts. There is guidance, e-learning and plenty of local people who can help with it if you need it.

As a reminder, it is guiding policy to have a minimum of 3 signatories with any 2 to sign on your unit account, ideally one at another level. All signatories on the account should have an active role on GO. Please check you're your own unit's accounts and ensure you are compliant

Compliance for young members turning 18

If you are a young leader, when you turn 18 your role will automatically change to unit helper on GO and you will need to complete a DBS and safer guiding within 40 days as an adult. There is a [turning-18-checklist](#) to help you to discuss this with your unit leader.

If you are not actively volunteering as a unit helper, however, it is important that you ask your local commissioner to end this role promptly to avoid becoming non-compliant in this role.

If you are a Ranger are not volunteering in a unit, you can of course continue as a ranger until your 19th birthday.

Save the Date – Saturday 11 March 2028



Girlguiding Surrey East are now in the process of planning Musigals 2028, a musical extravaganza to be held at Dorking Halls for units to get involved in.

Right now - we are looking for volunteers to join this amazing, event planning team.

Interested? Please click the link below for more details.

[Get involved](#)