

County Newsletter

 **Girlguiding**
Surrey East county

spring/summer 2026



Welcome to all in Surrey East Girlguiding.

Twice a year we produce this newsletter as a celebration of Guiding in Surrey East. Thank you to Alexia Beale who collates all the articles submitted and Mary who proofreads it. It's such a magnificent summary of what we do best around the county and a great source for ideas.

Spring/Summer 2026 was hot and sunny, so it's great to see units out and about. 100 years of World Thinking Day, Cityscapes, Scram, Castles and Crowns....engaging with the local communities, whilst building skills, gaining confidence and earning badges. Well done to all our young members who challenged themselves, completed gold, silver and bronze awards, and to those who managed to complete all the interest badges. Also, well done to our volunteers who completed their development programme to become qualified leaders and young leaders. We look forward to seeing you progress through your guiding journey.

It was exciting to hear about the nominations for Kate Fowles, Sarah Smith, George Ede and Tracey Pettit who were all recognised at the Guiding Celebrates in Leicester Square. A massive thank you to everyone who received awards for long service, particularly Helen Prosser who received 40 years, Julia Bennett and Harriet Trendell who received 30 years, Sarah Williams, Nova Macdonald and Dawn Bourne who received 20 years. Emma Marsh, Sonia Naughton and Sue Corrance were awarded County Good Service awards for all they have done for Surrey as division commissioners and Kate Fowles was awarded the Region Chief award for her outstanding contribution in Surrey East and more widely as a first response trainer. Thank you to everyone who nominated our award winners.

Being county commissioner for Girlguiding Surrey East is a privilege when we have such an amazing team of volunteers who do so much to help girls and young women know they can do anything.

Thank you for all that you do to support meetings, activities, events, residentials and our properties in Girlguiding Surrey East.



Beverly Heywood-Jones
Surrey East county
commissioner

surreyeastcc@btinternet.com



Newly Qualified Leaders

Congratulations to the following leaders who have completed their leadership development programme or added modules to their qualifications:

Epsom Division

Chloe Searle
3rd Stoneleigh Brownies

Godstone Division

Kelly Lancashire
1st Lingfield Rangers

Deanne Jones
1st Lingfield Rainbows

And Young Leaders



Congratulations to Emma who completed her young leader development programme.



Emma, Grace and Megan from 1st Ewell Village Brownies were presented with their young leader certificates. They have worked really hard over the last year. Well done young leaders and thank you to Epsom's Alex Lorenz for her encouragement for and presenting the awards..

100 Years of World Thinking Day



Girlguiding Merstham district celebrated 100 years of World Thinking Day with a jam-packed activity day.

We tried African drumming, Bollywood dancing, and made alpine flower crowns, aboriginal dotty art, rangoli sand pictures, Japanese garden bookmarks, New Zealand clay carving and Madagascan Lizards.

We all remade our promise, with one Guide making her promise for the first time too. Everyone went home with our special commemorative district World Thinking Day badge and had lots of fun.



100 Years of World Thinking Day

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from units in Caterham held a World Thinking Day activity afternoon on Sunday 22 February. We held the event at St. John's Church and hall in Caterham Valley.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides were split into four groups and took part in different activities including making paper chains, designing an outfit for 100 years' time, making paper dolls, and learning how to do a friendship knot for our district scarf. We had a church service with Rev. Jaimee Summers. After the church service, we went back into the hall and had a buffet tea. An enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone that attended.



100 Years of World Thinking Day

More than 150 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and volunteer leaders from across Leatherhead division gathered at Manor House School in Bookham to mark the 100th anniversary of World Thinking Day.

Girls and leaders from units in Ashted, Leatherhead, Fetcham, Bookham and Effingham spent a fun-filled few hours enjoying mass singing and dancing sessions. They learned to sing Katy Perry's hit song "Roar" guided by Dave from Rock Choir. The dancing activity was led by Susy Puckett, the theatre school manager at Leatherhead Theatre. Susy guided Rainbows, Brownies and Guides through a lively routine to the song "We're all in this together" from 'High School Musical'.



Leatherhead division was also delighted to welcome along the CEO of Girlguiding, Felicity Oswald, to join in the fun.

There were cupcakes for everyone who attended, decorated with the Girlguiding trefoil and very kindly provided by Lola's Cupcakes.

100 Years of World Thinking Day

St Barnabas Rainbows in Epsom division made 'a penny for your thoughts' sending kind thoughts to our Guiding sisters around the world for World Thinking Day.



Girlguiding Epsom division Brownies celebrated 100 years of World Thinking Day with a silent disco at Ewell Court House. We were delighted to be joined by Beverly who led us in remaking our promise. The tuck shop was a huge hit!



100 Years of World Thinking Day

Students at Danetree Primary School in Ewell were invited to wear their uniform to school to celebrate World Thinking Day.



10th Redhill Brownies were delighted to do what so many Girlguiding members have done before them and contribute their coins to support girls to enjoy Guiding in other parts of the world for the WAGGGS collection fund.



Cuddington Rainbows made giant pennies and a WAGGGS trefoil from copper coins for their World Thinking Day crafts.

100 Years of World Thinking Day

Dorking Guides created trefoil giant art and completed promise activities for World Thinking Day.

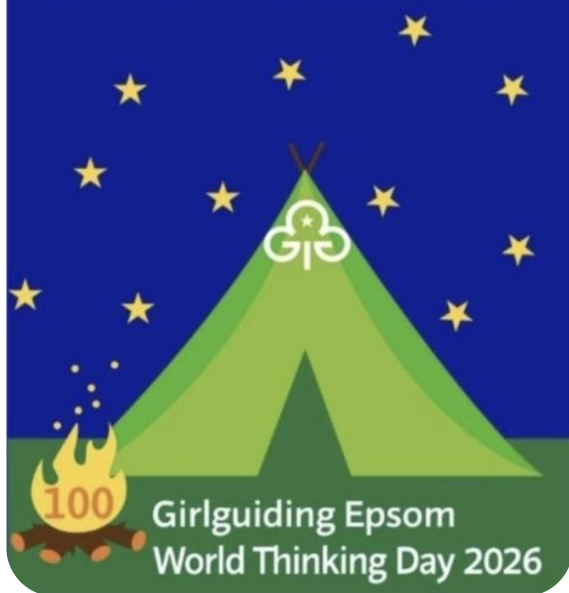


Horley East and West celebrated 100 years of World Thinking Day with over 100 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides completing the WAGGS challenge, including creating a rainbow mural and a friendship paperchain.



100 Years of World Thinking Day

Friendship & Sparkle Camp



Epsom division Guides celebrated 100 years of World Thinking Day with a weekend camp at Little Acres campsite. The weekend included sparklers, campfire, orienteering, pioneering, crafts and a silent disco. Lots of fun and memories were made.

Thank you to Beverly our county commissioner and Kate our assistant county commissioner for joining and leading us in our promise renewal and presenting Laura Gudge with her 10-year service award.



Cityscapes



3rd Oxted Guides had an amazing time at Cityscapes in Portsmouth.

A fab day of activities and adventures. The girls were also lucky enough to meet the Girlguiding CEO Felicity Oswald and the chief and deputy chief region commissioner for the south-west.

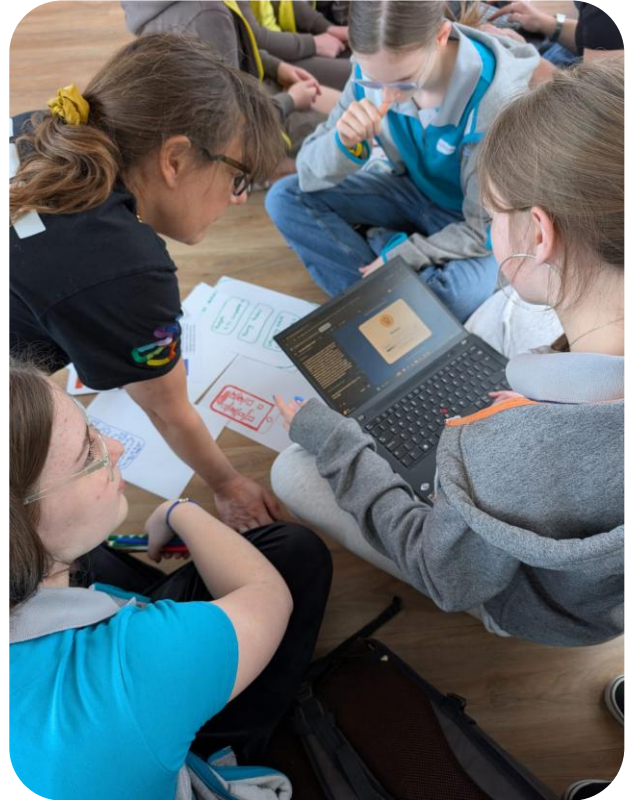
To finish off the day, two Guides made their promises on the beach.

Cityscapes

Epsom Leaders had an exciting day exploring Portsmouth, taking part in a range of activities including axe throwing, laser shooting, and crafts, while also tackling questions as they made their way around the city.



Cityscapes



Merstham Rangers had a fabulous day at Cityscapes Portsmouth. We met our region commissioner and presented Ranger Bronze awards.



SCRAM 2026

SCRAM, the triennial activity day for Surrey Cub Scouts and Brownies, was held at Apps Court Farm in June, celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Over 2,500 Cubs, Brownies and their leaders gathered for a day of amazing activities and had a huge amount of fun.

Each pack or unit offered an activity to complement the larger bought in activities – the Cubs and Brownies just “scrammed” trying them all!



Caterham Valley District Camp

Caterham Valley district had a very hot three-night camping weekend at Park Farm in Banstead over the late May bank holiday weekend.

The Brownies and Guides camped for the weekend. The Rainbows came and visited for the day on Saturday.

Dawn, who was being tested for her camp licence throughout the weekend, organised an exciting programme for the girls to take part in, including making spiderweb or journey sticks, air dry clay crafts, a Narnia walk in the woods, SMORES, face painting and a variety of other fun activities. Janet ran a handbell session with all the girls, which they all really enjoyed.

It was a very hot, fun, enjoyable camping weekend for all.



Castles and Crowns

Merstham Guides celebrated the 'castles and crowns' weekend with a trip to The Royal Mews.

We had a picnic lunch in St James' Park and a walk seeing the local sights of Horse Guards, the Cenotaph, Downing Street, Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.



3rd Merstham Rainbows had a Castles and Crowns themed session.

The girls wore their favourite dressing-up costumes, tried on medieval armour, practised their archery, made beautiful crowns, danced to medieval music and perfected their beautiful curtsies to finish off the session.



Awards

Huge congratulations to Epsom division's Milly and Olivia who were recently presented with their Ranger Gold Awards. We are so proud of them.



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies Annabelle and Robyn celebrated achieving their gold awards at a Brownies traditions evening.

3rd Oxted Guides had an evening of celebrations. They presented two golds, one silver and six bronze awards. Everyone had fun celebrating with a party and a chocolate fountain.



Awards



The Wildlife Trust visited 3rd Horley Brownies thanks to Emily who contacted them as part of her 'animal helper' badge which was her final interest badge.

She is not only the first in her unit to earn all of the interest badges but I believe she is first in the whole of Horley East district to earn them all.

Well done Emily!



4th Stoneleigh Brownies are very proud of Isabel and Abi for achieving their gold awards. Well done!



Well done to Phoebe and Charlotte of 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies for achieving their Brownie gold awards.



Rainbows



Rainbows

5th Caterham Rainbows



5th Caterham Rainbows worked really well together in making robots in small groups.



Rainbows

7th Horley Rainbows

7th Horley Rainbows had a beautiful day in the bluebells at Blackland Farm adventure day having outdoor fun.



7th Horley Rainbows went on a visit to Waitrose to buy food for Horley food bank as an adaptation of the 'food for thought' skills builder and also earned a 'Guiding For Good' badge in the process. Waitrose were so welcoming with a little tour, including of the fridge which was very welcome in the heatwave and gave everyone an ice lolly.



Rainbows

6th and 7th Horley Rainbows



6th and 7th Horley Rainbows joined together for a visit from the fire brigade as part of the 'fire and rescue' badge from Surrey West.

We started with a group game of hot/cold, stopping every time the 'alarm' sounded. The girls then completed activities to dress quickly, think about fitness and water safety. The highlight of the visit was definitely the fire engine, and having their very own rainbow created just for them.



Rainbows

6th Merstham Rainbows



6th Merstham Rainbows had a "tree-mendous" time in the woods using our five senses.



Rainbows

7th and 8th Epsom Rainbows



7th and 8th Epsom Rainbows had fun sowing cress seeds in the gardens they made. We are looking forward to a fine crop of cress by the end of half term. That it counts towards the nature interest badge is an added bonus!

Rainbows Brownies

Horley East Rainbows and Brownies

Horley East Rainbows and Brownies came together for Horley Carnival. They had lots of fun and even came away with a trophy.



Rainbows

6th Merstham Rainbows

A fantastic and bitter-sweet last meeting of the year for 6th Merstham Rainbows. We presented one gold award to a Rainbow who only has three interest badges left to do. Well done Willow! We had delicious ice cream sundaes thanks to our previous unit helper, and we said goodbye to our wonderful unit helper, and also to two girls as they move up to Brownies!



Rainbows

4th Caterham Rainbows and Brownies

4th Caterham Rainbows and Brownies completed their 'Skills for my Future' skills builder by learning how to use a screwdriver, and we went a step further and tried our hand with a drill too. They decorated wooden blocks which had been kindly prepared by Men in the Shed Caterham, and then drilled a hole big enough to hold a pipe cleaner and tissue flowers, to create a gift for Mothers' Day. Each one was unique and the evening went by safely. The children promised never to use a drill without adult supervision!



Rainbows

4th Caterham Rainbows
and Brownies



A fabulous evening with 2nd Fetcham Rainbows with fun, laughs and ice creams, as well as a sad goodbye as Christine Moss is stepping back now.

Isla gained her Silver Award too.





Brownies



Brownies

10th Redhill Brownies



10th Redhill Brownies had a fabulous holiday at Cudham Shaws. The girls fed animals at Christmas tree farm, enjoyed grass sledging, den building and zip lining, as well as completing crafts and having a campfire.





Brownies

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's)
Brownies

Nearly 50 current and previous members plus supporters of 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies attended a party at Bourne Hall to celebrate the unit's 100th anniversary. Leaders, unit helpers and Brownies from over the years celebrated with tea and cake. Everyone enjoyed looking round the exhibition about the unit and Girlguiding in Bourne Hall museum.

The unit was also delighted to be invited to take part in a service of celebration at Ewell St Mary's parish church. Current and former Brownies and leaders attended the service as well as other members of local Girlguiding and Surrey Scouts, Brownie parents and the regular St Mary's congregation. Anyone who had been a Brownie remade their promise during the service including an impressive number of members of the choir.



Brownies

1st Ewell Village (St Mary's)
Brownies



Fabulous first aid evening for
Ewell brownies with St John
Ambulance volunteers!



1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies helped
out Ewell St Mary's church who have a gold
standard eco award by litter-picking the
churchyard. The timing was perfect for the
wedding happening two days later!



Brownies

1st Ashtead Brownies

Inspired by Holi, the festival of colours, 1st Ashtead, Brown Owl organised a special colour-themed event for girls and their dads. With father's day approaching, it felt like the perfect opportunity to involve dads and create father-daughter memories.

Brownies and their dads took part in a colour mission, working together to solve clues, complete physical challenges, and collect colours hidden around the field. Everyone enjoyed colourful powder throws, creative challenges, and lots of laughter as the field transformed into a rainbow of colour.

Of course, no colour event would be complete without a little chaos!



Brownies

1st Ashtead Brownies

1st Ashtead Brownies who are learning about protecting our oceans recently welcomed visitors from the KBR One Ocean Team. They joined us for a fun and interactive meeting teaching us the importance of looking after our oceans.

Through variety of hands-on activities, the Brownies learned about wildlife in seas, the impact of pollution and the small changes we can make to help protect our seas. There was a lot of splashing: a little wet but fun evening! The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we thanked KBR One Ocean Team for delivering such an engaging and inspiring session.

To end a fantastic term, the Brownies celebrated with a swimming session followed by a well-earned pizza party. The swim was very welcome during the recent heatwave, giving everyone a chance to cool down. There were lots of smiles, laughter, and happy memories to finish the term on high.



Brownies

1st Lingfield Brownies

1st Lingfield Brownies had a special visitor. Ruby popped in to proudly share her badges and chat about all things dog safety, decoding canine behaviour, and wrapped up with the Dog Language UMA. Paw-some learning all round!



Brownies

4th Caterham Brownies

When Buster met the Brownies: his annual visit to Brownies armed with chocolate brownies to give out to the girls.

4th Caterham Brownies had a blast making crazy golf courses from recycling. This activity easily filled the hour and could have gone on much longer! It was lovely to see the sixers looking after our new joiners and everyone having fun.



Brownies

4th Caterham Brownies

On the penultimate week of term, Peter from East Surrey museum came to visit 4th Caterham Brownies, to help us complete the final clause of the local history badge. He brought various artefacts so we could get to know the stories of local personalities.

We learnt about Joey Deacon, Joseph Swan (invented the lightbulb in the UK and merged with Edison), Sonia Straw (an ARP who was only 19 years old when she treated casualties, unaided, for 13 hours in 1940), Cleo Irving (dancer known locally as the Green Lady for her outlandish costumes) and Hilary Page (whose educational toys predated Lego).

We also got to draw on some Victorian maps - thankfully Peter had covered them in clear plastic so we could try to find our own streets. It wasn't very easy! Thank you, Peter!



Guides



Guides

Dorking Guides



Dorking Guides visited Age UK in Dorking as part of their thrift badge. They all brought a donation and then purchased some goodies. They dressed the models ready for St Patrick's Day. They raised £162 for the charity.

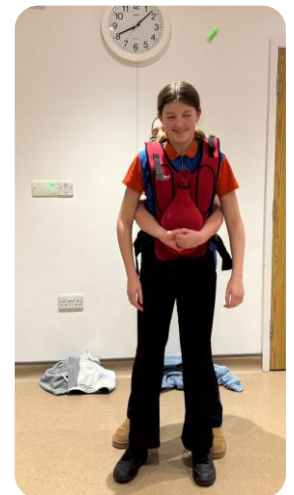


Dorking Guides made campfire pizzas, which looked lovely and were very tasty.

Dorking Guides were visited by the St. John Ambulance Service to learn how to deal with choking and perform CPR. If you look very closely you will see they were successful at clearing the obstruction.



Dorking Guides, survival evening, learning the priority items to survive and then building a shelter.



Guides

1st Capel Guides

1st Capel Guides A-Z Challenge and Activities 2026!

- a. Athlete badge clauses, Apple bird feeder
- b. Bracelets, Brunch, Biodiversity Badge
- c. Craft, Campfire Cooking, Community Fridge support, City Walks
- d. Day trip to Portsmouth
- e. Escape room, Edible Actions
- f. Food tasting, Flower pressing, Fires, Food Critic Badge
- g. Gifts of Kindness to the village, Games, GOLD Awards
- h. Human Hungry Hippos, Hockey
- i. Insects and Mini-beasts, Growing up Wild badge, Influence Skill Builder Cards
- j. Jumping Popcorn, Jacket Potatoes
- k. K is for Kindness
- l. 'Look Battle Ships ('Wash it off' skills builder)
- m. 'Mini manifesto' skills builder, Making cookies, Mosaics
- n. Nightless Copse Adventures
- o. Orange bird feeders
- p. Potato Dishes, Patrols, Promises
- q. Queen Bee (Pollinator activities), Qualifications (Leaders!), Quiz
- r. Ready, Steady, Teddy, Root out the Way (skill builder cards)
- s. Summer rolls (Thai cooking), Planted Seeds
- t. Top trumps, Trefoil Art, Topaz badge, Tastes, Travel Tickets
- u. Up-cycling Badge
- v. Vegetables Edible Insect models
- w. Water Filters, 100 Years of World Thinking Day celebration, Warm Up exercises
- x. eXplore on our Cityscapes Adventure
- y. Yarn bunnies
- z. Zoology evening, Teddy Zip lines



Guides

6th Merstham Guides

6th Merstham Guides had a Eurovision party. They made mocktails for their mixology badge, held a Eurovision quiz and played party games.



10 Guides from 6th Merstham Guides went paddle boarding as part of their challenge for their Gold Award.

Merstham Rangers also came along for a fun evening on the water.



Guides

6th Merstham Guides

Merstham Guides celebrated Chinese new year of the horse by making egg fried rice and their very own hobby horse! (This is what happens when a Rainbow leader helps at Guides!)



6th Merstham Guides and Rangers went stargazing. We managed to see the moon, and Jupiter with its rings and four moons.

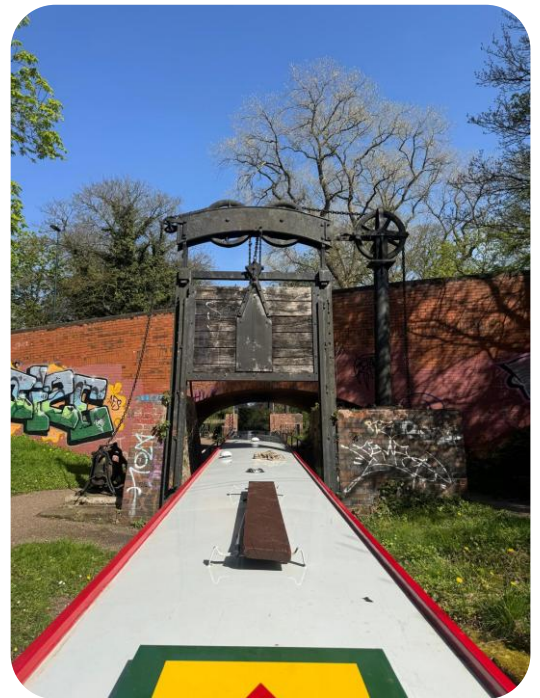


Guides

3rd Oxted Guides

In April 3rd Oxted Guides went on their annual canal trip starting from Braunston and travelling via Birmingham (for retail therapy) and on to Cadbury World - yet more chocolate to add to that already brought along as we were away over the Easter holidays.

We did lots of flights of locks including Lapworth (19 locks) and Hatton (21 locks) so they are now all experts on opening and closing locks.



Guides

1st Fetcham Guides



Mother's day activities

Pancake making
with 1st Fetcham
Guides



Guides

9th Caterham Guides

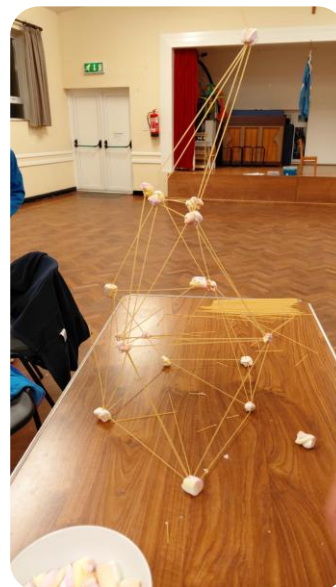
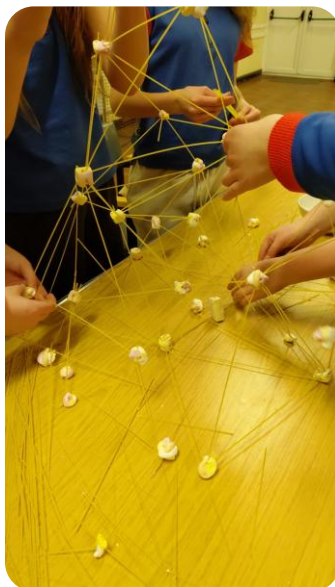
Gardeners' Question Time came to Caterham. Some of 9th Caterham Guides' questions were even recorded!



Guides

1st Effingham Guides

Sophie came back to Guides to run a Europe themed evening to raise money for her LaSER international this summer. We made fabulous origami tulips and built Eiffel towers.



Guides

1st Chaldon Guides

1st Chaldon Guides had an amazing water morning on a local lake with paddle boarding and raft building! Amazing work all round and more memories made.



1st Chaldon Guides went on an evening walk around our local area litter picking. In half an hour we had filled eight bags – many hands make light work!



What a lovely way to celebrate the end of another fantastic term! Chaldon Guides enjoyed a trip to a local gelato shop, where everyone picked two scoops of their favourite flavour. After our ice cream treat, we were delighted to enrol our five newest Guides into the unit. A huge welcome to you all – we're so pleased you've joined us and can't wait to share lots of adventures together!

We then headed over to the green to relax, chat and enjoy the evening sunshine together. It's been another brilliant term full of fun, friendship and adventure. We're now counting down to summer camp in just a couple of weeks, before we return in September ready for even more exciting adventures. Have a wonderful summer, everyone!





Rangers

Merstham Rangers

Merstham Rangers spent an evening discovering what could potentially be used as fuels for the future – they tried rosemary, orange peel, banana peel, onion and other various vegetables and herbs. They finished off by toasting marshmallows!



Merstham Rangers did some garden maintenance at the wildflower garden in Merstham, before planting some more wildflower seeds and enjoying a well-deserved ice cream afterwards.

Rangers

Merstham Rangers

Merstham Rangers and Young Leaders from Merstham had a great session with St Johns Ambulance completing their first aid.

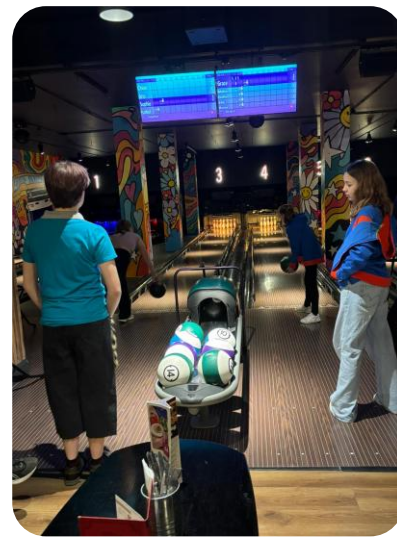


Dorking Guides and Leith Hill Rangers



Birthday strike

Dorking Guides and Leith Hill Rangers went bowling.





Epsom Rangers

As part of her Queen's Guide award Epsom Ranger Olivia Keam volunteered with the Jack Petchey foundation who provide opportunities for young people in London and Essex. Olivia spent a week working with them in their headquarters completing tasks such as filming and creating social media content, writing a press report and updating their data system. Olivia would recommend looking into the schemes they offer as they are a phenomenal charity.



Chaldon Guides Young Leaders

Young Leaders from 1st Chaldon Guides had a fab time building Lego with friends at a local shop.



Leatherhead division Guides and Young Leaders



Almost 40 Guides from across Bookham, Effingham, Fetcham and Ashted (plus their leaders) enjoyed a fantastic weekend at the Leatherhead division camp in April.

Held at Faurefold over four days, girls enjoyed a huge variety of wonderful activities, including:

- Renovating Faurefold's bug house
- Clearing and painting Faurefold's shed
- Coppicing
- Dead hedging, including old branches found on the Faurefold site
- Renovating a mosaic which was originally created at Faurefold in 2019.



Young leaders from Leatherhead division also beat the Faurefold low ropes course record with a time of 18m35s. They did it carrying three eggs and a jug of water which they had to get round safely! The girls loved helping to prepare their own food, including on the campfire and making their own pizza toppings.

Leaders



Guiding Celebrates

Congratulations to those from Surrey East who were nominated to attend the national Guiding Celebrates event at the Odeon in Leicester Square including Kate Fowles, Sarah Smith, George Ede and Tracey Pettit!

They were all invited to attend in recognition of all the work they have done, and continue to do, for Girlguiding and we are very grateful for their commitment, enthusiasm and good humour. Thank you!



Thank You Valerie!



Thank you so much from everyone in Leatherhead division to Valerie Tucker, who retired from Girlguiding earlier this year, having volunteered locally for more than 50 years.

Valerie's first involvement with Girlguiding was as a leader of 5th Bookham Brownies in 1972. She was also unit leader for 1st Effingham Brownies, and more recently a unit helper and treasurer for 1st Effingham Rainbows.

Valerie served as district commissioner for Bookham and Effingham and as both district and division secretary. Most notably, Valerie managed the division shop for an incredible 21 years, until January 2026. She also received the county good service award in 2016.

Valerie's contribution to Girlguiding has been absolutely invaluable and we are so grateful! We were delighted to present her with a bunch of flowers and a special card signed by unit leaders from across Leatherhead division. Thank you, Valerie and enjoy your retirement!

Long Service Awards



Congratulations to Rosie (RHS) of 7th Epsom Guides on receiving her 10 year long service award from unit leader Rachel (LHS)



Congratulations to Clare Graham unit leader of 1st Ewell Village (St Mary's) Brownies who has achieved her 10 year long service award. Clare is a valuable member of the division team. Not only is she a Brownie leader; she is also the bookings secretary for Epsom division's campsite Little Acres. Thank you very much for all you do Clare!



Congratulations to Dawn who got awarded her 20-year badge during a church service this spring.

Leatherhead division Leaders

Over the last few months, Leatherhead division has been celebrating its wonderful volunteers and saying a huge 'thank you' to them.

In early January, around 30 volunteers from across the division attended a fantastic social evening at 'The Bell' in Fetcham. We enjoyed food and drink, as well as relaxed conversations. The highlight of the evening was Ash Lloyd and Sandra Hewett receiving their leadership qualification certificates from division commissioner Clare Coker.



Volunteers from across the Leatherhead and Leith Hill divisions celebrated Surrey Day (9th May) by exploring the Surrey Hills along our border. Leaders departed from Faurefold (in Leith Hill division) and walked over Ranmore to Polesden Lacey (Leatherhead division). Fueled by a delicious cream tea at Polesden Lacey – as a recognition of all their brilliant efforts as volunteers – the group then set off to walk back to Faurefold.

It was a wonderful day – a time to walk and chat, whilst enjoying the stunning weather. Leatherhead division is also delighted to have recently presented long service awards to Beth Fowler and Lucy Cassidy for 5 years, and Jennifer Broh for 10 years.



Ashtead District

Ashtead district once again had a great day at Ashtead village day, engaging with the local community, raising awareness, welcoming potential volunteers and fundraising for our units. Our Brownies ran the ever-popular "poopla" game, where the participants tested their aim by throwing plastic "poo" into a toilet seat, which brought lots of laughter and was enjoyed by visitors of all ages. We also held the hamper tombola.

Thanks to generous donations from parents, we made around 20 hampers and raised an amazing £1200 that will directly benefit local girls and support the activities and experience. This year, we were delighted to be joined by CEO Felicity Oswald. She spent all morning at our stand, volunteering her time, speaking with members of the public, and promoting the positive impact of Girlguiding in the community.



Girlguiding Leaders Out and About



Surrey East leaders
Marsden Marching.

Faurefold volunteers ran a stall at Capel show with fun games, including our famous racing snails, and crafts to make. This is about the 16th year we have done this! It's not all about fundraising, it's a community event and Faurefold, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Girlguiding is part of the community. We promote guiding and make friends along the way. Friends of guiding in Capel run a fantastic refreshments stall, starting the day with bacon butties and going on to tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Thanks must go out to all the volunteers that make both things on the day such a success. If this sounds like fun to you please join us next year.



Fetcham and Leatherhead district
leaders at Leatherhead Lions Club
donkey derby.



Banstead district spreading some Guiding love
at Chipstead Valley Junior School – Music Fest.



Epsom Division Fundraising



Epsom division leaders were at Epsom racecourse raising money for the Mayor's charities of which we are one. No luck with bets on riders in 'the Oaks' but lots of success fundraising!

Epsom division leaders helped to raise funds for the Mayor's charities at Epsom town centre's free family Friday events over the summer.





Guiding Campsites

Little Acres Campsite:

Surrey Day 2026

This is the first year Girlguiding Surrey East has been involved in Surrey Day and for Epsom division we were delighted that Mole Valley Orienteering Club joined us to run a selection of exciting map activities, games and orienteering courses at our campsite Little Acres in Horton Country Park, Epsom. Nearly 200 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers enjoyed a selection of challenges including a maze, string course, planning a desert island and compass point games. Brownies, Guides and Rangers also had the opportunity to go out on an orienteering course in Horton County Park. We were joined by Sara Thornton of BBC Radio Surrey, the new High Sheriff of Surrey Joosje Hamilton and Surrey Day ambassador Dame Maggie Aderin who all earned their Girlguiding Surrey Day 2026 badge!



Rainbows

Epsom Division Rainbows

Epsom division Rainbows Surrey Day 2026 –a fantastic day at Little Acres campsite, All the local Rainbow groups attended the event. This was a morning of orienteering fun arranged alongside Mole Valley Orienteering Club. A great insight into different ways of orienteering, together with map work specifically aimed at this age group. Followed by more activities for the older groups of Brownies, Guides and Rangers.



Little Acres Campsite:

Working Party

A very wet but enthusiastic working party of Epsom division volunteers got stuck in at Little Acres campsite in Epsom preparing the site for the season and digging the area ready for the brand-new pioneering poles, which have now arrived and are proving very popular.



Brownies

9th Epsom Brownies



9th Epsom Brownies had a sleepover at Little Acres in Horton Country Park, Epsom at the start of June. We had games, giant bubbles, a campfire, torchlit treasure hunt, followed by a film in sleeping bags and pyjamas in the evening. The Brownies slept well and then woke up for morning yoga and nature crafts.

Little Acres Campsite:

Level 1 Walking Qualification

Leaders from Surrey East and Surrey West completed two days training for their level one walking scheme qualification at Little Acres Campsite in Horton Country Park and Holmbury St Mary. Map reading, navigation and compass skills were learnt and put to the test round both areas during two perfect days for walking, learning and most importantly making new friends in Guiding. Most leaders have now completed their water safety training too at region headquarters and are well on their way to gaining their level one qualification.



As part of the Girlguiding level 1 walking scheme, Surrey East volunteers completed their water safety training at LaSER HQ and Wandsworth Common. Really useful and interesting training and a lot of fun too! Thank you to our trainers Helen and Louise.



Faurefold:

Working Party

On the first weekend in January, 18 volunteers stepped forward to help replace the 14 bunk beds at Faurefold - a significant task to achieve.

The old beds were bespoke so needed to be dismantled and the wood moved to secure storage. The new beds were flat packed so needed to be built with every component part correctly positioned including the ladders. The waste needed to be removed and the old mattresses collected. We finally had to complete a quality review for all 28 beds and tidy the hall ready for Brockham Guides' residential weekend the following week.

The old wood was repurposed to become dividers between the adjoining beds and reused where we can. The old mattresses were donated to a scout centre who are developing their activity centre to include residential.

With thanks to all the helpers, the new beds look magnificent. A great team effort.

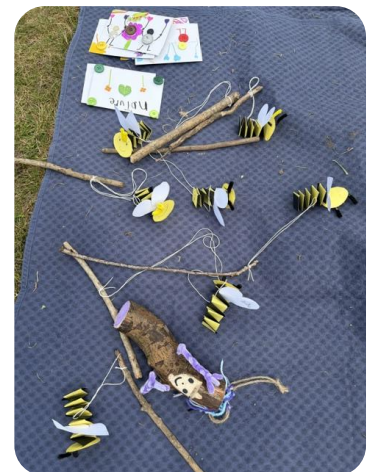


Thank you to our helpers for their hard work this spring at Faurefold. The path through the woods has been laid out and weeded. Bins have been washed, cupboards cleaned, rubbish cleared.

Faurefold:

Activity Days

Two days of outside activities were held at Faurefold in May. Eighty Brownies and 60 Rainbows came to Faurefold. Activities included willow snails, bug and bee interest table, lots of games, crafts, a blindfold string trail and s'mores at the campfire. There was lots of exploring in the woods with things to find. A big thank you to the Faurefold volunteers who ran the activities. Everyone had great fun!



Brownies

3rd Horley Brownies

3rd Horley Brownies had a great time at the Faurefold Brownie day! They hunted for sticks for their clay hedgehogs, found a click beetle, caterpillar and toad on the nature walk and ate s'mores freshly made on the campfire. It was also a great opportunity to mix with their friends from other Brownie groups before going home for a good rest.



Rainbows

6th Horley Rainbows



6th Horley Rainbows followed suit and attended their own woodland activity day at Faurefold too. They started with s'mores on the campfire followed by the fairy door trail. They then had a go at leading each other around the blind trail. As it was the week of 'world bee day' they made their own bees from paper, as well as snails woven from willow and pictures of button friends. There was also some brilliant teamwork games including building a ball run from guttering and cheering on friends snail racing.

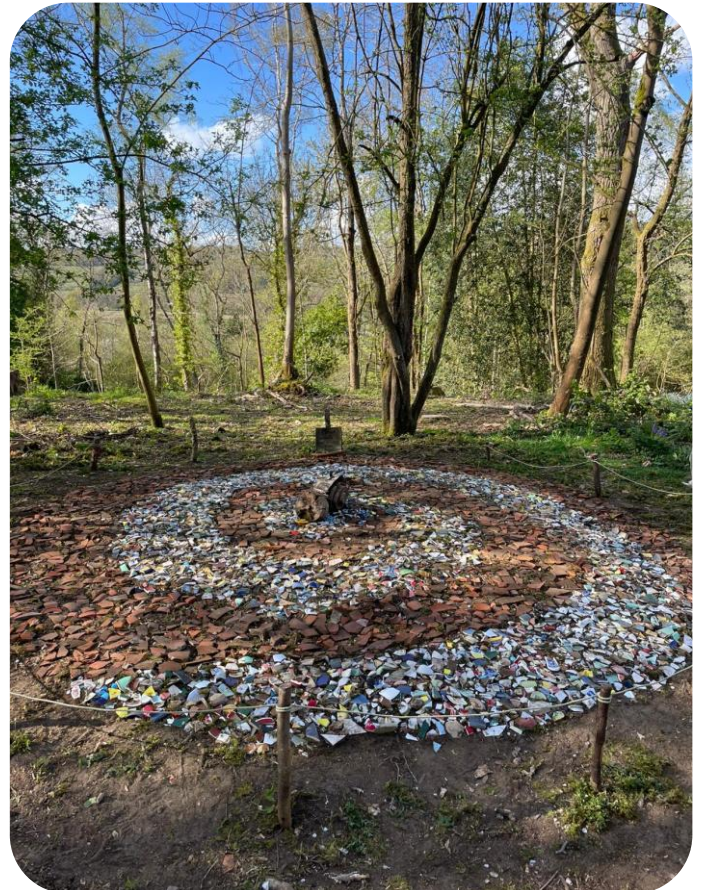


Faurefold:

Activity Days



Before and after mosaic restoration



Surrey East Trefoil Guild

The guilds within the county have been busy this year. Bookham held a lunch in aid of the charity 'DYSCOVER' and recently held a coffee morning for the same charity. Reigate had a beetlemania one afternoon for 'Crossroads Care'.

The 'Out and About' group had a morning of ten pin bowling followed by lunch. They visited Wisley to see the tulips. As can be seen the weather was kind to them. They have also had a museum visit and a day trip to Goring in June.



We held an Open Day at Faurefold in March where Lesley had memorabilia from her trip to Thailand as part of TOPAZ in January. Our annual review in March was a change from previous meetings. We held it at Woodhatch community centre where, after a short business meeting, we were entertained by the 'Include choir' who were excellent and to be recommended. An great afternoon tea was enjoyed by many county members at Kingswood Guild in aid of the Childrens Trust.

Banstead have been busy making kangaroo blankets and the image below made into a recent edition of the Trefoil Magazine. Several Trefoil members travelled to Scarborough in early June for the national trefoil meeting.

There is much to look forward to in the future with members going to Studley Castle in Warwickshire for the LaSER Trefoil holiday in September.

Next year there is a trip to Switzerland in June 2027 including visits to Our Chalet, chocolate & cheese factories and a boat trip with members from Surrey West.



Caterham Trefoil Guild

2026 has been a busy year so far for Caterham Trefoil Guild. We started with a meal out at a local restaurant in January, to which we invited previous members.

In February we joined Caterham Valley district's 100 Years of Thinking Day Celebrations, helping with activities for the girls before a short service in St. John's Church, then a celebration tea with past members, afterwards.

On our meeting day in March, we went to 'the Light' in Redhill where we played the mini golf course, which initially looked as if it would be easy, but definitely wasn't. After lunch we played table football showing one of our members how to play the game for the first time.



The following Saturday we travelled to Portsmouth to take part in Girlguiding's Cityscapes. Four of us stayed at a Travelodge on Friday night and ploughed through all the paperwork trying to work out a suitable route to take and which questions went with each activity spot. Our fifth member joined us on Saturday. It was a good, but tiring day, not helped by having a variety of problems with the technology! We managed a few of the activity spots at Southsea but spent more time answering the many questions. We also talked to people who wanted to know what was happening, as there were lots of Guides and Brownies, along with other Trefoil groups rushing around!

Our April meeting saw us start the North East England region's 'chocolate challenge' and attempt to make a lava lamp from a Guide UMA. The first Saturday in June we helped run a couple of stalls, including 'the human fruit machine', at the church's circus themed summer fair. The following week, we served refreshments at the archdeacon's visitation service which was being held at St. John's for the Reigate Archdeaconry.

On 13th June, two of our members attended the national Trefoil Guild annual review at Scarborough. On 20th June, we took part in LaSER's Castles & Crowns event, going to Guildford Castle and it appeared we were the only group that went there. A very steep climb up to it with the ground and first floor being accessible for me. Up to the very top was up a spiral stone staircase with uneven sized steps. The rest of our group climbed it and enjoyed the views of Guildford through the cage bars. The flower displays in the grounds were magnificent.



I wonder what the second half of 2026 will bring!

The next County Newsletter will be published in January 2028.

The deadline for guaranteed inclusion is 11 December 2027

All articles are welcome, from units, districts, divisions or county – please email your contribution 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. 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

newslettersurreyeast@gmail.com



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/>

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