



QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

SPRING 2024

Rosemary Writes ...

It's been a busy few weeks!

The Leaders' Thinking Day brunch at Barnards Farm went very well and it was an absolute delight to see Margaret Henderson awarded her 60 year long service award by Karen Johnson, our Region chief- ably assisted by our own Chris Skinner. Other awards were presented for 30 and 40 years service although several of those were taken away to be given out at more local events. We also awarded new leader awards and several EGGS- if you don't know what I'm talking about then take a look at the awards pamphlet sent out recently.....

Saturday 2nd March was our biggest event for girls since lockdown and saw nearly 240 join in the fun and excitement of exploring our 5 world centres. We would remind all leaders to check photo permissions before events and/or taking photos of any of the girls. We also need to remember to use official permission forms and not design our own!

We still have P&A events coming up- mud run on 27th April and the region day at RSPB the week before, so a special thank you to all those that help and run these big events.

By the time this reaches you the closing date for paying subscriptions may have passed- I'm very grateful to all those who paid in plenty of time- it makes my job so much easier and I really do not enjoy having to chase those that delay even looking at invoices!

Dates for your diaries

20 April 2024	RSPB & Anglia Earth Day —various locations
27 April 2024	Brownies & Guides Mud Run
28–30 June 2024	Come to Camp —Chigwell Row
29 June 2024	Guide and Ranger Day —Chigwell Row
7 July 2024	Essex West Cream Tea —for all Volunteers
27 July—3 August 2024	Essex international Jamboree
16–19 August 2024	Hautbois Fest 2024
13 –15 September 2024	County Leaders Day at Hautbois
21 September 2024	Legoland for Rainbows
19 October 2024	Members' Day

See page 3 for training dates

Delve into a Division: Hornchurch

The fifth division in this series of articles finding out more about the Divisions of Essex West County, continuing alphabetically with Hornchurch:

A slice of history - Hornchurch grew to be a small village by the middle of the 12th century, and by 1163 a church had been built on the site of the present day St Andrew's church. The area was known as "Horned Church". There is still a horned bulls head statue on the east side of the roof - why not take a look the next time you are in the area?

Hornchurch Division is formed of 4 districts and covers Hornchurch, Elm Park and Rainham. There are 30 units - 8 Rainbow, 14 Brownie, 7 Guide and 1 Ranger. Many of the leaders run or help at more than one unit, so we have a multi-skilled group of volunteers.



Rainbows making pancakes

I took over as Division Commissioner last year in May, which gave me the summer to familiarise myself with the set-up. The existing Division Team were all happy to continue with their roles and this is working well.

The girls in our units have been doing some amazing activities so far this year including: making armpit fudge, cooking pancakes (on a stove and on a tin can), stargazing at Thames Chase and one Brownie Unit even had a visit from a real owl! Several units have held

presentation evenings to present Silver and Gold awards to their girls. And 4 Units recently joined together and went to the Premier Cinema in Romford to see "Wish".



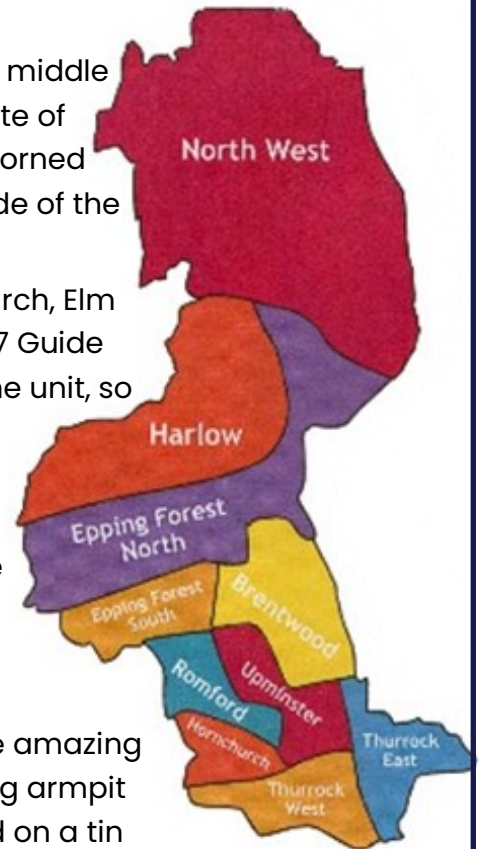
Meeting an owl

In one District, they have recently changed venue for most of their unit meetings, which is less expensive and has better facilities. They are hoping this will enable more girls to join and experience the inspirational world of Girlguiding.

And another exciting piece of news - one of our Leaders got married on Thinking Day!

The future of Girlguiding in Hornchurch looks good. We have not planned a Division event yet, but it is on the agenda, as is our Recruitment Campaign Day.

Kim Kemp



Guides making pancakes in a can



Guides Thinking Day

Training Dates

16 March 2024	In person Module 1 First Response training
14 May 2024	ABC of Adjustment Plans—Anglia Training
18 May 2024	First Response training—face-to-face—Gidea Park
22-23 June 2024	Come to Camp—training for adults
1 July 2024	Risk Assessments and RENS –online training
5-7 July 2024	Peer Education—Anglia Training
19 October 2024	Members' Day - to include Adjustment Plans

Marketing and Communications

The Website has been completely rebranded in common with all Girlguiding sites, so please have a look. Any feedback would be appreciated.

Keep your eye on the news and events pages as they are updated regularly.

There is a compliments page, please publicise this to parents, and add your compliments!

www.girlguidingsexwest.org.uk/compliments

Please be patient when you sign up to the members' area as we authorise requests individually to ensure only Girlguiding Essex West leaders are given access. This section of the site has:

- a contact directory for the County Team and Advisors,
- a page for vacant County Roles and application details,
- a gallery of photographs,
- all the newsletters are available to download.



Are you part of the Leaders' Facebook group?

You will find important updates and events information in the [Leaders' Community](#). You will need to answer a few questions to join.

Have you seen the public page?

This [Facebook page](#) can be shared across your own profile to help with publicity.



Photos Wanted

Girlguiding Essex West are always on the look out for photographs to show what our young people have been up to. Please email your photos to:

comms.ggew@gmail.com

REMEMBER, YOU MUST HAVE PHOTO CONSENT FOR SHARING THESE PHOTOS

Financial Help

As Rosemary reminded you in her article, subscriptions are due by 28th March, without exception.

If you are struggling financially, hardship grants may be available from::

- [Girlguiding Essex West County Grants](#)—for events and cases of hardship—next deadline is 31 March 2024
- [Girlguiding Anglia Grants](#)—Cost of Living Grants, new unit, and outdoor activities
- [Girlguiding National Grants and Funding](#)—accessible guiding, new unit grant, UK units in need.

Programme & Adventure

Thinking Day 2024



Essex West has seen lots going on over the last few weeks to celebrate this year's Thinking Day.

We saw lots of units celebrating during their meetings as well as the County inviting us to visit all 5 World Centres in just one day! Thankfully there were no flight delays and everyone was able to truly experience Sangam (India), Kusafiri (Africa) Pax Lodge (United Kingdom) Our Chalet (Switzerland) and Our Cabana (Mexico). This all section event saw members have a go at African drumming, create their own Guiding light, create their own Rangolia masterpiece as well as some Mexican weaving, learning the traditional Swiss song, Edelweiss, not forgetting a game of Pinata and some Bollywood dancing!

At the end of the event all members came together to renew their promise with their Guiding Lights shining bright



Programme and Adventure have planned events for the next year and beyond—for the next few months the following are planned, with more information to follow in the New Year:

27 April 2024

Mud Run —Brownies 12 noon, Guides pm

July 2024

INSPIRE Monopoly Run—details from Rebecca Clarke

21 September 2024

Rainbow Legoland Trip

County Breakfast at Barnards Farm

On 24th February, Leaders from across the County joined came together at Barnards Farm to enjoy a Thinking Day breakfast. During the invite only event, leaders got to enjoy a lovely breakfast provided by Gillian and her team

During the event, many achievements were celebrated with many awards being presented including:

Good Guiding Awards Jodie Andrew, Mary Roder and Martine Squires

Residential Training Certificate Jenny Wolff

Anglia Thank You Josie Dunn

30 Year Service Award Jill Osborne **40 Year Service Award** Ann Hails **Anglia Brooch** Jenny Wolff

Vice President Gillian Chapman

Whilst all of the above are special, there was an award that stood out for me on the day, a **60 year service award** presented to Margaret Henderson—Congratulations Margaret and thank you for everything you have done for Guiding over this incredible time!



Congratulations to you all

Roles and Vacancies Available

- County Advisor Responsible for Training (CART)
- Division Commissioner Epping Forest South
- District Commissioners - 5 County wide
- Additional helpers for the County Archivist
- Grants Co-ordinator
- Commissioner Mentors
- Growth and Retention Team
- International Adviser (Job Share)

Please contact Rosemary to discuss these roles: ewcc2021@gmail.com

Using GO—tips and hints

One of the additional wrinkles of using GO is that carefully posted information doesn't always get entered into the database, both qualifications and UMAs and Skills Builders.

- Make sure you keep a screenshot of any qualifications you achieve so that you can prove you completed it at a later date, if necessary.
- When entering data on the Skills Builder or UMA screens, double check that GO has registered the information—that the names are listed, not an ominous red cross alone. (It's also worth keeping your own records and double checking against GO occasionally, ensuring that it complies with collection requirements, so has a password and is kept securely)

Planning Ahead



The [Great Big Green Week](#) 8th to 16th June 2024 is a national week to promote green issues in all their forms. Essex West County agreed we would take part as a County as it is a way of getting good publicity promoting our Units doing something that is part of the Girlguiding Programme. This year the theme is Let's Swap Together for Good—making small changes to make a difference..

Units can take part by planning UMAs or Skills Builders in that week and promoting their involvement on Social Media. Activities could include Guide litter picking, Upcycling or Fixing Interest badges, , Brownies Un-fantastic plastic, or Insect Invaders, Rainbow Recycling or Bug hunt UMAs or planting bee friendly flowers (Helper Interest Badge),



Harlow Division Thinking Day
Division event

Anglia is promoting [Volunteers Week](#)—1st to 9th June, to celebrate volunteers. This year is the 40th anniversary of Volunteers Week. Also listed in this quarter, the [Big Help Out](#) Friday 7th—Sunday 9th June—a litter pick or tree-planting would tick both the volunteering and green boxes

On 22nd February 2026, **Thinking Day** celebrates its centenary an amazing event for Units/Districts/Divisions to celebrate.

Essex International Jamboree

Are you planning on taking your unit to Essex Jamboree this summer but worrying you haven't got enough equipment for a week's camp? Please do not let this put you off! Reach out to Leaders within the county for help. We know of several Units buddying up leaving equipment not being used. Use the Leaders' Facebook Group or contact the County Office to be put in touch with Leaders that are willing to help

Trefoil Guild AGM

On Saturday 4th March Essex West Trefoil Guild held their Annual Review at Homesteads Hall in Stanford le Hope.

It was a very wet start to the day with many making journeys through flooded roads. We had lunch first and many got together for a chat and to catch up.

We were delighted to welcome our Region Chair, Evelyn Walker, and our Region President, Vivienne Smith. We also welcomed the Chair from Essex South East, Ann Hollington, and their PR, Margaret Butler.

The meeting started with a thought-provoking reading from Barbara Jordon. After the business meeting was finished we had an interesting talk from a gentleman called Brian Carline who showed us slides and spoke about his childhood in the 40/50s. Many of us could relate to most of it as it was our era. The younger members could remember their mothers and grandparents talking about the times before mobile phones and video games.



Well you had to end the day with tea and cake. After a beautiful rendition of Taps we said our goodbyes for another year. We have lost quite a few members this year for various reasons, mainly age related.

Please if you are reading this, think about joining or starting your own Guild. For those of you that work it can be an evening event. If you are interested please go on the Trefoil Guild Website or the County Office will pass your enquiry to me. I am happy to help start you on your journey for GUIDING FOR ADULTS and have fun.



Congratulations & Thank yous

Commonwealth Award



During the County Thinking Day celebration, Rosemary had the pleasure of presenting Mary from Manuden Guides with her Commonwealth Award which she has worked so hard to achieve. There are not many of these awards presented within the County.

Why not take a look at [the website](#) and see if this is something you can promote within your unit.



Thurrock West craft weekend at Thriftwood in January

GOTCHA!

It was a great pleasure that we were finally able to present Yvonne Scott (Warden at Chigwell Row) with an Essex West Silver brooch. This award is presented for outstanding service to Guiding in Essex West.

We think it's probably the first time that it has gone to somebody from outside our County- Yvonne has been so supportive of our girls whenever we visit Chigwell- be that as a Unit, District or even our big Division events, that we felt it only right to acknowledge her. It had taken us over a year to find a suitable time to pin her down but I think we can say gotcha!



Mothers Day flowers in a teacup— thanks 2nd Buckhurst Hill for the idea

Jack Petchey Award Scheme



Do you have a Guide or Ranger, aged 11 or over, who their Unit believes should be nominated for a Jack Petchey Award?

You may even have a list if you've followed the guidance on the [Essex West County website page](#). The deadline for nominations for the January to June period is 30th April. Find out how to apply on the Essex County website

Staying in Contact



[Website](#)

[Events Pages](#)

[Compliments Page!](#)



[Leaders Community](#)

[Facebook page](#)



[County office](#)



[Communications Team](#)

for the website & newsletter