

Essex West News Fest

QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY



It is always great to receive a “Thank You” for a job well done and especially when you are not expecting it.

This was certainly the case for Chris Skinner recently. A surprise afternoon tea had been arranged so that she could be presented with her Laurel Award. This was well deserved because Chris has dedicated her life to Guiding over many years and has held roles at all levels from Unit to Region and influenced a large number of girls and volunteers with her kindness and encouragement. As her citation reads “Chris Skinner can only be described as a multi-talented Leader. She is very much admired by all around her for the enthusiasm and time she gives to all she does and to the impact this has. Everything Chris does is with a smile and patient kindness that gets the best from all”.

Sylvia Partridge

Rosemary Writes

Leaders from Essex West did a real GOTCHA on Sunday 11th December when our previous County Commissioner arrived at Orsett Hall expecting a cream tea with her family- only to find a welcoming committee there so that Mary Putt - a previous Region Chief Commissioner could present Chris Skinner with a well deserved Laurel Award (above). This award is only given to Leaders that have made an outstanding contribution to Guiding- it is our second highest national award and there are relatively few presented each year so many congratulations to Chris.

A lovely afternoon to celebrate so many years of service to girls and young women

Dates for your Diary

6 February 2023	Module 2 First Aid–Zoom	page 6
7 February 2023	Air and Share Session	
8 February 2023	Air and Share Session	
11-12 February 2023	Working Days at Chigwell Row Campsite	page 8
13 February 2023	Module 3 First Aid–Zoom	page 6
14 February 2023	New Anglia/RSPB pack released	
22 February 2023	World Thinking Day - page 4	
May 2023	Bookings for Essex International Jamboree open	
6 May 2023	Coronation of King Charles III	page 4
Saturday 10 June	Brownies Go Explore 1 - Biggleswade	
30 June 2023	Deposits due for Essex International Jamboree	
Saturday 9 July	Brownies Go Explore 2 – Colchester	
Saturday 22 July	Brownies Go Explore 3 – Hautbois House	
Saturday 23 September	Brownie and Rainbow Day– Chigwell Row	
Saturday 23 September	Brownies Go Explore 4 – London	
27 July 2024	Essex international Jamboree	

Business and Finance News

SUBSCRIPTIONS NEWS

All units should have received their trial invoices on Tuesday 24th January. The first job is to download the invoice and check for any errors.

You now have until 20th February to make any corrections on GO. Don't forget to remove any helpers who are no longer involved and ensure you're only paying for active helpers at the correct rates (e.g. someone who only helps with administration can be charged at administrator rate). But not having someone properly included will mean that you are not insured for their involvement. If you have had a girl not attend for some time, this may be the moment to check with their parents and see if she is coming back. But if the girl is coming back, she should be kept on the register, as removing her will mean re-adding all her achievements manually on her return.

Subscriptions have to be paid on time. We know that subscriptions for 2023 are going to be a real challenge for all of us. Please speak to your Commissioner sooner rather than later if you know you are going to need extra support, they may know of ways to help and look at the suggestions below for fundraising ideas for the long term future.

Two ways of fundraising that are relatively easy and can bring in a significant amount of funding are Gift Aid and Easy Fundraising. Useful sources of advice are the [fundraising page on the GirlGuiding site](#) and a [finance course for leaders on the Learning platform](#).

1. Gift Aid

A government scheme for charities where the tax paid on subscriptions by the parent/carer can be reclaimed at a rate of 25p in every £1. More information from the [Girlguiding Gift Aid pack \(pdf\)](#)

2. EasyFundraising

This is a scheme that donates a percentage of assigned shopping transactions to named charities, Girlguiding included, making quarterly payments to the charity if it is more than £15.

Parents/donors have to sign into [easyfundraising](#) before shopping, whereupon if they purchase from a huge range of suppliers, money is given to their chosen charity.

If you want to offer an [educational trip](#), but need help with funding, Jack Petchey offer grants up to £20 per person towards educational trips for Guides or Rangers. In addition, if you have a Guide or Ranger who is struggling to get the funding required for a volunteering opportunity, [Jack Petchey also offer grants for individual volunteering](#) for the older girls in this area. It could make a trip accessible for some of our girls, allowing them to try for an opportunity if they wouldn't otherwise. Click on the links for more.

Marketing and Communications

Girlguiding are planning a rebrand as they feel the current stale image is making it difficult to recruit volunteers and girls. There is more information due soon including an article in the [most recent Guiding Magazine](#) (I suspect I'm not the only person to find it difficult to read in the online format from the recent survey). From the article, to give you time to start preparing:

“There'll be new brand templates, guidelines, and logos for you to use. There'll be new colours, and every section will have a new look and fresh messaging, so that we feel more like a family. Not everything will change right away. It's the beginning of a two-year process, where we'll make branding updates gradually. And uniform won't be changing until 2026.”

The programme is not changing.

Delve into a Division: Brentwood

The first of a series of article about the Divisions of Essex West County, starting at the beginning of the alphabet with Brentwood:

The pressure of going first!

What a great place Brentwood is to be Guiding in, we have so much within our Division to aid the programme and experiences the girls have. Derived from "Burnt wood" - a clearing made in the dense forest covering this part of Essex. A town full of History.

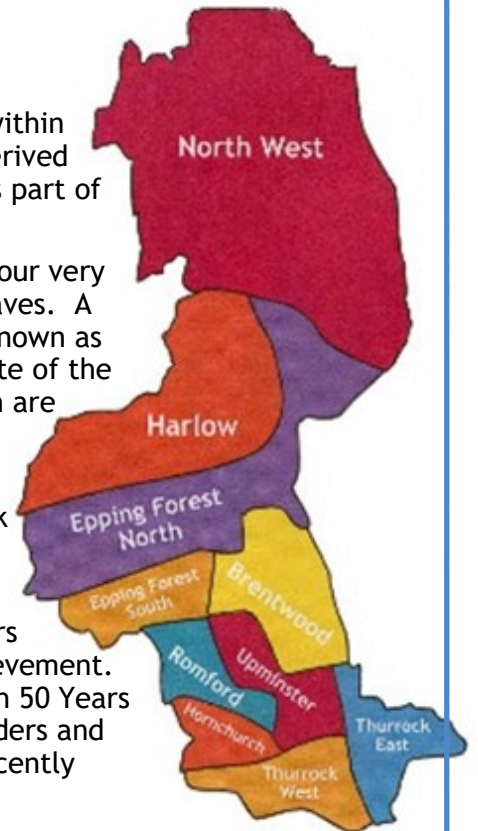
There's the Secret Nuclear Bunker ... ssh don't tell anyone! We have our very own Museum, next to a cemetery that has 37 Commonwealth War Graves. A Cathedral, the White Hart a coaching Inn since 1480, more recently known as the Sugar Hut, and not forgetting TOWIE! A Manor has been on the site of the Mary Green Manor since 1535 where Samuel Pepys and Henry VIII both are believed to have stayed.

For outdoor fun we have Thriftwood Scout Activity Centre, The Pines, a ski centre, Karting Track, two County Parks, High Ropes, Water Park and Crazy Golf.

Brentwood Division is made up of 4 Districts, 518 girls and volunteers, making up 30 Units across all sections and a host of committed Guiders and helpers with 1,526.77 years of service between us! What an achievement. We have 10 Guiders with 30 + Years' Service, 6 with 40 + Years, 1 with 50 Years and 1 with 60 years' service. So, plenty of support for our newer Guiders and wealth of knowledge to deliver a wide breath of Guiding. We have recently opened Units and others with 100 years of Guiding experience.

The past few years have been tough on us all, yet so much has been enjoyed, there are units that never missed a weekly meeting, be it "Zoom" or face to face, meeting outdoors and in, when possible. Girls have continued to achieve Interest Badges, Skills Builders, awards and held Gold Parties too. Not forgetting the Pack holidays and Camps, some on land, some on boats.

I am extremely proud to be the Division Commissioner for Brentwood, so much is given by our volunteers to enable the young girls to be themselves and shine in so many ways.



Unit Meetings



4th Harold Wood Brownies sent in photos of their trip working towards their Brownie Promise, to help other people and also part of harvest festival. Each Brownie came to Tesco's with £3 and could use their £3 to buy shopping to donate to the food bank. They went around the shop in their sixes and bought the foods that were best value for money. They kept checking the total amount. Once they had their shopping they paid themselves at the tills and donated it all to Harold Hill food bank.

Programme & Adventure

Following the Programme and Adventure meeting last month, the team are planning the following:

Coronation Event:

We are hoping to have an entire County event in order to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III - just waiting confirmation of venue before we can publicise the event

Coronation Challenge Badge

We are producing a Girlguiding Essex West Challenge Badge available for all Sections (The syllabus is In production, but we will be running a Leaders' competition for the Badge design Watch our Facebook page and Website for details.)

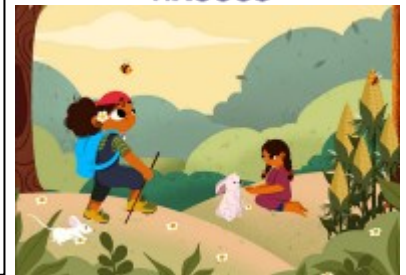
The Programme & Adventure Team are open to suggestions if you have any event ideas.

We would also welcome people to join Task & Finish groups for events

Thinking Day ideas

This year's [World Thinking Day 2023 Activity Pack](#), Our World Our Peaceful Future, The Environment & Peace, features the story of Miku, a young girl who embarks on a quest to find peace and balance within her world. The pack is inspired by folktales from all five regions and there are a series of short stories and activities to complete to earn the World Thinking Day Badge. Groups can unite in a virtual global 'walk the world' challenge to raise awareness and essential funds for the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement.

[ICANDO \(London\)](#) is offering a half day activity session on 18 February



More Awards News

Sunday 11th December at Orsett Hall when Rosemary and Essex West County leaders managed to present Sandra Munns with an unexpected Anglia Brooch for outstanding service to both our County and to Girlguiding Anglia.



Congratulations to June Saunders, here receiving her Good Guiding Award at the County Day in October.

The Awards System

Are you reading pages 1 and 4 and thinking, 'I know someone who deserves an award!' Well, please don't just think about it - do something!!

There are many awards available for both volunteers and girls. Full details are on the [County Website](#) but I have detailed a few here:-

Awards for Girls

Essex West Achievement Award is for anyone under 18 years who deserves recognition. This may be submitted by any Unit Leader.

Anglia Buddy Award - this is for anyone under 25 years who has helped another girl get the best out of Guiding. Both girls will receive a badge. Any Leader may make this nomination

Anglia Unit Buddy Award - this is for any Unit with one or more girls with additional needs, where everyone takes part in making Guiding possible for these girls. A District Commissioner may make this nomination.

National Guiding Star Award - this is for anyone up to her 26th birthday who has demonstrated extreme courage or bravery. If this relates to an incident or emergency situation, it must be within the last 6 months. Applications for these are through the County Awards committee who will then pass to Region and then the National Awards committee. If necessary, this may be processed very quickly.

Awards for Volunteers

Essex West County Brooch - this is normally awarded for outstanding Service to Essex West over many years and possibly in more than one role. Anyone may suggest a Leader to the committee for consideration.

Essex West Good Guiding - this is for Leaders who consistently provide a good programme for their girls or Leaders who support a District or Division. This is usually nominated by a District or Division Commissioner, but not exclusively.

Thanks Badge - this may be given to any Leader or non-member as a sign of appreciation for their support. There is no nomination form and badges may be purchased through Girlguiding trading.

Anglia Brooch - this is for exceptional Service to Guiding within the Region, but not necessarily to the Region. If you wish to nominate someone for this award, please contact me and we can arrange the necessary letters of support. The nomination is then submitted to the Region Awards Committee for their consideration

Anglia Thanks Certificate and Badge - this may be awarded to anyone requiring a "thank you" for a job well done! Apply through the Division Commissioner, who will contact County. There is no nomination form for this.

Laurel Award - this is for outstanding Service to Guiding. Nominations for this award are again initially made through the County Awards committee, passed to Region and if agreed there, then to the National Awards committee.

National Awards i.e. MBE - nominations for these may be made by anyone and even if for Service to Guiding, are not submitted by Girlguiding, although they may be asked to support a nomination.

As you can see, there are several ways of recognising and rewarding Leaders and girls within Guiding.

Please, please think about this and contact me if you need any help. The County Awards committee meets 3 times a year to discuss nominations, but we are happy to receive these, and make a decision, between meetings if necessary.

We can never have too many nominations, so get busy, there must be at least one person you know that deserves a "Thank You and Well Done!"

Sylvia Partridge

Awards Committee Chairman

Training and Other Opportunities

Level 3 Safe Space Training

All leaders who have not yet completed Level 3 need to apply, as everyone will eventually need level 3. It is good practice for more than one person in each unit to be qualified.

Next courses with spaces from

14th February	6:30pm–9:30pm
16th February	2:00pm-5:00pm
18th February	9:30am–12:30pm
25th February	9:30am-12:30pm

All courses on Zoom, booked via the [Learning Platform](#)

1st Response

The First Aid qualification requires

1. online course on the Learning Platform,
2. either a 3 x 2 hour or 6 hr First Aid course,

Module 2 and 3 available on Zoom

[6 February–Module 2](#)

[13 February–Module 3](#)

Also need Module 1 -the practical session

See flyer or contact the [office](#) to apply or for more information.

The Learning Platform

Most training is now available on the [Learning Platform](#), including much of that offered on the Training Day:

Unit Finances

Safe Space Level 1, 2 and 3

Including All—with additional courses

Mentoring

The new Leadership training

More on [the Learning Platform here](#)

Leadership Training

If you are a leader in training or Assistant Leader using the old book, books should be in for checking by June 2023 to complete that training. (The final date is September 2023, but County needs a margin to allow time to deal with any issues.) Anglia is offering some [Kickstart your Module 4](#) courses on Zoom to help assistant leaders complete their training—keep an eye on the Anglia site or the monthly newsletter, Signpost.

To sign up for Signpost—click [here](#)

Glossary

[INSPIRE](#)—the community of young women aged 18-30
[Peer Educators](#) — 14-25 year olds who help Brownies, Guides and Rangers explore important topics. As young people they bring subjects to life.

[1st Response](#) is Girl Guiding's first aid qualification. One adult at all meetings must hold this certificate.

The [Learning Platform](#)— new online training centre—needs a log in setting up to use.

[Leadership Qualification](#)—new qualification on the Learning Platform

[Safe Space](#) training for Levels 1 and 2 is available on the Learning Platform. A group cannot run without a leader with the Safe Space 3 qualification present.

Roles and Vacancies

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

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

We are so fortunate in Essex West have so many volunteers undertaking all sorts of roles- Unit Leaders, Advisers, Commissioners to mention but a few- however we still have a few vacancies within County that we would love to fill. The only real requirements for any of our vacant positions are being 18+, be member of Girlguiding and have the time and commitment to try something new. So if you fancy a challenge [have a look at our website](#) - see what on offer and get in touch

Rosemary

County Training Day



At the October Training Day, we had the opportunity to experiment with the County Craft Equipment. This equipment is available for groups to borrow:

Embossing Stamps

Jewellery Making

Silk painting (*above right*)

China Painting

Badge Machine

Quilling

Ocarinas and Instruction Book

Encaustic Art

Sandy Art

Pyrography (2 sets of 6 tools)

Parchment Craft

Marbling

Iris Folding (*above left*)

Glass Engraving (2 sets)



Some use heat (Pyrography, Encaustic art, both centre top) so are only suggested for Guides' and Rangers' use, but the Ocarinas, sandy art and badge machine are suitable for the younger groups. The bird on the right is from Sandy Art.



From the training day, STEM activities for Rainbows and Brownies, how to extend the activities, and in some cases make them work. Left, learning about Windmills (Brownies Skills Builder)

Right—Blast Off rockets from a Rainbows UMA



Group photo from the Training Day

Training was available for:

- First Response Module 1—see below
- Inclusion—helping all girls enjoy the full programme
- STEM/Engineering for Guides/Rangers
- Unit Finance and Gift Aid
- Safe Space Level 3
- Mentor Training
- GO Questions
- Trustees



County Training Days in 2023

Three small training sessions in different parts of the Essex West County are planned

🏆 Congratulations to: 🎉

GOLD Trip

Many congratulations to Alice Elwood, currently in Loughton, once with a Guide and Brownie Unit in Ilford, who has been selected from a Go for GOLD weekend and awarded a place on a GOLD trip on the project in Barbados. She has offered to keep us informed about her trip, so more to follow.

GOLD—Guiding Overseas Linked with Development.



Happy 50th Birthday

to 1st Manuden Brownies

who celebrated their 50th year at the end of last year.

Thank you to the Brownies for sending us this delightful photograph showing the Hedge Hogs six (or the Hodge Hogs as they so liked to be called) creating owls 🦉 from nature.

Chigwell Row Campsite



And in other good news, London over the Border County is reopening Chigwell Row this summer, bookings from 1st February, open for visits from 13th February, camping from 1st April

More from [their website](#)

Has anyone seen the car sticker that came with this year's Christmas Card in a vehicle (not your own)?



Happy 80th Birthday to the Trefoil Guild

And to celebrate 80 years, they have a year long challenge:

[From Small Acorns to Giant Oaks](#)

It runs from January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Staying in Contact

📧 Website

Don't forget that the 'Members Area' of the website is live. The site has:

- a contact directory for the County Team and Advisors,
- a page for vacant County Roles and application details,
- all the newsletters will be available to download.

More pages will be added as they are required. Please be patient when you sign up as everyone has to be authorised individually to ensure only Girlguiding Essex West leaders are given access.

To register

www.girlguidingesssexwest.org.uk/account-registration/



We have created a community Facebook group for leaders as a space for sharing ideas, asking for help and for the County team to share what's happening.

Follow the link below to join us
www.facebook.com/groups/1411607022540910/?ref=share



Girlguiding Essex West also has a Twitter account— [@GGExsexWest](https://twitter.com/GGExsexWest), which is regularly updated with current news and information

✉ office@girlguidingesssexwest.org.uk

Next Essex West Fest due out April 2023