

Essex West News Fest

QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

Rosemary Writes

The weekend of 17th/18th September was certainly busy, I headed out early on Saturday morning with Jill Osbourne (our lead volunteer for growth and retention) and Fiona Hancock (lead for the new Leadership scheme) to the Region conference on Growth and retention- lots of really useful ideas and strategies that we will be sharing with you all over the coming months. Yet again the problems around paying subscriptions (we dropped the name census many years ago!) was raised- there is more information on easy fundraising later in this newsletter but we know that if Leaders offered this to parents and friends lots of funds can be raised after a simple registration - likewise if you are not registered for gift aid then you are missing out on an extra 25% for unit funds. If you have not already done why not register for the training on 15th October.

A quick turn round on getting home and of to the County Barn dance: such a fun event after a busy day and thoroughly enjoyed by everybody who turned up

Sunday was totally different experience. Along with around 150 volunteers from across the UK I headed into London to help direct those in London for HM The Queen's funeral - questions varied from where can I leave flowers, how do I join the end of the queue for Westminster Hall to where are the toilets and how do I find a branch of M&S! I did my best to help them all and felt very proud to show how Guiding is involved in so much more than unit meetings.

I look forward to seeing many of you on 15th October



Girlguiding Volunteers helped members of the public queueing and in London for the Queen's Funeral—Girlguiding Essex West Commissioner is centre left



The Pines Guides and Brownies in Brentwood remembered the Queen in silence at their last meeting, and have left the Union flag at half mast if anyone else wants to take a moment there.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 30 September

Deadline for the Christmas Card Competition

Monday 10 October

Deadline for Awards (see page 5)

Saturday 15 October

[County Mini-Training Day and Catch-up](#)

Saturday 15 October

[First Response Training—Module 1](#)

Girlguiding Essex West County

Girlguiding Essex West is one of twelve Counties within the [Anglia Region](#) of Girlguiding. The Regional Centre for Anglia Region is [Hautbois House](#).

The County is divided into 10 Divisions, shown right on the illustration lifted from the Girlguiding [Essex West Website](#).

The County is organised in 5 subdivisions:

- Programme and Adventure
- Marketing and Communications
- Membership Support
- Business and Finance
- Training.



Marketing and Communications

This newsletter is brought to you from a communications team who between them run:

- Quarterly Newsletter
- The Girlguiding Essex West Website
- Girlguiding Essex West Twitter Account
- the two Facebook accounts—
 - One that is public to raise the profile of Girlguiding
 - A second private group for leaders to share information

Please contact us on comms.ggew@gmail.com

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— [@GGEssexWest](https://twitter.com/GGEssexWest), which is regularly updated with current news and information



office@girlguidingesssexwest.org.uk

Business and Finance

Helps run the Girlguiding Essex West County accounts, maintain the County property, ensures that the County runs to a budget, maintains and reviews the County IT infrastructure
For Guiding members the committee

- maintains and review bursaries and grants
- make recommendations for further opportunities to offer financial support to County members.
- Makes decisions about emergency support

Two ways of fundraising that are relatively easy and can bring in a significant amount of funding are below. There is a [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.



Christmas Card Competition

Design this years County Christmas card for your chance to win a prize

Deadline: 30th September 2022

Digital designs can be accepted **Open to all sections**

A6 max size **Please keep original**

Email designs to:
comms.ggew@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS NEWS

Rosemary, the County Commissioner, wrote:

... we know that subscriptions for 2023 are going to be a real challenge for all of us.

The county team thought long and hard before setting our levy at £12.50. We have no control over the other increases. We know that this £2.00 increase comes on top of an increase from Region of £2.50 and the £7.00 that HQ announced last year. This comes to a total of £53.00 which is an overall increase of £11.50.

At County we know we will have to continue to draw on our reserves to meet our outgoings but please be assured we will do our very best to keep our costs as low as possible without compromising on what we offer.

We took the decision not to hold a big County Day this year as we were unsure of the level of support it was likely to receive. Our plans for October 15 October will cost considerably less than hiring a big school but we hope that lots of leaders will go along – if only to see some of the resources that are available to borrow.

We are not buying in Christmas cards this year so look out for competition details to design our own one. Less expensive and the opportunity for girls from all sections to show us their artistic skills.....

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

Membership Support

The Membership Support sub-division is to support the members, most visibly with the organised award evenings, seen below in July at Barnard's Farm, but also for those who could not get there, coming out to local meetings. This was organised with Programme and Adventure.



Membership Support

Also organised by Membership Support are the social evenings, most recently the Barn Dance:



🏆 Awards Committee 🏆

There are a lot of Leaders and young members around the County deserving recognition for all that they offer to Guiding. Think about those in your Unit or District, who go the extra mile for either the girls in their own Unit or those around them - I am sure that you will be able to name at least one! After the time of lockdown and restrictions, now is the time to reward those who kept Guiding Going.

Any member may make a nomination; however the District or Division Commissioner must support it. Nomination forms can be found on the Essex West Website.

All nominations for awards must be made without the knowledge of the nominee or their family. Please take the time to nominate these Leaders, they are often the ones who just 'get on' with running their unit week in week out, and unless we know who they are we can't reward them!

There are also other awards available from County, Region and Nationally. These are detailed on the County website under 'Members Support - Awards'. If you are not sure which award is suitable or relevant, please just get in touch.

The next committee meeting is on 10th October. Please give us a lot of nominations to keep us busy!

[Sylvia Partridge](#)

Awards Committee Chairman

Programme & Adventure



Pictures from the Rainbow Picnic held in July



PROGRAMME & ADVENTURE

Definition:

Programme: "A plan of activities to be done or things to be achieved"

Adventure: "An unusual and/or exciting activity such as a trip or experience, or the excitement produced by such an activity"

Method:

The County Programme & Adventure sub-group is in place to cover both aspects within the title.

Programme: The core team within the Group is made up of Advisers, i.e. Outdoor Activities Advisor; Queens Guide Adviser; Duke of Edinburgh Adviser (Vacant), etc., plus the County Commissioner and other members of the County team, under the co-ordination of a Chairperson. This covers the 'Programme' part of the Group.

Adventure: In order that we can offer the 'Adventure' part of the Group, we welcome members to form Task & Finish Groups to help organise a specific event (i.e. short term roles until completion of the activity).

We welcome suggestions from all members of the County as to the activities we plan and we encourage individuals to support task & finish Groups in order to offer an exciting and varied activity plan for the entire County

Programme & Adventure, cont'd



Photos from the County Capers Day on Saturday 10th September 2022

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

16th October

20th October

All courses on Zoom, booked via the [Anglia Website](#) or 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,

New face-to-face Module 1 available
[Saturday 15th October \(check times\)](#)

at Harold Wood

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

Roles and Vacancies

- Additional helpers for the County Archivist
- County Leadership Co-ordinator Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Adviser
- Additional INSPIRE representatives
- Peer Educators
- County Advisor Responsible for Training (CART)
- Division Commissioners: Epping Forest South
- District Commissioner - 9 county wide

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

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.

🏆 Congratulations to: 🎉



Queen's Guide Interview

Our newest, most recently awarded, Queen's Guide, Gemma Knott (seen left) from Thurrock East Division, was interviewed on [BBC Essex Radio](#) on 14 September (available to 14/10) and talked about the Queen's Guide Award and the late Queen's long-standing links to GirlGuiding. Her interview starts at 1:23:20 into the link and lasts for around 10 minutes



The leaders at the Jack Petchey Awards ceremony in July 2022. All GirlGuiding Essex West divisions received awards.

Thurrock West Jubilee Celebrations



On Saturday 9th July 120 Leaders, Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbow descended on Condoovers Camp site West Tilbury

We had an afternoon packed with face painting, Hair feathers, hook a duck, tin can alley, circus skills and various other stalls for the girls to roam and enjoy as much as they wanted.

We also had the following races: Sack, Egg and Spoon, Obstacle and running.

We then provided a sandwich tea, followed by cake and Jelly and Ice cream.

To round off the day we had a campfire which all the girls enjoyed.



Congratulations to Sylvia for her Long Service Award, 50 years is an amazing achievement.

Thank you for all you have done and still do working in the County Office

PHOTOS WANTED

Essex West GirlGuiding County always needs photographs to show what we have been doing and to stop me filling the page with mine. Please can you send in your autumn activity pictures for the next newsletter.

There will be a voucher given for any photos used on the website or in the Essex West News Fest.

Please send to comms.ggew@gmail.com

Happy 100th
Birthday
to Warley Guides



Next Essex West Fest due out January 2023