



QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

AUTUMN 2024

Rosemary Writes ...



Our county weekend at Hautbois was wonderful - I know I walked over 16,000 steps exploring Norwich- and then a few more as we enjoyed the ARC- if you have never heard of it then take a look at the website to learn how Norfolk County built their archive home- mind you I needed some of those steps to walk off some of the calories from the tasty Hautbois kitchens !

It was very sad to have to move our county members day to a mostly virtual one. However with such a low response the costs involved in hiring the educational venue were simply prohibitive. Most sessions went ahead via zoom and were enjoyed by those that took part. First Response practical moved to a smaller venue.

Our president and her team had a very difficult task in judging Christmas card entrants but the results showed just how talented our young members are.

County Treasurer We are looking for someone with knowledge of bookkeeping and financial management to take on the role of County Treasurer.

You would need to :

- Oversee the financial affairs of the organisation and ensure they are legal, constitutional and within accepted accounting practice.
- Ensure proper records are kept and that effective financial procedures are in place.
- Monitor and report on the financial health of the organisation.
- Oversee the production of necessary financial reports/returns, accounts and audits.
- Responsible for ensuring day to day book-keeping activities are completed and budgets are maintained.

For more details please download the [County Treasurer Role Description V1.0 \(1\)](#)

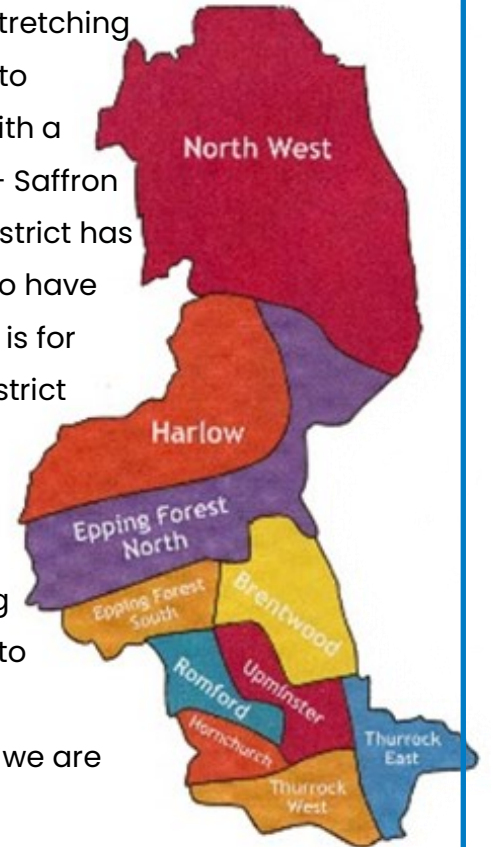


The first meeting was attended by eight leaders. We enjoyed singing some old, half-forgotten songs and a few newer ones. We are not a choir - none of us would describe ourselves as 'singers' but enthusiastic amateurs who enjoy singing together and for fun!

We have booked another meeting on Wednesday 27th November at Christ Church Centre, Warley Hill, Brentwood. CM13 3AA. 7.45 - 9.30 p.m. Why not come and join us? I am sure that you would have an enjoyable time!

Delve into a Division: North West

The seventh division in this series of articles finding out more about the Divisions of Essex West County, North West Division is situated along the Hertfordshire border, stretching down from Great Chesterford (on the Cambridgeshire border) to Stansted Mountfitchet and across to Felsted. It is a rural area with a few market towns. There are three Districts within the Division – Saffron Walden, Dunmow & Thaxted and West Uttlesford – and each District has approximately ten Units. Our largest town is Saffron Walden who have just re-launched their Senior Section Unit. Our biggest struggle is for leaders with Dunmow & Thaxted District and Saffron Walden District both holding a publicity campaign this year to attract more interest. Neither of these generated any new leaders but increased the number of girls on our waiting lists, which were already overflowing! Two Rainbow Units were looking at closing in Dunmow & Thaxted District but the leaders have teamed up to create one Unit, meeting in Stebbing and all is going well. West Uttlesford have lost a long standing District Commissioner and we are continuing the search for her replacement.



We were delighted to host Thinking Day at the secondary school in Great Dunmow this year, where the highlight was the drumming! Being held in our Division meant that almost every Unit was able to attend. Throughout 2024 the girls have enjoyed Olympic celebrations, visits from ex-police dogs, science evenings, hikes, Axe Throwing at the Thaxted Fayre, cookie making sessions, natural weaving and outdoor crafts. Brownies have been learning about Alpacas and foraging in Debden, and First Aid and Survival Skills in Felsted where the Young Leaders also held a Mocktail night with a visit from an ice-cream van. Sleep-overs and Unit Holidays have included fire lighting, campfire songs and cooking. There have been visits to the Circus, Legoland, Jump Street, Chigwell Row Brownie & Rainbow day. Future plans include several Units attending Remembrance Day parades and services. There are also plans for a day trip to Chessington, a Ninja Warrior Sleep Over and Thinking Day Sleepovers a plenty.

There have been many Gold Award celebrations including one for a Brownie in Saffron Walden who had earned every badge available. A Newport Rainbow has raised £108 for her Unit with a "Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar" as part of her Helper interest badge. Leanne Kell, District Commissioner for Dunmow & Thaxted and Unit Leader for Thaxted Rainbows, Brownies and Guides (!) won the Volunteer category of the BBC Essex Make A Difference Awards for her work with Girlguiding and Scouting which is very well deserved.

Programme & Adventure



Rainbows from Brentwood and Harold Wood enjoyed a rather soggy day at Legoland. The cheers from the girls as the coach pulled into Legoland was deafening, but wonderful to hear.

We asked the girls if they had enjoyed their day and we were given a resounding "YES!!"

If you would like to help Programme and Adventure organise the next outing please contact Chris cc.essexwest@gmail.com

The girls gave us some ideas - so watch this space.



Brownie & Rainbow Day at Chigwell Row



Thank you for the photographs from which were provided by: 5th Gidea Park Brownies, Coral Gosling (Romford Division Commissioner), 3rd Hornchurch Brownies.

Girlguiding in Action

As Romford DC I was asked by our local YMCA if we could help raise £180 to support young homeless people that live in their Rush Green Centre, by sleeping somewhere different for a night. The amount asked was because they were celebrating 180 years.

As it was close to the summer holidays, the Division Team decided to ask everyone in the Division if they could get sponsored to sleep somewhere different while on their summer break. Unfortunately only 2 girls from 2nd Collier Row and myself did the challenge and on 28th October, the two girls, their Leader and myself were invited to visit the YMCA to see and hear about the work that they do.

It was great to meet with one of the girls (& her mum) who raised £110 and have our photo taken; She was also given a certificate, a small bear, a YMCA pin badge and the Girlguiding fundraiser badge. She will also receive her charities badge, once she writes her 'thank you letter' to the organiser Lisa Hawley.



The other girl Kayley raised £27 but couldn't make the visit today and 2nd Collier Row leaders & myself made up the total to £180.



Working on their Christmas Cards for the competition are 1st Church Langley Guides and Rangers, Harlow

4th Grays Guides spent a sunny Saturday in September at Adventure Island thanks to a Jack Petchey grant

It may feel like it's a task filling in the form and spending the money but it really does benefit the young people.

Grant applications are reducing, it would be great to see more in so more events like this can be funded



County Cream Tea



At the County Cream Tea at Upminster in July, awards were presented to the following (EGG = Essex Good Guiding Award and LSA = long service award):

Top L-R: Christine Dine—40 year LSA and an EGG, Glynis Smith - EGG, Diane Dickerson—40 LSA



<L Bonnie Le Beau, - completed LDP,

>R Abbie Scott -completed LDP,

Not pictured:

Lesley Pluck 50 year LSA,

Tricia Becket—UK Good Service

Pat Gilbert—County Silver Broach



Financial Help

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

- [Girlguiding Essex West County Grants](#)—for events and cases of hardship
- [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.
- There's a new financial form from County— sent out by email in May

Roles and Vacancies Available

- County Treasurer
- Chair of Business and Finance
- County Advisor Responsible for Training (CART)
- Division Commissioner Epping Forest South
- District Commissioners - 5 County wide
- Grants Co-ordinator
- Commissioner Mentors
- Growth and Retention Team
- International Adviser (Job Share)
- County Archivist Team

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

Congratulations & Thank yous

For over ten years Annette Iles has been helping our daughter Charlotte run the 3rd Little Thurrock Rainbows pack. It would not be able to run without her assistance. Many hours have been spent planning activities for the girls and the time spent cutting, sticking, arranging materials and pencil sharpening is immeasurable.

Sadly in November 2021 Annette contracted Lymphoma cancer which left her unable to walk. That has not stopped Annette, as soon as she was well enough she was back helping. We and all the girls we have known owe her our heartfelt thanks.



Lucy-Jo Hinder Young Leader with the 3rd Gidea Park St Michael's Guides was presented with her Bronze D of E award by Division Commissioner Coral and District commissioner Sue.

Christine Foy, was awarded the Rotary Club of Epping, 'Service Above Self Award 2024' in July, for her continued years of volunteering with Girl Guiding, including nearly 30 years in units, starting in 1995 to prevent the local Rainbow Pack from closing. In addition, Christine has been Treasurer for 4th Epping Brownies for 20+ years and the Treasurer for the District and Division for the past 15 years. Not forgetting the 47 Brownie Pack Holidays Christine has been part of!

With Kay Griffiths, another leader in 4th Epping Brownies, she was awarded a Essex Good Guiding (EGG) award in October.



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

Staying in Contact

 [Website](#)

(currently being updated)

[Events Pages](#)
[Compliments Page!](#)



[Leaders Community Facebook page](#)

 [County office](#)

 [Communications Team](#)

for the website & newsletter