



QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

SUMMER 2025

Rosemary writes...

I've had an interesting few months since our last newsletter.

News has been mixed - the break in at our Pines campsite was very upsetting but thanks to the hard work by many involved the insurance claim has been sorted and most of the repairs are underway. By far better news was an invitation to be one of the Girlguiding stewards at a Buckingham Palace garden party. Our duties involved helping guests find what they needed and ensuring they only went where permitted- Our region chief was spotted chatting to the Duchess of Edinburgh!

On a less grand scale but equally enjoyable was joining Epping Forest North for a private tour of Copped Hall- a wonderful venue for all sorts of activities

It was wonderful to meet leaders at our Autumn antics training event - It's a real pity that numbers were not very high but again those that attended have said how good and useful it was, both in terms of meeting other leaders, getting new ideas and feeling supported. One lucky leader even won a £50.00 M&S hamper !



AUTUMN ANTICS - 3RD MAY

On Saturday 3rd May leaders attended a training day in Harold Wood. Where they picked up ideas to help organise their autumn term. They attended trainings on indoor games, difficult conversations, treasure hunt (how to pick up new leaders) and then lots of activities, uma's and skills builders to build a programme. A good day was had, and a free raffle saw one lucky leader win a hamper! If you would like help with the winter term programme then please join us for another days training in October.

Jenny Wolff

I had a really great day at the Autumn Antics day. I joined a session to learn about the new Young Leader qualification, where we had the opportunity to ask lots of questions and understand how it works. My second session was completely interactive and fun - learning and playing lots of new games with other leaders. Games that we can take back and share with our units. In the afternoon, we had team discussions on how to handle difficult situations which we all encounter from time to time - whether with other leaders or parents or children. The final session was to have a go at some Autumn crafts and activities - again, lots of easy and simple ideas to take back to our units. But the most beneficial aspect of the whole day is having time just to chat with other leaders and young leaders. Nothing is better than a face to face conversation. So I would urge everyone to sign up and join in the next time we meet in October.

Kim. Guide and Brownie Leader. Division Commissioner, Hornchurch.

Delve into a Division:

Cranham & Cranham Park District

I am very pleased to announce we have had 2 leaders gain their licenses – Jenny Chapman 1st Cranham (All Saints) Guide unit gained her Going Away Camping License, and Claire Perry 4th Cranham Brownies gained her Going Away Residential License. Well done very proud of you both. 4th Cranham Brownies enjoyed an evening with Hayley keeping fit with YOGA. 2nd Cranham Park had 2 Rainbows achieve their gold award. We have also had changes to 3 units which have now moved from St Peters Mass Centre, Front Lane Cranham to The Baptist Church, Severn Drive, Cranham – 1st Cranham (AS) Rainbows, 4th Cranham Brownies & 1st Cranham (AS) Guides. There are no changes to the days or times of each unit. 5th Cranham Park Brownies had a visit from snakes and reptiles, which was a very enjoyable evening. 1st Cranham (AS) Guide unit have also enjoyed using Jack Petchey Award money for the unit at FLIPOUT last year also in June this year will be at Thriftwood, thank you Ellie and Amy.

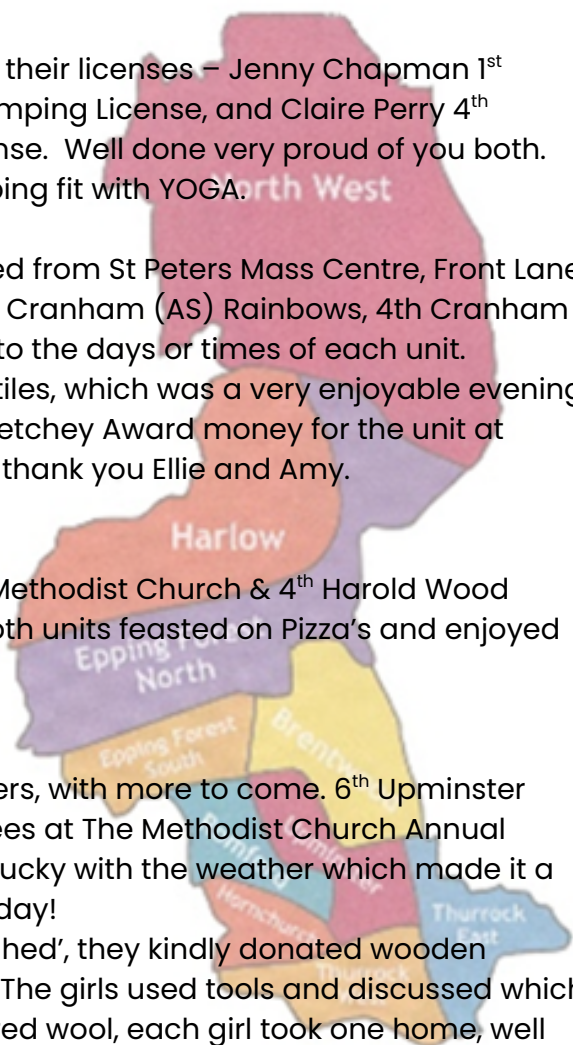
Harold Hill & Harold Wood District

3rd Harold Wood Guides had their Pyjama Sleepover at the Methodist Church & 4th Harold Wood Brownies had their Pyjama Sleepover at St Peters Church both units feasted on Pizza's and enjoyed the activities set by Anglia.

Upminster South District

The District have held 2 events to help recruit girls and helpers, with more to come. 6th Upminster Brownies & 2nd Upminster Brownies decorated Christmas trees at The Methodist Church Annual Event. A day trip to Chessington, fabulous fun day out, very lucky with the weather which made it a great day for everyone, and we saw the Giraffes, made my day! 2nd Upminster Brownies shared their evening with the 'Men Shed', they kindly donated wooden plaques and patterned nails to help with their badge work. The girls used tools and discussed which tool did what, they decorated the blocks with various coloured wool, each girl took one home, well done. It was also lovely to hear from the guys "All the girls in each of the groups were delightful, very interactive and inquisitive about the tools but above all polite and respectful." A great way to end my report, thank you.

Jenny Aspinall Division Commissioner



Congratulations

Civic Award for Kim Messenger.

"I was nominated for an award and was given a Lifetime Achievement Award for my dedication to Guiding and the difference it makes to the local community at a recent Civic Dinner. I was totally overwhelmed but extremely proud to receive the award from the Mayor."



MUD RUN – Saturday 7th June – Nuclear Races, Brentwood – for Brownies, Guides & Rangers

COUNTY CAPERS – Sat/Sun 6/7 September – Hargreaves – for Guides/Rangers

BROWNIE BIG ADVENTURE DAY – 13th September 2025 – Skreens Park – for all Brownies

Dates for diaries

- 7th June [Mud Run](#)
- 15th June [Cream Tea at Chigwell Row](#)
- 20th June [Leader's Theatre Trip](#)
- 29th June [International Opportunities Day](#)
- 27th July [GGEW Afternoon Tea](#)
- 6th & 7th Sep [County Capers](#)
- 13th Sep [Brownie Big Adventure Day](#)
- 18th October [Winter Wonders](#)



Have you booked ?
We have a brilliant day organised
Skreens Park
13th September
10am to 5pm

VE Day 80 around the County



Doddinghurst Brownies had an evening learning about rationing and VE day celebrations. They had cake made from a ration cook book, played pass the parcel (it was a banana!) and went home with a sweet ration.



Fyfield Rainbows and Brownies together with a representative from Ongar Rangers and Guides, took part in the Ongar VE Day parade.



Some of the Fyfield Rainbows and Brownies from Dr Walkers School became evacuees for the day at Ongar Station.



4th Grays Guides held a street party night to commemorate VE Day. Each guide brought their own picnic and designed and made their own medals



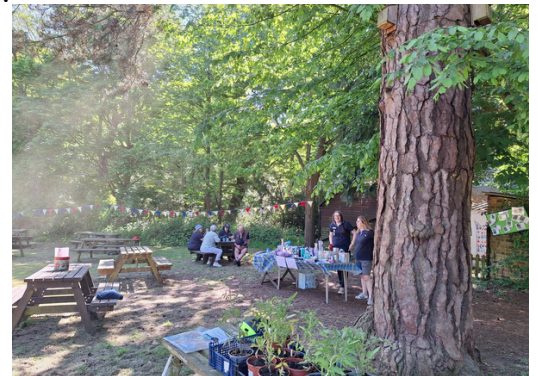
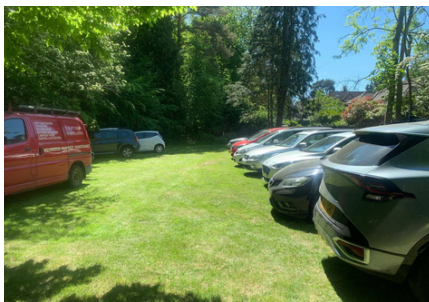
1st Uphire Brownies had a fun time at their VE Day party!

The Pines Open Day - 10th May

It was pleasing to see a good number of Guiders come to support the day, the site is looking good and we received many compliments. We had displays of SB / UMA's that lend themselves to the outdoor space as well as baskets with cards and all the resources needed, these will be stored and for the use of all visitors. It wouldn't be an event without cake! we had plenty that were all donated. Along with a Tombola and some plants. We set out to showcase what a lovely site the Pines is, we certainly met our aim. Thank you for all of the support.

Kim Messenger - Brentwood Division Commissioner

The Pine work days are 8 June, 5 July, 21 September and 18 October. All welcome. Bring gardening tools and a paint brush. Refreshments supplied.



Congratulations

Well done to all who received awards at Barnards Farm back in March. 180 years service between 5 volunteers is incredible!



Gaynor Bray - 30 years!

Chris Foy - 30 Years!
(unfortunately no photo)



Wendy Rothon - 50 years!



Hillary Frankton - 40 years!



Nicola Bonney - 30 years!

- Sue Sheppard** - District commissioner qualification
- Pat O'sullivan** - Good Service Brooch
- Sue Emanuel** - County Silver Brooch
- Pat O'Sullivan** - Good Service Brooch

Well done to you all 🌟

What have you been up to?



Epping Forest North division had had a wonderful morning at Copped Hall in April learning all about the history of the house and grounds. We heard all about the importance of the estate in the local area and how we could involve our girls and use this amazing resource for badges and more!



Brentwood Division Sleepover
80 Brownies, Guides & leaders, enjoyed a fantastic time at Airhop, Chelmsford. We jumped for 2 hrs, had supper, watched a movie followed by breakfast and another hour jumping. Thankfullu no one was sick! A great trip, Airhop were brilliant and couldn't do enough throughout our stay.



Bell ringing at 1st South Weald Brownies
One of our Young Leaders Sarah, is an acomplished Bell Ringer, she brough along a set of Handbells for the girls to try as well as a Miniture Bell Tower. It was interesting for the Brownies to try, they even managed a good tune!

1st South Weald Brownies helped to put together posies for Mothering Sunday with the Ladies Fellowship. Lovely to hear the girls and ladies chatting.



Hot Cross Buns
simplified method

1 Packet of Bread Mix (500g)
3 teaspoons Mixed Spice
50g Butter
25g Caster Sugar
100g Mixed Fruit
125ml HOT water & 125ml milk
1 egg (beaten)
For the Cross - 75g flour & water

Method

Turn on oven 190°C/Gas 5

Rub butter into bread mix with fingertips. Add sugar, spice and fruit

Add **hot** water to milk and then pour half (125 ml) into the dry ingredients, mix with a table knife (to avoid sticky hands). Add enough liquid to form soft dough ball. Do **NOT** add too much liquid. Squeeze together with hands.

Turn out onto work surface and knead to create the elastic dough

Divide into 12/15 pieces and shape into buns, flatten and place on baking sheet

Cut top into a cross, egg wash tops with a pastry brush

Mix 75g flour with about 5 tablespoons water to make the paste for the cross. Put into a piping bag with a small plain nozzle (or use a teaspoon to pour into cut cross). See photo

Place cross on top - egg wash again and then leave to rise for 10 mins

Bake at 190°C for about 15- 20 mins

Tap the bottom of the buns, they make a hollow sound if ready

Ongar Rangers tried this quick Hot Cross Bun recipe. It was great, try it next year.



3rd Hornchurch Guides used a Jack Petchey award to pay for a visit to the local escape rooms. They managed to find hidden relics, diffuse a bomb and escape from the clinic. It was a brilliant fun evening and great for team work and problem solving. Tricia Foreman



Anglia PJ Party

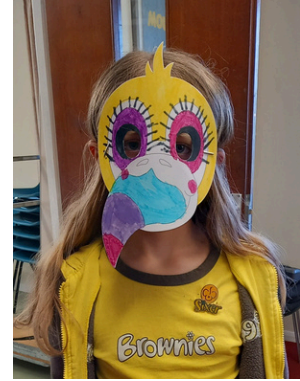


1st Little Thurrock Brownies and **2nd Collier Row** joined together for the Anglia PJ Party Sleepover to celebrate World Thinking Day weekend. Each girl and leader received a goody bag at the start of the weekend which included a Girlguiding Anglia Bambo toothbrush (handy as Tawny Owl forgot hers). The girls visited all corners of the Globe from the UK to Japan, Brazil and Denmark to name a few. Each Country had an activity sheet with recipes to try, crafts to make and songs to sing. The Brownies particularly enjoyed a race with chopsticks and sweets. Girls also enjoyed designing a t-shirt for their new sloth stuffy adopted from Brazil. Both units then joined **1st Epping Guides** and **4th Epping (St John) Brownies** and were treated to a flag raising ceremony and promise renewal at 4pm. We enjoyed **Epping's** hospitality yet again as the Guides ran a campfire as part of their Guiding History Badge and for the **1st Little Thurrock Brownies** it was all their first night away from home!

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](http://www.girlguidingsexsexwest.org.uk)



office@girlguidingsexsexwest.org.uk

We are now one of the Anglia counties using the same website template. Unfortunately, we no longer have a members area as this was under used and involved extra work to maintain. However, a new feature is a calendar which shows all important dates, events and trainings. 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!

<https://www.girlguidingsexsexwest.org.uk>

Are you part of the Leaders Facebook group?

You will find important updates and event information in here, [Leaders Community](#).

You will need to answer a few questions to join. Have you seen the public page? [Facebook page](#) this can be shared across your own profile to help with publicity too!

