



QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

SPRING 2025

Rosemary writes...

As this is probably not going to reach you before Thinking Day, I hope everyone had a great time – whether that was with your own unit - or a bigger event - possibly wearing pj's!!

As I sit down to write something I have 2 main things I'm thinking of: Firstly, annual subscriptions - I've already spent some time chasing a few leaders but mostly it's going far better than last year - so thank you to all volunteers that make that part of my role easier.

Reflecting back on recent County training event - Summer Sorted – we did not have the numbers hoped for but those that attended had a great time - see some of the comments below:

“Even though we both have many years of service behind us we still found out new things and the Risk Assessment and budgeting sessions were particularly useful for us”

“WOW learnt so much – and my programme for next term is sorted!”

“I never knew you could make ice cream using ice and salt.....”

“That’s my first part of first response ticked off”

“Now I know I can adapt UMA’s my planning will be so much easier”

“Lovely to meet and chat with other leaders”

Looking forward to seeing (virtually!) many of you on our air and share sessions in March

In guiding, Rosemary

Subscription payment deadlines

Tuesday 18 February 2025 - official and final payable invoices ready to download and pay by card or by cheque.

Friday 14 March 2025 - payment reminders will be sent

Friday 28 March 2025 - Midday - all subscription payments must be received in full by this date.

Remember if sending a cheque it must clear by this date.

Please contact the office before these dates if you need any help

Check out the unit support which is available if needed.

[Link to Unit Support Fund](#)

Delve into a division: Thurrock

The sixth division in this series of articles finding out more about the divisions of Essex West County, continuing alphabetically with Thurrock.

Thurrock is made up of 2 divisions, Thurrock East bordering Basildon and Thurrock West bordering Upminster. There are 6 Districts sitting under the Divisions - Corringham, Stanford Le Hope, Grays West, Ockendon, Tilbury and Grays East. Each area has many Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units and each Division has a Ranger unit.

Following Covid both Divisions have had to close some units due to lack of Leaders and Girls. The Divisions have worked individually and together to recruit new members with stalls at The Horndon Feast & Fayre, Corringham Community Day, Lakeside Emergency Services Day and The Orsett Show. In 2024 Thurrock East hosted a County training day at Horndon Primary school which some of you may have attended. The summer of 2024 saw both Divisions have units of Guides and Rangers attending the Essex International Jamboree. Both Divisions also held successful Handicraft competitions and had units attending the Anglia Region event at the RSPB Rainham site.

For 2025 we are planning to put on some events that will be available to girls from both Divisions with section specific events as well as opportunities for Leaders from both Divisions to meet together. We know many units within both Divisions are joining in with the Anglia Region Pyjama Party in February and will be joining the future County events such as the mud run and Brownie Day. We look forward to seeing what else 2025 brings for Guiding in Thurrock East and Thurrock West.

Gaynor

Division Commissioner for Thurrock East & Thurrock West



HELP!!

Programme and Adventure are nearly ready to share the details of the Brownie Big Adventure Day but first we need your help!

So that Brownie leaders can enjoy the day with their girls, we need to find some other adult volunteers from other sections to help on the day.

If you are interested in offering to help, please email your details to Veronica before the end of February - queensguideaew@gmail.com

There will be a zoom meeting before the event so you can get all the info you need

Dates for diaries

19th - 22nd Mar	Thurrock Gang Show
6th & 21st Mar	Air & Share
3rd May	Autumn Antics
10th May	The Pines Open Day
7th June	Mud Run
20th June	Leader's Theatre Trip
6th & 7th Sep	County Capers
13th Sep	Brownie Big Adventure Day
18th October	Winter Wonders

Saturday 12th April 1-4pm.
Boreham Village Hall, Main Rd, Boreham,
Chelmsford CM3 3JD.

Your chance to meet Anglia's Region and Deputy Chief's. They would like to discuss with you ways of taking the Region forward and working on the Strategic plan for 2026 onwards. Please do go along to voice your opinions and share your ideas. These are happening all over the Region, so would be lovely to get Essex West's ideas on the plan.

International opportunity



Anglia are running a hiking trip to Switzerland in 2026, to celebrate 110 years of Rangers.

Please pass this on to any Rangers you may know

[More information](#)



Keep your eyes peeled for the launch of a county what's app community group. Section specific and a general county group to help make hearing about events and important updates



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

COUNTY CAPERS (to include outdoor cooking competition) - Sat/Sun 6/7 September - Hargreaves - for Guides/Rangers

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

Awards

Congratulations to the following Leaders who have recently received Jack Petchey Adult Awards:-

Hannah Brown – Hannah is dedicated to the development of leadership skills in the young people who belong to the unit. She encourages them to take decisions themselves and organises activities that give them opportunities to take on leadership roles. Hannah applied for the leadership grant and was awarded £1,000.00 towards a London theatre trip and meal out for her Unit.

Kim Messenger – Kim has been a leader for many years and also held roles at District, Division and County levels. Comments from her unit included “Kim is a fun leader”; “Kim puts in a lot of effort and plays creative games with us”. Kim has not yet applied for a leadership grant, whilst she decides which project she wishes to undertake.

Sadly, not every Division submitted an Adult Award in 2024; I sincerely hope that for 2025 we have one from every Division, it's not difficult to apply and I am always ready to help. If you know of someone who deserves an award, please speak to your Division Commissioner.



Do you know a good EGG?

This Essex Good Guiding award is open to any leader in the County. Again, it's not difficult to nominate and may be submitted by anyone – not just a Commissioner. The form is on the [website](#) or just email me the details and I will do the rest!

Recent nominations

Leader A started as a parent helper before becoming a leader with a guide unit for 26 years. During this time, she has organised trips for her unit and District and run many camps. She has shown the true Guiding spirit in her own unit and supporting leaders in others.

Leader B – was a Brownie leader and when her own daughter joined Guides, she was a leader there too. She stepped back from Guiding to support her daughter through exams. She has now re-joined and is an asset to the unit. She doesn't realise what a great support she is.

Sylvia Partridge
Chair, County Awards Committee

What have you been up to?



On a very cold weekend in November, Rangers from Ongar, Waltham Abbey and Upshire had a joint Christmas weekend at Chigwell Row. We made decorations, Christmas Cakes, chocolate logs, flower arrangements and cooked a full Christmas lunch. The peeling of vegetables and all the stirring was not all the exercise as we also battled the weather to descend the zip wire wearing Santa hats!

As part of parliament week, some of 5th Hutton Brownies visited the Houses of Parliament on Saturday 16th November. We did the audio tour, visited Westminster Hall, the House of Lords (which resulted in many Wows!) and the House of Commons. The Brownies really enjoyed looking for the different objects mentioned on the audio tour and listening to the raucous recording of the debate in the House of Commons. The Yays and the Nays were put into good use when we were voting at our parliament themed meeting.



The 2nd Buckhurst Hill Guides had a great time at their Advent Camp at Thriftwood. The marquee was very cold but the Guides took on many crafts including Advent calendars, baubles, cards and wreaths. Some girls conquered fears on the vertical assault course. They all enjoyed a nature walk exploring the site. All of the Guides loved their pre-dinner yoga and meditation session. The highlight, as on most camps was our campfire. The fire it has to be said was very limited in flames due to the recent heavy rains. Some were reluctant to join in at first but eventually everyone was singing the old favourites and learning a few new ones. Sufficient flames and embers were raised to make smores. We stayed in the Village - a series of huts which were cosy and warm. Triple level bunks were a huge success amongst the Guides. A great way to get into the Christmas spirit.





Gidea Park District Commission Sue presented Sarah Cassidy with 20yr long service award. Congratulations Sarah!

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



The Fyfield Rainbows and Brownies celebrated Luna New year by finding out all about snakes! The Rainbows enjoyed snake games and making twirly snakes. The Brownies had an amazing visitor , a 7ft Boa Constrictor!



Essex West have a new Trefoil Guild called the Epping Sycamores. If you are interested in starting a new Guild let Linda know on essexwesttgch@gmail.com

Staying in contact



Website



office@girlguidingessexwest.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.girlguidingessexwest.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!

