



# Essex West News Fest

QUARTERLY UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

Spring 2026

## Rosemary writes...

As my role as your County Commissioner comes to an end (where did that 5 years go?) I'm looking back and remembering so many great things - far too many to mention them all - mud runs, cream teas, gold presentations, training days, Jack Petchy evenings, theatre trips, generation green and long service awards are just the tip of the iceberg. There have been a few tricky moments - The Pines water bill and Chigwell hut causing a few worries along with the odd difficult parent but on the whole its been tremendous fun - so thank you to one and all for your support and guidance.

We have a great year coming up - open days at both The Pines and Chigwell Row, more training being held face to face, another theatre trip along with another afternoon tea and a very special event marking 80 years of the Queen's Guide Award. I look forward to them all - whether as a Commissioner or a Guide leader that simply wants to meet up with others that love this great game - GUIDING

## Programme & Adventure



**Brownies Go International** - Brownies to Disneyland Paris, 12-15 February 2027.

We have 69 girls going.

**Leaders only:** A day of training, socialising and chill-out at Barleylands - date to be confirmed.

There are pottery/crazy golf and Birds of Prey activities as well as Tiptree Tea Rooms.

**Barnum** For Leaders, Cliff's Pavilion on Thursday 2 July. Flier to come out shortly.

**Cream team** has been booked for 7 June 2026 at Thames Chase

**County Rainbow day** - Chigwell 13 June

**Guide Afternoon of Activities** - Thriftwood 12 July

**Ranger day** - Southend-on-Sea - mission to solve - Oct 4<sup>th</sup> - TBC

**Badge days** - To be included in the Rainbow day activities (Training team to help with this also)

The Programme & Adventure Team cannot do this on their own - they are a small group of volunteers but would love others to join their team or work on Task & Finish Groups for anything that is of interest.



Click the image to find out more and register

Ex\*raJam is a new and exciting event open to Explorers, Rangers and Young Leaders from Essex counties. Brought to you by the Essex International Jamboree Team it will give participants the experience of being a staff member at Essex International Jamboree and keep the spirit alive before 2028!

## Safer Guiding Training

There has been some confusion regarding the safer guiding training.

If you have taken the online safer guiding training and have failed 1 quiz you need to contact your local commissioner, who will then contact Girlguiding Anglia. If you have failed 2 or more quizzes then you need to book on to either a face to face or webinar training.

If you have any queries regarding this then please contact Jenny Wolff at [training.essexwest@gmail.com](mailto:training.essexwest@gmail.com)

## Dates for Diaries

9th May - [First Response module 1](#)  
 9th May - [Safer Guiding](#)  
 26th- 29th May - [Outdoor activity days](#)  
 7th June - [Cream Tea](#)  
 13th June - [Rainbow Day](#)  
 26th - 28th June - [Extra Jam](#)  
 1st July - Jack Petchey award evening  
 2nd July - [Theatre Trip, Barnum](#)  
 5th July - [INTOPS Day](#)  
 12th July - [Guide Activity Afternoon at Thriftwood](#)  
 1st-8th August - [Poacher Jamboree](#)  
 11- 13th September - [Cosmic Brownie Takeover](#)  
 12- 15th February 2027 - [Disneyland Paris - Brownies](#)  
 7-13th August 2027 - [Anglia 27](#)

## Photos Wanted

Girlguiding Essex West are always on the lookout for photographs to show what our young people have been up to. Please email your photos to: [comms.ggew@gmail.com](mailto:comms.ggew@gmail.com)

REMEMBER, YOU MUST HAVE PHOTO CONSENT FOR SHARING THESE PHOTOS



## Constitution Day

Back in November, all leaders were invited to attend a meeting about how to shape Essex West moving forward. The day began with an introduction from Rosemary and then we broke off into groups to have discussions on given topics. We all had the opportunity to note down our feedback and have our voice heard. Here is a snippet of feedback from the day



### Unrivalled girl led by girls for girls

1. We offer county led experiences for all sections
2. EW offer girls opportunities to influence INSPIRE, grass roots PL event
3. Improve YL experience – more training and events
4. D of E and Queens guide

### Sustainable and efficient organisation

1. Improve our image- use of social media
2. Identify suitable venues across county for all events
3. Share resources- especially those held by county
4. Use of Pines and Chigwell
5. Support units struggling financially
6. P/T grants co-ordinator???

### Rewarding and flexible volunteering

1. Encourage YL's INSPIRE, QG and D OF E
2. Value all volunteers- leader events, theatre, Barleylands, Hautbois again? Xmas cards, thinking Day thank you

### Inclusive, impactful and visible

1. Help with subscriptions and new uniform costs
2. Identify gaps
3. Involve schools



## Remembrance Day



Members of Thurrock East Joined the local community to pay their respects at the Stanford-Le-Hope Remembrance Day Service. All of the leaders are very proud of how well behaved the girls were.



Members of Thurrock West Joined the local community to pay their respects at Grays Remembrance Day Service. All the young people showed the public exactly what Guiding is about

## Smashing Boundaries: Cricket Training



6 leaders from the County attended Essex county Cricket ground back in November where they learnt more about this challenge pack. The session was action packed and all leaders had a smashing time 😊 Who knew leaders were so competitive!

You can find the challenge pack [here](#)

## Mexico

A group of 12 rangers & 4 leaders from Anglia ( 1 Leader & a Ranger from Essex West) are travelling to Our Cabana, Mexico in July. We have all worked hard to create a badge to help with fundraising. Your units will learn about Mexican culture, food and traditions as well as learning about Our Cabana. The challenge pack can be found on the GGEW website or by clicking here; [Challenge Pack](#)

Badges are £1.50 plus P&P and can be ordered through [mexicogg2026@gmail.com](mailto:mexicogg2026@gmail.com)

We hope you have as much fun completing the badge as we had creating it.



## Lions on the Loose!



This year Harlow Division are taking part in Lions on the loose trail covering Harlow, Epping and Loughton supporting St Clare's with our own small Lion during the summer.

We are currently working with a local artist called Sarah Bracey who will be working with our Guides and Rangers designing the lion and being our Lion to life.

We are hoping to have a badge and challenge to go alongside the trail. <https://lionsontheloose.co.uk/>

# Barnard's Farm Thinking Day Celebration



On the 7<sup>th</sup> March division teams were invited to Barnards Farm for our annual Thinking Day awards presentation. The day started with a yummy breakfast provided by Gillian Chapman.

After everyone was fed and watered, Rosemary and Jenny began the presentations. Amongst the awards being presented were Jack Petchy leader awards, new leader, Essex Good Guiding, Hero awards, thanks badges, long service awards ranging from 30 years to 60 years! We also presented a County Silver Brooch. You will find a list of award winners below.

Did you know that we have an awards committee within the county? Right now they are very quiet as hardly anyone is being nominated for awards. Please do reach out and speak to them to see what can be offered. We all work with some wonderful volunteers who are deserving of recognition. If you are unsure what award they could receive, Sylvia will be happy to help



We also tried to surprise Rosemary with the Anglia Brooch as a thank you for leading us for the last 5 years. However it turns out she already has one!

Bonnie Le\_Beau - Jack Petchy  
 Jane Smith - Jack Petchy  
 Veronica Riches - Jack Petchy  
 Leah Webb - New LDP  
 Joanna Mackin - EGG  
 Liz Hooper - EGG  
 Rachel Rice - EGG  
 Sarah Collins - EGG  
 Sally Thomson - EGG  
 Claire Weston - Hero Award  
 Michelle Timms - Hero Award  
 Tegan Collis - Hero Award  
 Zoe Lepine - Hero Award

Sue Haslet - Thanks Badge  
 Wendy Rothon - Thanks Badge  
 Emma Farra - LSA 30 years  
 Karen Collier - LSA 30 years  
 Kathleen Blackely - LSA 30 years  
 Tracey Pettitt - LSA 30 years  
 Carol Carvell - LSA 40 years  
 Elizabeth Renny - LSA 40 years  
 Shirley Utting - LSA 40 years  
 Martine Squires - UK Good Service  
 Gillian Davison - LSA 50 years  
 Pauline Gillett - LSA 60 years  
 Susan Wiseman - County Silver Brooch



## What have you been up to?

Back in October, 3rd Hornchurch (Methodist) Brownies celebrated 80 years since they were first registered. They learnt about Guiding traditions, our own history, ate jam sandwiches made by our Guides and cake.

Tricia foreman



12<sup>th</sup> Romford Brownies have been learning about the emergency services, starting with our Be well Skills Builder. We learnt how to call the emergency services & also DR ABC.

We then learnt some practical skills with the resusi Annie & choking vest, borrowed from the county office. The girls had fun with the scenarios. We have also had a visit to our local fire station where they had a fantastic time.

Coral Gosling

4<sup>th</sup> Grays held a Christmas themed pack holiday at the end of November. We crammed in so much in just a weekend from decorating the hall, making Christmas Eve boxes, decorating table clothes to having a florist attend to teach us how to make wreaths! We all went home extremely tired and stuffed from the full Christmas Dinner!

Lucy and Kalei



## Outdoor Adventure Day 26th - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Half term Outdoor Adventure Days for Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, activities will be tailored for each section. This is bookable by individuals not units and will be led by Guiders. £20 per girl per day bringing a Packed lunch. Drinks provided.

Max 20 Girls per day

Booking form on the GGEW website

[More information](#)



1<sup>st</sup> Doddinghurst Brownies have celebrated 4 birthdays during March, including Brown Owl (Hilary's) big 6-0 birthday, we played games from when she was a little girl, had cake and lots of party fun!





# Are you a Queen's Guide?



If you or someone you know, has achieved the Queen's Guide award, regardless if you or they are no longer involved with Guiding, please email our office

The Queen's Guide award is 80 years old this year and we want to celebrate with past and present members

[Office@girlguidingessexwest.org.uk](mailto:Office@girlguidingessexwest.org.uk)

## Essex West Training Badge

Did you know that County have badges that you can receive if you have done 5 trainings, 10 trainings and 15 trainings?

These can be online or face to face trainings. Please email the office once you have completed the required number of trainings, with date and the training you have completed. They will then verify and send you a badge. After all, we all love a badge!



## Old Stock

We have some Essex West Polo shirts for sale £7.50 in various sizes. Please email Chris at [cc.essexwest@gmail.com](mailto:cc.essexwest@gmail.com) if you would like one.



## Staying in contact

Did you know that you can contact the county office at any time in the following ways:

 01708 373 746  [office@girlguidingessexwest.org.uk](mailto:office@girlguidingessexwest.org.uk)

## WhatsApp

Following feedback that not all leaders receive correspondence from the county, the comms team have been looking at ways to improve communication. Our first step was the facebook community group and now we are launching our County WhatsApp community channel. This has been set up so that only the comms team can post in there to avoid phones pinging all day. Within the community there are seperate section groups for you to join. This are currently set for all to post within but if they become too much then they will be restricted to admins only. **THIS IS FOR LEADERS ONLY AND NOT YOUNG PEOPLE OR THEIR PARENTS**

The County and comms team will monitor this facility to ensure it is being used in the correct way



## Website

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? The Facebook page can be shared across your own profile to help with publicity too!

