



12 December 2024

Dear {{ contact.FIRSTNAME | default : "volunteer" }}

I hope those of you who were at the special Girlguiding showing of Moana 2 at the weekend had a fun time. I know everyone we took enjoyed it despite the wind and rain that had to be negotiated to get there!

As we near the Christmas break, I am sure you are all enjoying fun sessions with your units, parties, carol services, Christmas craft sessions etc. I have enjoyed visiting a Christmas fair and been to a District carol service which makes Christmas feel very near! Thank you for all you do to ensure your units have fun and adventure with Girlguiding - you are all stars.

I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025 from me, Rikki and all the Trustees.

Best wishes,

Sue Berry

Interim county commissioner

countycomm@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

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Volunteer information

REN online clear up

There are lots of expired REN's online that are still at the planning stage dating back to 2022. If you started an online event and either did not go or used forms instead could you please log onto GO, click on event planning, find the event and select delete event in the drop down on the right. Now we are moving to completing REN's on GO it would be great if we can just see those that are in the planning stage still yet to happen. Thanks everyone for your help to clean up the event planning for the County

New AI (artificial intelligence) UMAs launching

Girlguiding have launched a new set of unit meeting activities (UMAs) on AI. Co-created with Google, there is one for each section. Girls can learn all about AI, creating stories, games and even planning their own personalised party or event with the help of AI. The UMAs will need internet access, a device and, due to age restrictions for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, only adults should use AI directly. For each UMA there are extended notes for leaders to help them access AI.

Subscriptions 2026

While I know we haven't yet paid our subscriptions for 2025, Girlguiding has let us know what their share of subscriptions will be in 2026 in order to help units with budgeting for the next financial year. The Trustees have agreed an increase of £3 per person in 2026 bringing their element to £36 per person. This element of subscriptions covers the core

costs of running Girlguiding including safeguarding, health, safety and assurance, training, our programme and communications. County will continue to offer grants to units and individual girls who are struggling to pay subscriptions in either 2025 or 2026. Details are on the [county website](#).

County Office Christmas Hours

Our county office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from 20 December 2024 to 6 January 2025 inclusively. Emails will be monitored during this time and if necessary actioned.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Vacancies

Are you looking for a new challenge? Please visit our [website page listing all our role vacancies](#) to see if there is anything that interests you. Remember, our volunteer county roles are flexible and offer a great opportunity to extend and build skills in wide variety of subjects.

County webpage

Are you interested in webpage design and set up? Could you help Alison with our county website? We are looking for someone, preferably with previous experience of websites, to help with our website and keeping it updated, if you would like to find out more please contact Alison at website@girlguiding.org.uk

Trainings

Upcoming 1st response trainings 2025

18 Jan - Beaconsfield

8 February - Herons Lodge (Milton Keynes)

8 March - Princes Risborough

Please click on the button below to see the [county calendar](#) for details. Click on your preferred date and follow the instructions to book.

Competition Hikes - All you need to know training day Sunday - 16 March 2025

Come and join us on Sunday 16 March 2025 to learn all you need to know ready to participate in our competition hikes on 10 May. [Click here](#) or visit the [county calendar](#) for your application form. Entries close 1st March 2025. Any question [email](#) the team.

County calendar

Events

We often have a number of exciting events running across the county. To find out what is happening, when and where, and to get further details please visit the [events page](#) of our website..

Messages from Anglia Region

International trips

Region have 6 spaces available on their international trip to Morocco in 2025 and 2 spaces on the trip to Canada in 2026. If you know of any girls that are interested in applying, please ask them or their parents to contact Margaret Lorton, our County International Adviser, international@girlguidingbucks.org.uk, to find out more about the trips including the cost.

Messages from Girlguiding UK

New safer guiding policy for Leader Development Programme

As you know, safer guiding was launched on 4 December. This new course covers the topics that were previously covered in the Risky Business webinar and the Keeping Information Safe eLearning, and as a result both of these are now removed from the LDP. To make sure that all leaders have the training that they need, we also introduced a rule that all leaders in training need to complete safer guiding before their role of 'leader' can be added.

We wanted to clarify our position for leaders in training who have not yet completed the new safer guiding training. Those leaders in training who have previously completed Risky Business, Keeping Information Safe and a safe space level 3 **won't** need to do safer guiding before getting the leader role.

If a leader in training has done a safe space level 3, but has not done either risky business or keeping information safe, they will be required to do safer guiding before getting the leader role.

Lloyd's bank accounts

Girlguiding is aware that Lloyds bank is communicating with charitable organisations – including Girlguiding units – about changes to treasurer's accounts in the new year. They have been in touch with Lloyds, who have confirmed that excepted charities are exempt from this change. If any units have been contacted by Lloyds bank, and told that they will be moved from a treasurers' account to a community account, and they are either:

- An excepted charity
- A registered charity with an income of under £250,000

Please contact Lloyds as soon as possible. You can get in touch with their community account telephone line on 0345 300 0075. Excepted charities should refer to the Girlguiding website to prove their status. Any registered charities who use this account need to be prepared to evidence that their income is not more than £250,000 annually. If you have any issues, or there are any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the membership systems team on 0800 999 2016.

Thank you for taking the time to read the whizz. If there's something you'd like us to consider including in future copies of the Whizz, email the [office](#)

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