



11 September 2025

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

I would like to start with a Welcome to the new Guiding Term, I hope you have all had some time with family and friends over the summer weeks and are feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

I am very excited to be starting my new role as County Commissioner. I have been very fortunate to be able to work alongside Sue for the last few months, and I trust that with the support of our County Trustees and Division / District Commissioners, we will be able to continue all that is great about Girlguiding Buckinghamshire.

For those of you that I haven't yet been able to meet, I hope that we will have that opportunity soon - please let me know of any special events you are holding and I will do my best to join as many as I can. I am very much looking forward to our Big Day Out at Chessington on 4th October - do come along and say hello if you're also going to be there.

Best Wishes,

Janet Smith

county commissioner

countycomm@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Volunteer information

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Gift Aid

Did you know your unit could increase donations by 25% — at no extra cost to parents — simply by claiming Gift Aid? As part of a registered charity, you're eligible to claim Gift Aid on qualifying donations from UK taxpayers. That means for every £1 donated, your unit can receive an extra 25p from HMRC.

We're encouraging all eligible parents to sign up for Gift Aid. To make things easy, we've created a [sample letter](#) you can send to parents to explain how it works and why it matters. You're welcome to use it as is, tweak it to suit your needs, or write your own. Click [here](#) to learn more or contact Kate, our [county treasurer](#), if you need further help.

County Equipment

Did you know the County Office has a range of equipment available for units to borrow? From eye-catching promotional materials like sails and bunting, to practical tools such as a glass engraving kit, badge-making machine, and whittling knives — there's something to suit a variety of activities and events.

Some items may have a small charge to help cover maintenance costs.

For a full list of available equipment or to make a booking, please contact:

ggbucks@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

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.

Bucks Big Day Out - Saturday 4 October 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who has submitted booking forms and made payment — we're thrilled to have over 1,300 members from Girlguiding Bucks heading to Chessington World of Adventures for what promises to be an unforgettable day!

We've recently updated the [FAQ section](#) on our website, so please check there for the latest information. If you still have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing countycomm@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Everyone should now have received their booking receipt. Please take a moment to check that all the details are correct.

For leaders who arranged coach transport and haven't already done so, please send in your invoice to ggbucks@girlguidingbucks.org.uk so we can process your subsidy payment.

New Look county day - Saturday 8 November

The venue is now confirmed: [The Aylesbury Vale Academy](#), and we'll be sharing updates on our [website](#) and the [Members Facebook](#) group, so keep an eye out for more details. This refreshed event is all about giving you the support, ideas, and inspiration you need in your role. On the day, you can:

- Meet the county team and discover how our advisors can support you
- Get practical help with the GO system, REN forms, Gift Aid, and planning trips or residentials
- Take part in training sessions and try out new activities

There'll also be plenty of opportunities to connect with other leaders, share ideas, and pick up tips from those who've done it before. If there's something you've been wanting to try with your girls but aren't sure how, this is a great chance to chat with others and get inspired!

The day is being shaped with *you* in mind, so if there's something specific you'd like included — please let us know: ggbucks@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Whether you can come for the whole day or just drop in for a bit, we'd love to see you there.

Trainings

Upcoming 1st response trainings with availability 2026

17 January - Beaconsfield

28 February - Herons Lodge

7 March - Princes Risborough

Please visit the [county calendar](#) where you can book to attend one of the above mentioned trainings.

County calendar

Messages from Region

Cosmic Brownie takeover - September 2026

11–13 September 2026 | Across PGL centres in the Anglia region

Get ready for a Brownie takeover like no other — a weekend packed with adventure, crafts, and fun alongside guiding friends from across Anglia! Click [here](#) to learn more.

Not a Brownie leader? You can still be part of the magic! We're looking for enthusiastic Cosmic volunteers to help make it happen. Download the [role description](#).

Messages from HQ

Updates to meeting guidance

We've updated our guidance for including young volunteers (aged 16+) in planning meetings held in private homes. Please note: Adults present must not all be from the

same family group. Be sure to check the [updated guidance](#) to keep your meetings safe and inclusive.

Shooting Stars Circus

Bring the Circus to Your Unit! This Autumn/Winter, let [Shooting Stars Circus Skills](#) add some magic to your unit meetings, camps, or celebrations!

Shooting Stars has been the leading circus skills teaching company in the UK for over 25 years. All of our instructors have many years of experience teaching in schools and youth groups, all are DBS checked with full public liability insurance of £10 million and Risk Assessments!

- Hands-on fun with juggling, spinning plates, diabolos — even unicycles!
- Tailored sessions for Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides
- Led by an experienced circus instructor
- All equipment provided | Up to 30 girls per session

Contact info@shootingstarscircus.co.uk for further details.

County connections

We would like all our members to feel connected through our communications. There are a few things that you can do to keep in touch with all that is going on across the county.

- You can change your settings on Go and **opt in** to marketing so that the county team can include you in future mailings.
- You can join or follow Girlguiding Buckinghamshire on Facebook and Instagram.

We have a special Facebook group just for Girlguiding Buckinghamshire members which you can join using the button below.

Join members group

We also have a public facing page called **GirlguidingBuckinghamshire** which replaces our old public page. This page can be viewed by anyone. You can follow us using the button below.

Follow the Facebook page

Use the button below to check out and follow us on Instagram.

Follow us on Instagram

Thank you for taking the time to read the whizz. If you have anything you would like us to consider for future mailings, please contact the county office :

ggbucks@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

If you no longer want to receive these emails, please log on to GO and update your marketing preferences.



Email: ggbucks@girlguidingbucks.org.uk
Website: www.girlguidingbucks.org.uk



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[Unsubscribe here](#)

