



Girlguiding Hertfordshire

Walking team

Newsletter – June 2023

email walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk
[facebook.com/hertsguideswalkingteam](https://www.facebook.com/hertsguideswalkingteam)

Hello! You probably didn't expect to hear from me again but I'm still here! I'm delighted to say we now have Amy Walkzac-Hobbs as county walking administration lead volunteer and Nic Day has joined us as social events organiser, as well as joint lead volunteer for ITTH, so things are really starting to move again. It's not just the logo that has changed!



Julia and Kerry have been going out to units to show them how to do geocaching and run a session. They can supply gps units. If you'd be interested in this email walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

ITTH for Guides and Scouts and Mountain Experience for Rangers and Explorers were both popular once again this spring and we are very grateful to all the leaders making these events possible. Meanwhile, lots of Hertfordshire leaders joined the Anglia walking trips to the Black Mountains and to Snowdonia. Mountain top yoga on Tryfan was optional!

****Exciting News****

Our marathon challenge event is going ahead on 22-24 September along the Norfolk coast. Woohoo! Its open to Rangers, young leaders, Inspire members and other adult members. Rangers can come without their own leaders. The challenge is to walk 26 miles (a marathon) along the coastal path. You can do it on the Saturday or spread it over both days. Or, you can simply enjoy a social meander along the coast, for as far or as near as you want, then hop on a bus back. Accommodation will be basic; either on roll mats or camp beds in the Guide HQ, or in tents outside, but this, plus minibus transport and all food will be provided for just £50 (reduced from the previously advertised price). Alternatively, of course you can choose to book your own more comfortable accommodation. On the Sunday, you will be free to complete the challenge, ride on a steam train, wander the shops, or go to the beach.



We've also rebooted our social walks, making some of them longer over the summer and opening one of our favourites up to families – the Sensory Safari – to solve the childcare problem and get more members enjoying being outside. Another one is accessible by public transport. Details of both below.

Training is available as always. If you're just starting to think about taking your girls out, do you need some help learning how to read a map, prepare a route card or write a risk assessment? We cover this and much more in level 1 of the Girlguiding walking scheme. Level 2 allows leaders to take their girls into open country up to 600m; just the sort of hills found in the Peak District. Both levels will be covered at the annual Anglia walking weekend in early November as detailed below.

Enjoy your walking!

Alison Tuch, Anglia walking lead volunteer (joint)
walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

Events Diary

Sun 25 June – Social Walk from National Trust Bridgewater Monument on Ashridge Estate (near Berkhamsted) – for adult members, Rangers and young leaders. 9.30am – 2.30pm. Walk will take in Ivinghoe Beacon, butterflies on the chalky slopes and beautiful views. Take a picnic, but there's also a fab NT shop and café. To book, email walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

Sun 9 July Social Walk from Letchworth Train Station – for adult members, Rangers and young leaders. 10am start. Starting from the town, public transport can be used for access. The walk goes by Norton Common Nature Reserve and follows the Icknield Way in part, going through the pretty villages of Ickleford and Pirton. 16 km or 10 miles. There's the option of an old pub lunch halfway round the walk. To book, email walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

22–24 Sept Norfolk coastal walking challenge or social walking along the Norfolk coast. Open to Rangers, young leaders, Inspire members and other adult members. Rangers can come without their own leaders. The challenge is to walk 26 miles (a marathon) along the coastal path. You can do it on the Saturday or spread it over both days. Alternatively, you can simply enjoy a social meander along the coast, then hop on a bus back. Accommodation will be basic; either on roll mats or camp beds in the Guide HQ, or in tents outside, but this, plus minibus transport and all food will be provided for just £50. Alternatively, you can of course book your own more comfortable accommodation.



On the Sunday, you will be free to complete the challenge, ride on a steam train, wander the shops, or go to the beach etc. To book, email walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk. Leaders there is a [flyer](#) to share with your girls.

29 Sept – 1 Oct [Silver DofE practice weekend](#) in the Chilterns.

Email dofe@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk for more information.

Sun 8 Oct [Sensory Safari in Broxbourne Woods](#) – Open to families as well as small groups of Rainbows and Brownies with their leaders. Staggered starts from 10am. It takes about 1.5–2 hours depending on how much the girls want to play in the woods. £5 refundable deposit required from each group to cover the borrowing of equipment. Unit leaders please let your girls' families know about this if you're not coming yourselves. Use the [flyer](#) provided. Families or leaders can book by email walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk.

Sun 8 Oct [Afternoon social walk in Broxbourne Woods](#) – for adult members, Rangers and young leaders 1.30pm – 3.30pm. This really is a beautiful woodland to walk in. Why not combine this with the [Sensory Safari](#)?

26–29 Oct [Silver DofE qualifying expedition](#) in the Peak District. Email dofe@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk for more information.

3–5 Nov [Anglia region social walking and Levels 1 & 2 walking scheme training & assessment weekend](#) at Whitely Wood Activity Centre in the Peak District. The weekend of training is busy, but we are all very friendly and it's a relaxed atmosphere of learning, mostly on the hill whilst out walking. No prior experience is necessary but for level 2 you need to be able to walk on undulating / hilly terrain mostly on paths, for about 5 hours on Saturday and 3 hours on Sunday. Level 1 walking will be on paths mostly in the valleys. The cost will be £80 for social walkers and £135 for the whole weekend of training (or assessment), bunk bed accommodation and ample food. You can often reclaim this from county or your unit depending on what you will use it for. To book places email walking@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

December – Mince pie event tbc – look out for the next newsletter

Super advance notice of Anglia region social walking events for adults in 2024

- Anglia goes to Northumberland 30 May – 2 June (3 nights towards end of half term)
- Anglia goes to the Lake District 22–27 Aug (5 nights over August bank holiday)