



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Hertfordshire County

share



Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from South West Herts division enjoyed the Girlguiding Anglia 'Under the Stars' Festival during last October's half term.

See page 10 for full story

An 8th Rickmansworth Brownie with blue nightlight.

A message from the County Commissioner



I hope you have all had a chance to enjoy time with your closest family to relax and recharge.

This lockdown is easier in some respects than before as we know more about what to expect and we are perhaps better equipped but it also brings new challenges for some, especially with the primary school children needing more home learning support.

We are certainly adapting our ways of life and some of these I am sure we will continue when life returns to a bit more of normality. I personally am enjoying the additional time with my family and we are getting out and about doing lots of local walks. I have even managed to persuade the whole family to take it in turns to cook dinner!

I am hearing of some amazing activities that are going on over Zoom and the time being spent by our volunteers putting together sessions, packs and delivering to their girls. If you haven't already, please do share your ideas by emailing virtualideas@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk. We are sharing these great ideas on our website so please check it out. Girlguiding Anglia are also providing resources so let's share to ease the load.

The end of the year saw the compliance deadline for A Safe Space and again I must thank the training team for their outstanding commitment to delivering training to help us all be compliant. Thank you also to all of our volunteers who understood the importance of the requirement to participate in the training. We just need to keep on top of it now!

We had a very successful and enjoyable seasonal social in December with over 50 households taking part and look forward to future social events in different formats.

With Spring around the corner, we look forward to the better weather and the opportunity to get outside and hopefully meeting up in the not-too-distant future.

I would like to finish by recognising our own volunteers who are under so much pressure with their work as so many of you are involved in the health, education and emergency services as well as other pressured jobs. Thank you to all of you.

Jenny Maskrey County Commissioner



The Power of Positivity



Like many units 1st Knebworth Guides have continued to meet online throughout the COVID pandemic to continue the fun and friendship of Guiding.

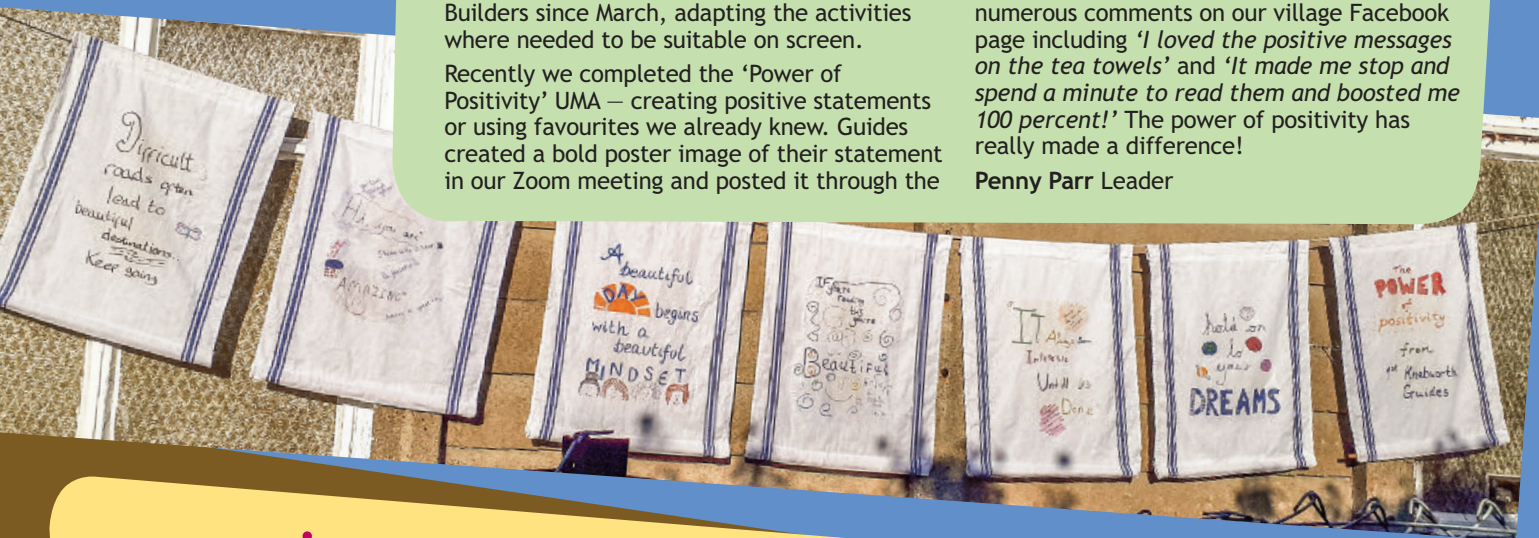
We have completed a wide variety of Unit Meeting Activities and a couple of Skills Builders since March, adapting the activities where needed to be suitable on screen.

Recently we completed the 'Power of Positivity' UMA – creating positive statements or using favourites we already knew. Guides created a bold poster image of their statement in our Zoom meeting and posted it through the

letterbox of our unit leader afterwards.

The images were transferred onto tea towels which we hung on a washing line at our Scout and Guide Hut, which borders a well-used footpath through the village. We've received lots of positive feedback on our display, with numerous comments on our village Facebook page including 'I loved the positive messages on the tea towels' and 'It made me stop and spend a minute to read them and boosted me 100 percent!' The power of positivity has really made a difference!

Penny Parr Leader



Brownie Christmas 'Sleepover'



1st Grovehill Brownies enjoyed a Christmas themed weekend filled with both face to face and virtual activities, between Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December 2020.

The Brownies enjoyed lots of Christmas crafts on Saturday afternoon; making their own Christmas trees, pom pom baubles, cards and a night light. They were also awarded their Gold & Silver awards, a total of 7 altogether – well done to Caitlin, Emily, Keira, Olivia, Amy, Rosa and Millie. Ilana also received her first Theme award having only joined Brownies in September.

A special mention to Amy who achieved all 18 Brownie interest badges!

In the evening we enjoyed mug cakes over Zoom before heading to bed in our dens.

On Sunday morning, Christmas came early for 1st Grovehill Brownies, with Santa leaving presents in their shoes outside their rooms (to reflect French traditions). We met for a socially distanced walk in the woods on what was a frosty morning. To warm up we enjoyed s'mores and hot chocolates!

Lauren Whittaker Leader



#keepcalmandcarryonguiding

1st Watton-at-Stone Guides managed to meet up in their two bubbles before we went back into lockdown. They took part in our district Halloween competition, went to see our War Memorial and had a giant Christmas bonfire!

They have been hard at work earning Bronze awards and we have had some fab work for their Whittling badge and looked back on past holidays.

Now we are back on Zoom and kicked off the New Year with a healthy cooking lesson.

Nikki Smith Leader

Catherine Cartwright Unit Helper

Amber-Lily Smith Young Leader



Remembrance Day

This year in replacement of our Remembrance Day Parade, the 7th Oxhey (Methodist) Guides held a special meeting on Sunday 8 November, to remember those who had fallen in all wars.

We came together to make poppy pin wheels in all colours (red, white, purple and black) and discuss the significance of the meaning of the different colours. We also listened to stories from different wars before going away to spend a minute of silence with our loved ones.

Grace Bantin Leader in Training



7th OXHEY GUIDES

Keep Calm and Keep Guiding! — a unit saved

This term in Oxhey we managed to save our Guide unit, thanks to some amazing new volunteers who came forward after our plea for help.

As a result this term, the 7th Oxhey Guides have had a packed diary. We began by having an outdoor meeting where we hiked on the Oxhey sculpture trail. Then we went virtual and completed our Be Well theme award and celebrated festivals like Diwali and Hanukkah. The girls have really enjoyed silly games and Kahoot! quizzes. We even had a mass virtual enrolment!

This term has been about being fun and getting to know each other and we can't wait to keep on Guiding in the coming term.

Grace Bantin Leader in Training



VIRTUAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

After a difficult year when we kept hoping that we would actually be able to meet in a hall to make presentations, even if in small groups, it soon became apparent in the Autumn that this was just not going to happen.

The county was divided up to create smaller, more manageable groups. With hindsight we could have done more on each evening as not everyone was able to attend and there were less guests than we expected, but when planning these things you never really know until the night.

The aim was to make each recipient feel valued and special and I hope we achieved this.

Jenny Maskrey, County Commissioner, had taken the PowerPoint presentation along with her notes and created a PowerPoint on each night.

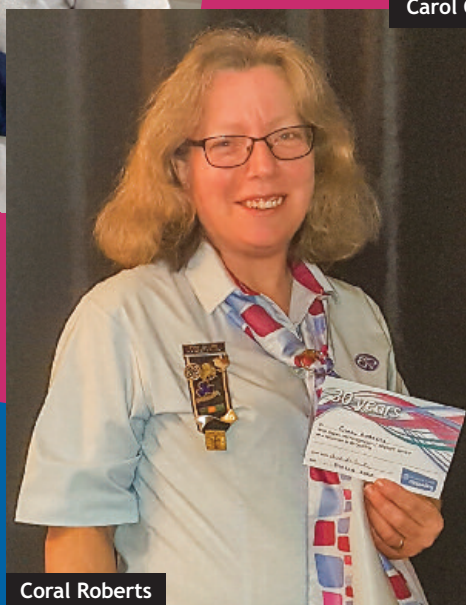
Janice Hyde Chair of Awards Committee



Alison Tuch



Carol Charville



Coral Roberts



Denise Travers

Continued on next page

VIRTUAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

continued



Jean Cotton



Jo Bayley



Jo Vallory



Judy McCallum



Julia Davies



Elizabeth Pavlik (right) alongside Ruth Ashdown
(Photo taken in 2019 prior to Covid restrictions)



Hazel Carmichael



Janice Hyde

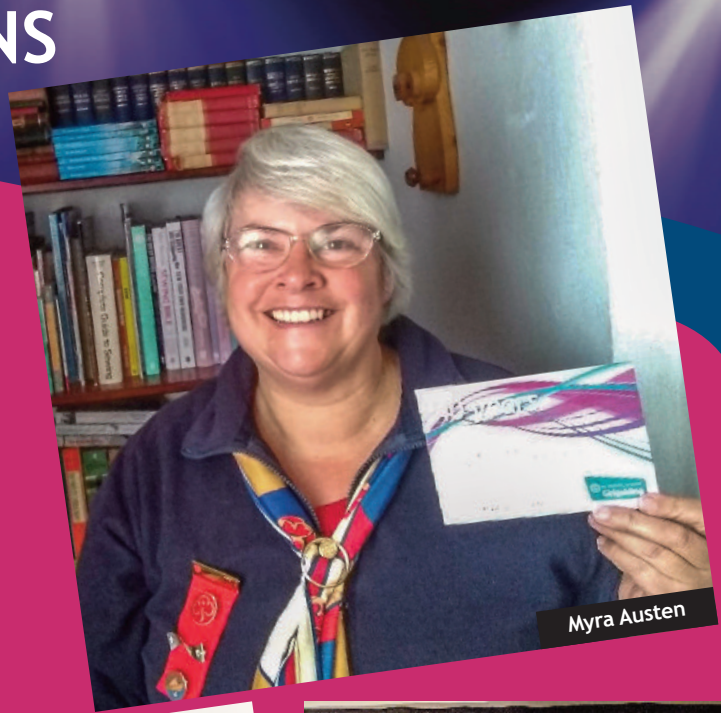
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VIRTUAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

continued



Julia Jeffery



Myra Austen



Lesley Holden



Linda Marsh



Kate Maguire



Naomi Eaton



Rebecca Abrams



Sarah Mulligan

Becoming Dementia Friends – and celebrating Elf Day!

The girls and leaders of 8th Rickmansworth Brownies are proud to be Dementia Friends, after an informative and age-appropriate virtual training session.

Sarah Funnell from the Alzheimer's Society joined our Zoom meeting and delivered an interactive talk, with a range of activities for the girls. This helped us to understand how memories are stored in our brains over time, and the terrible effects of memory loss – both for those who are living with dementia, and their families.

To say thank you, we decided to take part in the Alzheimer's Society Elf Day on 4th December – to help raise some much-needed funds.

We all had fun dressing up as Elves for our meeting, creating Elf names and playing Elf themed games! We are so grateful to our Brownie parents for helping us donate an amazing £193.75.

If you would like to enquire about having a Dementia Friends Champion give a talk to your unit, use this form: <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBContactForm>

Hazel Carmichael and Sally Funnell Leaders



Being a Dementia Friend is about The little things we can do to help

No action is too big or too small. You could:

1. Talk to your family about what you have learnt today!
2. Be patient and kind to people.
3. Wear your Dementia Friends badge.
4. Start a memory box with your family or brownie group



Being In Guiding With ASD (Autism)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD for short) is a lifelong condition that can affect anyone. I know this because I was diagnosed with Asperger's as an adult after showing signs for a long time!

Each year April is known as Autism awareness month and many people (myself included) raise money for the National Autistic Society through all sorts of activities, from sharing our diagnosis story to what helps us when we need to 'Self Stimulate'!

I've been in Guiding for most of my life and am currently training to become a leader. This is something that I have wanted to do and am trying to keep as much in order as possible.

ASD affects me with the fact I like to do things in order and tend to not move onto something until the previous task is completed. I have loads of support from my leaders and fellow Guiding members both in and outside of the unit who all understand I may need some time alone to calm down if things get too much. I like to inform people of what I may need to do to prevent a meltdown (when a situation gets too overwhelming this can occur)!

When I look back at my Guiding history I tend to think about what things I did differently to the other girls that link to Autism! These included:

- Having my favourite teddy (Jake) with me when I was away from home
- Trying to keep to as much of a routine as possible
- Wearing the same jumper to a meeting as it was a reminder to Guiding
- Making the same journey, at the same time each week (something I do now as it has become routine)
- Even making sure I have certain items in specific pockets of my backpack/ fleece so I know where they are.



It's only then I realised I was showing signs of Autism even in Guiding but I didn't have a diagnosis properly until later in life!

If I could tell my younger self anything that I know now it's to be true to yourself and not let anyone tell you who you should be because you have a super power that will help to make you a better person as you grow up!

I hope you have enjoyed reading this article and understand a little more about Autism and how it can affect someone.

Jenny Cousins-Allen
Leader in Training
Bushey and Oxhey District

If you would like to find out more information, Girlguiding has information on supporting autistic members:

Girlguiding-supporting-autistic-members
or visit the National Autistic Society:
<https://www.autism.org.uk/>



A fond farewell to Bentley Heath



Bentley Heath site was opened in 1970 by Lord and Lady Baden Powell and has been maintained and managed by a dedicated team of volunteers for the last 50 years.

The lease for the site comes to an end this year and with reluctance the Trustees have made the decision not to renew. Those who have visited our site at Bentley Heath will know that it is now feeling its age and would need a large investment to bring it up to the modern standards that our visitors expect.

Unfortunately, Wrotham Park Estate have only offered us a 5 year lease at renewal and therefore continuing is not viable.

Over the years the site has been the chosen venue for county events, Region pre-trip get-togethers and many Brownie and Guide holidays and it will hold many happy memories for lots of leaders across Hertfordshire and beyond.

County are putting together an archive dedicated to the site that will include the plaque pictured above and would be interested in any stories or photographs anyone would like to share with us to add to this important record. Please send stories or photographs by email to:

AnneACC@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the team, in particular Carol and Simon Connah.

Anne Johns Assistant County Commissioner



Flexible Girlguiding Units in Hertfordshire

We all know that with Girlguiding, girls have the best experiences – so as we are unable to meet face to face at the moment and some of you are not able to offer 'virtual' meetings, why not get your girls to join our Hertfordshire Flexible Guiding units? Your girls can continue with their Guiding journey until their regular units are back up and running face to face meetings.



How a girl can join:

If your girls are already a member of Girlguiding, you can move them to the flexible units by transferring them and using the postcode AL9 6GH to find the relevant unit. The girls will remain active in your unit until you are ready to return to face to face Guiding.

If they're not already a member, they'll need to register their interest, and then when it comes to choosing their preferred units, they'll need to pop this postcode, AL9 6GH, into the search box before selecting the relevant Hertfordshire Flexible unit.

Please get in contact with the leaders on the following email addresses for more detail:

Brownies
flexiblebrownies@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

Guides
flexibleguides@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

Rangers
flexiblerrangers@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

😊 **The Flexible Guiding units have been created for ANYONE interested in Girlguiding, whether their regular unit isn't currently meeting OR they are unable to commit to weekly meetings, within Hertfordshire.**

😊 **Flexible Guiding means we can offer all the benefits of being a Girlguiding member in a way that fits around the girls' needs and schedule. It's fun, flexible and full of the same great opportunities.**

😊 **Instead of going to weekly meetings, girls keep in touch through email, text, phone calls, Zoom calls, post, working on different activities and badges and meeting up at exciting events when allowed.**

😊 **We welcome all girls from 7-18 years of age to join our Flexible Brownies, Guides and Rangers units.**

UNDER THE STARS FESTIVAL

Our Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers enjoyed the Girlguiding Anglia 'Under the Stars' Festival during October half term.

The virtual event was inspired and supported by The Royal Astronomical Society.

Girls of all ages took part in a variety of activities — sleeping under the stars, making constellation cookies, creating solar systems, exercising like an astronaut and looking at the role women have played in space discoveries.

8th Rickmansworth Brownies

8th Rickmansworth Brownies loved creating space themed decorations for their bedrooms, in preparation for sleeping under the stars.

Girls made star cookies, moon and star mobiles, and even a Hama bead alien! A number of Brownies had the fun of doing the Challenge with their siblings.

Enthusiastic comments summed up the event: "I thoroughly enjoyed sleeping under the stars because I did it with my Rainbow sister and we both did lots of fun activities all to do with space. The badge is really great too!" and "I really enjoyed getting my den ready, and making the Hama bead decorations. I loved sleeping there so much that I did it again for two more nights!"

Hazel Carmichael Leader



1st Croxley Green Rangers

Some members from 1st Croxley Green Rangers took part in the Under the Stars virtual festival on a Saturday afternoon.

They made Matariki stars, designed fancy hot chocolates, made biscuit moon phases and decorated biscuits with constellations amongst other things.

Emily Green
Croxley Green
District Commissioner



OXHEY DISTRICT

Grace Bantin
Bushey and Oxhey District Commissioner

Oxhey Leaders' Winter Social

This year we upheld the tradition of the leaders' social at Christmas. We got together via Zoom and shared some fun activities.

We each got a takeaway/meal to have while we caught up and chatted. Many chose to uphold the district favourite of Indian. We made toilet roll elves, played a Kahoot! Christmas quiz, did some drawing challenges and the alphabet game for going to the North Pole. It was a lot of fun and there was a lot of laughing and smiles!



Peace Hospice Care

Our local Peace Hospice Care usually organises a 13 mile Starlight Walk to raise much needed funds to support this amazing organisation.

Many of our leaders love to take part in this event, but sadly this was not possible this year, so Susie Barnes and I organised our own challenge by walking five times around the perimeter of the

old Oxhey Golf Course and were joined on each leg by a few friends (and dogs!) including members from Oxhey's team Gwen Kates and Naomi Hosker. The weather was perfect and it was lovely to walk and talk and raise £880 for a local charity. Well done everyone! The photo features 3 of the leaders who took part.



Once a Team always a Team

After one year of the 2nd Oxhey units being shut we held a leaders' reunion!

We got together and had a dessert evening enjoying cookie dough, ice cream and waffles. **YUMMY!!!** We had a nice catch up and talked late into the evening.

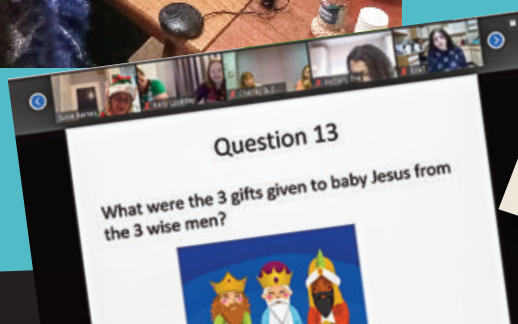
We also rewarded two of our volunteers with their Leadership Qualifications. Well done ladies! It's not been easy during the pandemic, but you got there.



OH Deer! Christmas is here!

This year the Oxhey District Annual event went virtual! We had 43 leaders, girls and siblings joining in for the event on the traditional last weekend of November.

We dressed up in our finest Christmas attire, decorated cookies, listened to a Christmas story, made reindeer Christmas cards and had a Christmas Quiz. Everyone joined in and had a merry time.



Marathon Challenge

Following the success and popularity of the Herts Walking 100 badge last year, the Walking Team has launched a new Marathon Challenge to tie in with the Olympics.

Participants can earn a badge by totalling up their daily local walks to make a marathon of 42km. The fittest members can walk 5 marathons, earning a different coloured badge for each one, to represent the 5 Olympic Rings.

Members and non-members alike have taken up the Marathon Challenge and are enjoying other activities along the way. Harriet, a 2nd Croxley Green Rainbow, has been geocaching, Sophie of 10th Harpenden Brownies has been litter picking whilst lots of members including Annabelle of 1st Watton at Stone Guides and Orla of 3rd Welwyn Garden City Rainbows have enjoyed sledging.

Mini challenges have been set by the Walking Team each week to encourage people to keep going, the most popular of these is the Rainbow Colour Challenge.

Alison Tuch
County Walking Adviser



Remembrance Day Community Baking

Girls and leaders from Rickmansworth and Chorleywood district have been supporting a local Covid Mutual Aid Group initiative set up earlier in the pandemic.

Units have been taking turns in baking, and making cards to deliver to local Care Homes to say thank you to staff, and let them know how much they are appreciated

during these difficult times. Care Home residents have also been enjoying the bountiful supply of home baked goods!

Here are the bakes our Guides produced in November!

Claire Courtney Leader,
8th Rickmansworth Guides



TRAINING

2020 was quite a year for us all, full of adapting to new ways of living/working and learning new skills. This was also true for your Girlguiding Hertfordshire team who have risen to the challenge of delivering online training for leaders and members.

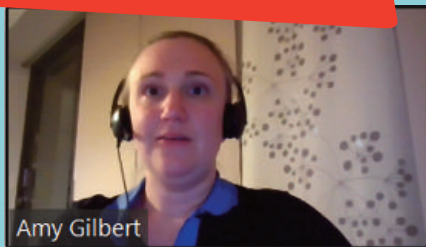
At the start of 2020, I was fortunate enough to get a place on the Girlguiding sponsored 'CIPD – How to create and run successful webinars' course.

I started this course when the world was 'normal' and the first lockdown came part way through, showing me how timely this opportunity was and how lucky I was to be taking part!

As 2020 carried on, more of our training team completed the CIPD training and graduated as 'Girlguiding Webinar trainers'. We have all been delivering training at county, region and national level and we've enjoyed seeing some familiar names and faces at the various training sessions we've delivered.

The webinar training came in super handy to get everyone over the line with *A Safe Space* Level 3, and a massive well done to our *A Safe Space* trainers, Lynne Griffiths and Jan Mackenzie, for delivering a record number of sessions!

Verity MacLachlan, supported by Amy Gilbert, Lynne Griffiths and Katie Wright, had a bumper crop of *First Response* webinars to complete with 10 refresher courses delivered between October and December. Unfortunately the constantly changing regulations have made it difficult to finish all of the practical skill assessments, but we'd like to thank Katie Wright and Karen Evans for supporting Verity with these when they could take place.



Amy Gilbert

The revised *1st Response* course is similar to the previous one with the addition of a new e-learning for everyone. All leaders will have to update the whole course and e-learning every 3 years. The e-learning will enable more leaders to use similar 1st aid training through their work or an outside provider for recognition to update their GO record.

At every Guiding event or face to face meeting there must be someone present with a current 1st aid qualification. I am sure there will be information that those with qualifications that expired during 2021 lockdown will have dates extended. As soon as we can meet again there will be trainings to book on to.

Hertfordshire trainers have also been getting involved in region task and finish groups and helped to organise the successful Anglia ROVE regional training day last October and are currently involved in planning the LEAP conference for commissioners and ROVE 2021 which will be on 12 June 2021 (save the date!).

We have also been organising local training sessions on topics that have been requested by our members. We have run Gift Aid webinars which were incredibly well attended – I hope you're all getting on well with making your claims and earning more income for your units!

Risk assessment training is taking place in March and if the demand is there, we will put more dates on in the future.

We are planning to put on some programme related training and keep going with *A Safe Space* and *First Response*. If there's anything else you'd like to attend training for, drop the county office an email:

Countysec@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk and they'll pass the message on.

If you haven't yet tried an online training session, take a look on GO for available sessions (look under learning opportunities, available webinars), save the date for LEAP or ROVE, or keep an eye on the county website/monthly newsletters for locally run sessions. The feedback at all levels has been really positive and online training is here to stay along with face to face when we can get that back up and running.

We are always on the lookout for new trainers to join our wonderful team.

If you are passionate about Girlguiding, are comfortable with public speaking, want to share your skills and experiences with others and learn a lot along the way, then becoming a trainer could be for you!

If you are interested, please contact guidingdev@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk for more details.

We'd also like to say a big thank-you to Trish Botten who will be finishing her role as training coordinator in May. We are currently looking for a successor, so if you're interested, please get in touch.

Amy Gilbert Region Trainer

South East Trefoil Guild

Poppy Wreaths

South East Trefoil Guild members were challenged by their Chairman Denise Travers to use their knitting and crocheting skills to make poppies for a wreath for Remembrance Day.

Over 160 poppies were made! Four members were delegated to compile these into wreaths in Covid-safe environments and two wonderful crosses and two wreaths were beautifully assembled. They are now safely displayed inside our four local Churches. They were extremely grateful.



October Socially Distanced Walk

Some members of the South East Herts Trefoil Guild went on a socially distanced walk at the beginning of October – the walks were organised by two of the members.

Sandie Robson Treasurer



DATES

for your Diary

See E-newsletter
or website events page
for details.

2021 25-27 June

Great Patrol Hunt
Summer Round

16 October

Great Patrol Hunt 2021/2022
Round 1 Borehamwood

2022 26 March

Great Patrol Hunt 2021/2022
Round 2

Due to current Government advice,
please check the county website events page
www.girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk/events/ and
monthly newsletters for up-to-date information as to
whether event/course is taking place.

DEADLINE for the next edition of Share Magazine

Please send your submissions for *Share* 46 to
share@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk
by Friday 21 May 2021.

When emailing submissions, please provide the
article wording, the author's full name and role
together with photographs and relevant
photo permissions.

Social Media

Please follow Girlguiding Hertfordshire on social media to
ensure you are up to date on news and opportunities.



Facebook: [@GirlguidingHertfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingHertfordshire)



Twitter: [@ggguidingherts](https://twitter.com/ggguidingherts)



Instagram: [@ggguidingherts](https://www.instagram.com/ggguidingherts)

Photographs

For photos submitted where individuals featured are
identifiable, please complete, sign and return a photo
permission form which can be requested by emailing
share@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk or visiting
www.girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk/get-involved/share/
Please note photos may be cropped/edited/deleted where
permissions are not provided.

Photos submitted may be used for
Girlguiding Hertfordshire publicity.

Girlguiding Hertfordshire Charity Number 274225

SHOUT OUT!

A special "shout out" to:

SHEILA HILL – for working through all of the
A Safe Space records on New Year's Eve

NIC DAY – for supporting a neighbouring district without a
district commissioner and helping them with their challenges

THE THINKING DAY TEAM – for creating
a great resource for us all to use

CAROL AND SIMON CONNAH AND THE TEAM
who looked after Bentley Heath

NATALIE AND RACHEL in the office – for being so
flexible and diligent

JANICE HYDE – for delivering the county
awards

ACCOUNT VERIFIERS – for checking our
accounts for us

HOW TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR SHARE MAGAZINE

We love receiving your photos to include in *Share Magazine*
and it wouldn't be the magazine it is without them.
To ensure we have the best quality photos to include in
Share, here are some helpful steps:

When submitting photos, please email them to
share@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk in their 'original size'
ideally between 1-3MB if possible. If smaller than 1MB
(e.g. 100kb) the quality of the photo will be compromised
when transferring to *Share Magazine* and may not be able to
be used.

If sending multiple photos, we would suggest emailing them
separately to avoid them being condensed/made smaller.

Most mobile phones try and make photos smaller
when sending by email so they
get sent quicker. If prompted
(see illustration opposite from
iPhone), please tick the box
that highlights 'Actual Size'.
Again, if sending multiple
photos, it may be automatically
condensed without giving an
option to send in its actual size so
best to send photos individually.

If you are a parent sending
photos to leaders, please send these by email rather than
WhatsApp. WhatsApp greatly reduces the size of the
photo, usually making it around 40-70kb in size which is
very small.

If you have any queries in relation to submitting photos or
wish to submit an article/photos for an edition of *Share*
Magazine, please email
share@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

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