

From the County Commissioner....

Welcome to this edition of our eBulletin, this time I wanted to tell you about our plan for recovering, retaining and promoting guiding in Leicestershire.

Following the impact of A Safe Space compliance, lockdown and COVID restrictions our numbers have reduced by 35% for young members and 22% for adult members. Although this is disappointing, we are not staying downhearted for long as we are already putting a growth plan together. We have met with your division growth enthusiasts and they have helped with the planning.

We have a coordinated approach to support units to return to face-to-face guiding, to recover our numbers and to grow guiding in Leicestershire.

Initially we are going to re-launch the growth challenge, [Growth Challenge - Girlguiding Leicestershire](#) which is on the website for you to download, and don't forget there is a badge too. See page 3 for details.



We want everyone to know that Girlguiding Leicestershire is here, active and having adventures. So next time you can tell someone about your guiding adventures shout about it and help us grow.

Sam Harrold
County Commissioner



Spectacular Springtime challenge

Are you ready for spring?

Four of Leicestershire's Queen's Guide award participants have got it covered!

From Sprouting Science to Awesome Animals, plus many more activities to give you that spring feeling. The question is... are you ready for the Super Sheep challenge?

The challenge pack and badge order form for the Springtime Spectacular challenge are available on the website [here](#).



Rachel, Sarah, Megan & Antonia

1st Narborough Brownies Gold awards



We congratulate Nancy, Mia and Sophie who have been presented with their Brownie Gold awards at home on their doorsteps. They were each given a star balloon and a box of Celebrations to share with their families.

We are very proud of them all as they have worked so hard during this last year.

Sally Nutt
1st Narborough Brownie leader



The Girlguiding Leicestershire growth challenge is back!



Let's shout out about Girlguiding.

Did you know that there are lots of girls and women who are missing out on the fun and adventure that you already enjoy. They're missing out because they don't know about all the wonderful activities and events that are on offer with Girlguiding.

Your challenge is to help to spread the word about your unit, plus the fabulous things that you do as a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Ranger or volunteer with Girlguiding, so that other people can learn about it and maybe even join in the fun and adventure too.

You can work towards this challenge on your own or with other members of your unit. Please try to make sure that, if you are working on it as a group, everyone feels involved in what you are doing!

The challenge includes things that you could do at school/college/university/work, things that you can do near where you live and things that you could do with your unit. If you have another fabulous idea for how to promote your unit locally then do that too...

Download the challenge [here](#). You will also find an order form there for the badges.



DofE training (via Zoom) was completed on schedule by the end of January, unfortunately the recent national lockdown scuppered all expedition plans!

However the teams completed their navigation exercise over Easter and the Bronze teams will now complete their expedition 5-6 June.

The Silver expedition has been redesigned in line with current DofE guidance and will involve development of bushcraft skills on a 'journey of discovery'.

Are you currently working on your DofE award?

Check the [Girlguiding Leicestershire DofE page](#) for some updates and FAQs to help you continue working on your DofE during this time





Guiding Essentials Leicester shop

From Friday 16 April our Leicester shop will be open on the following days:

Fridays 10am to 12 noon

Saturdays 9.30am to 12.30pm

Mondays 10am to 12 noon

Order and collect will also be available on each of these days. Orders for small items will be posted on Fridays and Mondays. Please send orders to equipstore@leicestershireguides.org

We will continue these hours until the end of May when they will be reviewed with the probability of extending times and adding more days.

For up to date information check the [shop page](#) or email equipstore@leicestershireguides.org

Please support our shop as surplus income from sales comes back into the county, for the benefit of all our girls and leaders.

NEW CHALLENGE BADGE - LEICS MAKE MUSIC

Leicestershire Music Education Hub have created a music challenge badge for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in the city and county.

The challenge badge is a great way to get girls involved in making music, with no prior musical knowledge necessary. All the activities are possible to do online or in face-to-face situations.



We have 400 Leics Make Music badges ready to award. These badges are free of charge! Please share your images and experiences of the girls getting involved in music with us.

To find out more about the badge and download the challenge please visit the Music Education Hub website www.leicestershiremusichub.org/girlguiding.



The International Team



Due to the current restrictions on travel, the International Trip to Iceland is likely to be postponed to 2022. We are currently in discussion with the various providers to move the booking - it looks like we may have to put another new date on the badge!

The Iceland Challenge is written, and full of ideas that can be done online, socially distanced and in person - we look forward to sharing it with you ...

Lucy Faulds
Group leader

Including All - making Girlguiding Leicestershire more inclusive

What is Including All?

The opportunity to give more girls and volunteers access to development, challenge and adventure.

Everybody has a responsibility to make sure all members, regardless of identity, background or beliefs, feel supported and involved in all areas of guiding.

We need to find fresh and exciting ways to make sure our guiding community reflects the world around us.

Why do we need an adviser?

The adviser will support members to provide a safe girl-only space where all girls and young women can discover their full potential through all areas of the programme, regardless of identity, background or beliefs. The adviser will encourage members to take part in different development opportunities to enable inclusion for all.

The adviser will assist members and answer queries to explore equality, diversity and inclusion in the following areas;

race and racism

those with different belief systems

LGBTQ+ members

trans members

disabled members

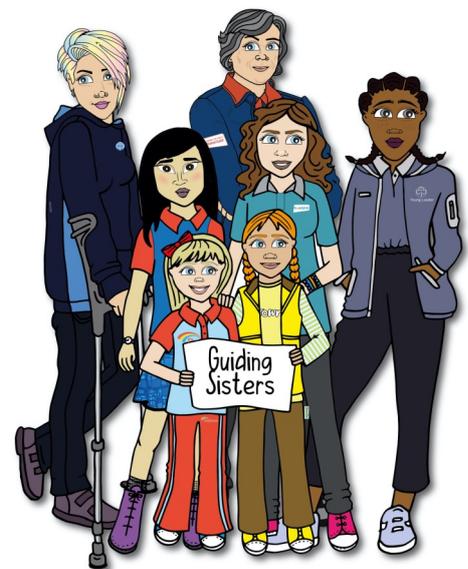
those with different socio-economic backgrounds

Who are the advisers?

Sue and Simon Newman who are experienced leaders and have provided pastoral care at large scale camps.

How can they be contacted?

By email: inclusion@leicestershireguides.org



Upcoming Trainings

Welcome to guiding

Are you new to guiding and want to find out more?

We are holding a Zoom meeting to give you information about what volunteers can do to support guiding and the opportunities available to you.

We will explain different roles, what commitment we would need from you and explore more about what we do in guiding, with the girls in their units and other supporting roles depending on what you are interested in.

Tuesday 27 April

7.30pm - 8.30pm

Rainbow leaders training

This is an evening on Zoom especially for new Rainbow leaders; Rainbows are our youngest members and enjoy lots of fun and adventure.

We will be looking at how to run a Rainbow unit and share ideas that work for girls and adults in the unit meeting.

Wednesday 19 May

7.30pm - 8.30pm

New leader training

A chance to visit our County office, have a look at the resources that are available for units to borrow, and learn about GO, accounts and Girlguiding policies that are relevant to unit leaders, plus fun activities to take away.

Wednesday 30 June

7.30pm - 8.30pm at County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Hopefully this will be at the office, but if the rules change then it will be on Zoom.

To book a place on a training, please complete the online booking form via [our website](#)

- Bookings will be *provisional* until you have received a *confirmation* email from County Office.
- Please do not just turn up - courses could be full.
- Uniform/guide wear is worn at all trainings.
- There is no charge for the training sessions. However, for 1st Response only, if you fail to let County Office know that you are unable to attend, then your division will be charged £5 per place.
- There is often a waiting list so PLEASE tell us, if for any reason, you have to cancel.



Upcoming Trainings

1st Response

Your 1st Response training is valid for three years. You'll then have to redo the full 6 hour training course and e-learning in order to make sure your training is up to date to keep all members safe.

You will need to attend a local training session for 1st Response and complete the 1st Response e-learning. How long will it take?

e-learning: 10 to 15 minutes.

training session: 6 hours or 3 x 2 hour sessions.



The 1st Response training session can be delivered both in-person or virtually using an online platform. The training is 6 hours long and can be delivered in one day or split into 3 x 2-hour sessions.

During the restrictions due to Covid-19, Leicestershire training team will be delivering a virtual 6-hour training session with a 20-minute face to face practical session to cover CPR, recovery and choking.

Separate sessions split over three weeks, you need to attend all three.

Wednesday 5 May

7pm - 9pm



Wednesday 12 May

7pm - 9pm

All sessions in one day.

Sunday 18 April

9am - 4pm, including breaks

Wednesday 19 May

7pm - 9pm



Virtual training sessions via Zoom, please book on our website [here](#).

1st Response e-learning

The e-learning can be completed before or after the full training course and must be completed in order to be recognised as a first aider in Girlguiding.

External first aid qualification

If you already have an external first aid qualification, you may not need to attend our 1st Response course. All recognised prior learning or external courses need to be verified by your local commissioner to check that they cover the 1st Response syllabus. This can be done virtually through a short chat.

If you have a qualification or you have prior learning that has been accepted as an equivalent, you will still need to complete the 1st Response e-learning which covers the policies and procedures you need to know when you are a first aider at Girlguiding. You will need to complete this e-learning before your qualification can be recorded on GO.



Upcoming Trainings

A Safe Space

A Safe Space training needs to be completed by everyone, the level depends on your role.

Level 1 and Level 2 training can be completed by e-learning, see the [Girlguiding website](#), it takes less than an hour to complete.

Level 3 and Level 4 are webinar trainings hosted by Midlands region and Girlguiding. To book, visit the Midlands region website and click on [calendar](#) for all the upcoming dates, using the filter to select particular trainings. Or log into GO and click learning opportunities. Here you will find all the available trainings.

If you need any help booking training please contact County Office for advice.



Levels 1 and 2

Introduction and creating a safe space

Required for everyone including assistant leaders, occasional helpers, young leaders, unit helpers and home contacts.

Level 3

Recognising, telling and taking action - for unit leaders, residential leads and event coordinators, mentors, advisers and trainers

At least one leader, assistant leader or leader in training in every unit needs to complete this training.

Level 4

Managing concerns, allegations and disclosures - for commissioners only

Please note: you must complete Level 3 before starting this course.

The closing date for the next issue will be

Monday 28 June

Please send all articles to office@leicestershireguides.org



Have you thought about trying something different?

There are a number of exciting opportunities available to you to volunteer for Girlguiding Leicestershire. Read on and see if one of the roles is something you would be interested in doing...

If anything takes your fancy, please contact the [office](#) to find out further information and the relevant next steps.

Archery adviser

Can you share your enthusiasm for archery? You will need to be able to advise, motivate and communicate information about archery to girls and volunteers across the county. You will help to create opportunities for events and take a role in the wider Adventure team.

Please see here for an example [role description](#).



Commissioner mentor

Have you previously been a commissioner? Could you help someone find their feet in a new and challenging role? Your experiences are valuable and you will be able to provide a calming and reassuring approach to volunteers who are new to their role.

Please see here for a [role description](#).



Leadership qualification mentor

All new leaders need a hand to get started and begin their qualification journey. Have you got the skills and experience to help someone develop into a great leader? You will provide a friendly face and watch them succeed with your help.

Please see here for a [role description](#).

Going Away With.... mentor

Residential opportunities are a key part of the girl experience in guiding. Are you an enthusiastic and experienced camper? Are you a keen sleepover specialist? If so can you share your enthusiasm and help other leaders to gain their qualification and take girls away?

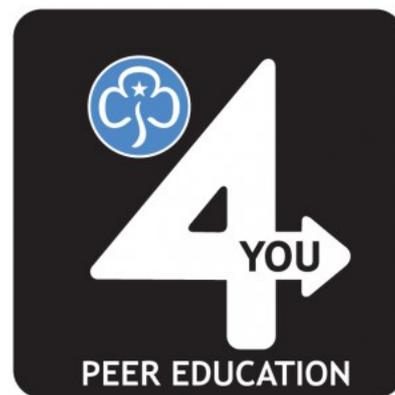
Please see here for a [role description](#).



Peer educator

Peer educators are 14 to 25-year-olds who help Brownies, Guides and Rangers explore important topics. As young people, they use their own experience to bring the subject to life.

It works because girls are eager to listen to their peers who share similar life experiences. Peer educators run fun, safe and challenging sessions which Girlguiding develops with expert partners. There are different sessions that peer educators can deliver to units covering mental health, body confidence, gender stereotypes, healthy relationships and youth health.



For more information please see the [national website](#) or have a go at the [e-learning](#) to see if it is something you would be interested in.

Trainer

Our small training team are looking to be able to offer more training sessions to more volunteers. If you are enthusiastic about learning and development, training could be for you. There are a variety of specialisms to choose from including programme, 1st Response, A Safe Space and out of doors.

Please see here for a [role description](#).



Minute Taker

Do you have the time and skills to come and take minutes for one of our county teams? Meetings are usually held about five to eight times a year during an evening and last approximately 2-3 hours.

Communications and PR team

Using your knowledge and understanding of communications and PR, help Girlguiding Leicestershire promote our opportunities to the outside world more effectively. Whether it is being part of the social media team, helping to write press releases or being ready to talk to others about what we do.

Let's get out there and shout about Girlguiding!

Please see here for a sample [role description](#).

We are looking forward to hearing from you and hope you will enjoy your new role with us.

Sam, Megan and Laura





WE NEED YOU!

Do you have a specific skill?

Do you like being involved in events?

Do you like playing in a field?

If you have answered yes to any of the above then we would love to hear from you. We are putting together a coordinated list of people from around the county who would be prepared to support at different events in the future.

Car parking, craft, balloon modelling, hiking, camp fire singing, fire building, archery, making tea and coffee..... the list is endless!

Please complete the form below, or download it [here](#), and return to Janet Gelsthorpe either via email or the County Office.

NAME		
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER		
DIVISION		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
CONTACT NUMBER		
I love being involved with events involving (tick the ones that apply):	Rainbows	
	Brownies	
	Guides	
	Rangers	
	Young leaders	
	Adults	
	All of the above	
I prefer to help at events that are (tick the best option for you):	Inside	
	Outside	
	Either	
I am happy to help with (tick all that apply): If you are offering a specific skill(s) then please go straight to the next question.	Anything and everything	
	Singing	
	Outdoor sports	
	Craft	
	Car parking	
	Organisation of events	
	Event bookings	
	Preparing things before the event	
	Tea and coffee making	
	Facilities maintenance	
	Transporting of kit to different locations	
	Other (please specify)	
I can offer a specific skill(s). That skill is.....		

Return to: Janet Gelsthorpe at jcgelsthorpe@gmail.com or for Janet's attention to the County Office.





Brownie takes on TWO marathons!



This is Victoria, aged 7, she joined 4th Earl Shilton Brownies at our Zoom meetings in January of this year. A bubbly Brownie who took to Zoom like a duck to water. Only three months into this term and out of the blue Victoria's grown-up messaged to say that she had been raising money for the charity Alice Arc.

Throughout February Victoria took on not one but TWO marathons to raise funds for Alice Arc, which is a childhood cancer research and support charity. Victoria is super happy with the amount she raised, just the small sum of £1,050!

All her hard work has earned her the Brownies Charities Interest Badge, quite the surprise on top of the medal Grandpa got for her! All the leaders and girls at 4th Earl Shilton Brownies are incredibly proud of Victoria's hard work and effort.



Liz Scoffins - Barn Owl



YOUNG LEADER ADVISER

BECCA HARRINGTON

✉ LEICESTERSHIRE.YLADVISER@GMAIL.COM



*Are you interested in coming to young leader zoom sessions?
Would you like to find out about fun ideas you can try with your unit?
Would you like to do some fun activities...for your own enjoyment?*

*Join the young leader Zoom sessions once a month
on Fridays @ 7.30-9pm
next meeting 16 April*



Becca Harrington, leicestershire.yladviser@gmail.com

Are you 16-25?

Do you like setting yourself personal challenges?

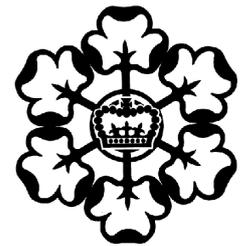
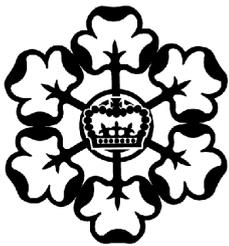
Do you need something to make your CV stand out?

Do you want to challenge your Rangers to do something new?

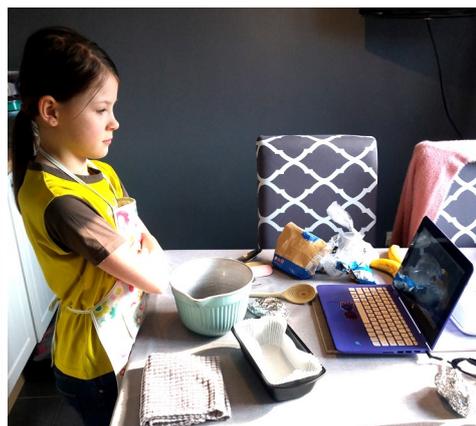
Take on the Queen's Guide award!

For more information, contact Hollie (County Queen's Guide award adviser) on hollie.davison@hotmail.co.uk

If you'd like Hollie to come to talk to your Rangers about the Queen's Guide award she would love to join you on Zoom or in person (restrictions allowing of course) - use the email above to get in touch.



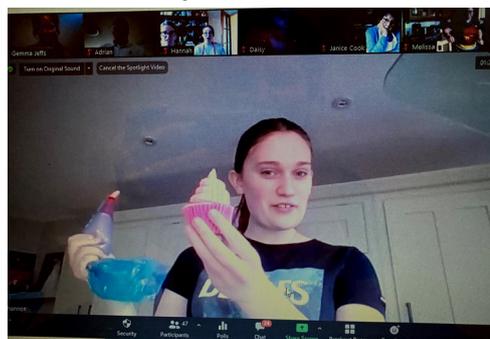
Fairtrade fortnight fun for Girlguiding Birstall



On Sunday 7 March Girlguiding Birstall hosted a virtual family bake-along event - thanks to the kind support from the team at the Co-op in Birstall as a finale to their Fairtrade fortnight celebrations.

46 families from all guiding sections were provided with free Fairtrade ingredients through the Co-op's Community Fund to collectively make banana bread loaves over Zoom, with the expert guidance of Janice Cook, a former volunteer with Girlguiding.

They also provided a selection of Co-op own brand Fairtrade chocolate for tasting as part of a Fairtrade quiz that families took part in whilst their cakes were cooking, as well as prizes for the winning families.



In addition, local Ranger and young leader Shannon Riley delivered an Easter cupcake decorating demonstration to give girls some inspiration for future baking projects.

Lisa Smith, mum of Daisy (member of 2nd Birstall Rainbows) said: 'The whole loaf was demolished by the family. Daisy was super proud of herself and there was a huge smile on her face when she saw how much her brothers loved her baking.'



We've had some lovely feedback from the girls, many stating they thoroughly enjoyed the event and the beautiful banana loaf it gave them at the end.

This pandemic has forced us to find different ways to engage our members, but every cloud has a silver lining and interestingly this is the largest number of girls we've had cooking at one time due to the small size of the kitchen in our usual meeting place!

Gemma Jeffs and Hollie Davison
Girlguiding Birstall District Commissioners



Midlands Region Chief Commissioner's Award 2021

Do you know someone who has given outstanding service at a local level? Someone who has made a real impact to guiding locally? Then please nominate them for a Chief Commissioner's Award.

The nominee's division commissioner and county commissioner must sign the application form. The proposed date for the presentation in 2021 is Sunday 5 December (tbc).

Please contact Maggie Silver for advice, the nomination form and notes for making nominations. You should return completed forms to Maggie Silver via County Office or directly by email - maggie.silver@outlook.com - to arrive no later than Friday 28 May 2021 - please note that there will be NO extension to this submission deadline.

A description of what makes them special and stand out will be required on the form. This recognition is not to be used as a long service award.

Maggie Silver
County Awards Adviser

New appointments

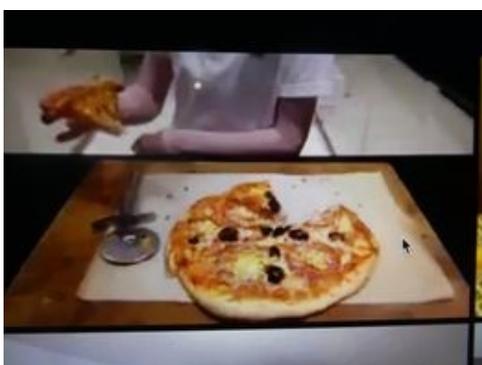
Rachel Webb-Jenkins	County Vice President
Becca Harrington	County Young Leader Adviser
Sue and Simon Newman	County Inclusion Advisers
Janet Gelsthorpe	County Event Team Coordinator
Gemma Jeffs	County Adventure Team Coordinator
Carol Lynch	County Venues Coordinator
Lisa Bouskill	County PR Adviser
Hollie Davison	County Queen's Guide Award Coordinator
Mel Weaver	County Qualifications Coordinator
Tillie Graves	Hinckley Division Commissioner
Helen Swift	Rutland Division Commissioner
Sue Newman	Oadby & Wigston Rainbows Commissioner
Abi Salter	Ashby Assistant Division Commissioner
Megan Tovey	Meadows District Commissioner



Welcome to our new commissioners, coordinators and advisers,
we wish them all the best in their new roles!



Lots of online baking took place during lockdown....



..and yet more!



Thank you for sending in your pictures.



Diary Dates

COVID restrictions may change these events



Leader social at Topstones

Following on from our successful evenings on Zoom we are pleased to be able to meet together at Topstones on **Sunday 11 July**. Details will be available on the [Leicestershire leaders Facebook group](#).



BOUNCE activity days at Topstones

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 August, bookings will open on Saturday 1 May. Keep the date and look out for more information.

Young leader sessions on Zoom

The next monthly meeting will take place on **Friday 16 April**, 7.30 to 9pm. Please encourage YL's to join us, its always fun with a little bit of help towards the YLQ. Invites are emailed directly to YL and Ranger leaders, where emails are available.

Please check out [the county website](#) or the [leaders Facebook group](#) for the latest information.



Charnwood Division all-section fun sessions

In January Linda and Gill (Charnwood Division Commissioners) along with Alexa, Becky and Vera began running all-section fun sessions on Zoom on Saturday mornings. Although primarily aimed at girls not being offered guiding elsewhere, anyone was welcome.

The sessions have proved very popular. Girls have played games, done craft and learned some songs ready to sing around the campfire. They pampered their mums with hand massages and mocktails for Mother's Day and completed the Midlands region Smile challenge.



Craft activities have included making bookmarks and bracelets, chameleons and snow. We have travelled from Leicestershire to the Antarctic without leaving our homes. And the girls proved once and for all that they have better memories than the leaders when we created a dance in the manner of the 'when granny went shopping' game!

Linda Vesty and Gill Biffen
Charnwood Division Commissioners

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