

From the County Commissioner...

Many of you will already know me through the 30+ years of guiding behind me, the trainings you have attended and the events you have come along to. But I think there are a few out there who might not have met me just yet.



I started my guiding in Blaby division with 1st Enderby, and have great camping memories with many of you there. Then I moved across to Hinckley and ran Guides and Rangers in Barwell - I'm still there every Wednesday.

I have held a number of county roles including Senior Section adviser, Duke of Edinburgh adviser and randomly pioneering adviser!

I have also held roles at Midlands region and been a member of the national Executive and Council.

More recently I have been assistant county commissioner for Rachel along with Seonaid, during that time I ran activities at Charnwood 2016 and was Deputy Director at Charnwood 2019.

But enough about me for now, I want the next five years to be about you and the girls, its really important to me that girls of all ages have a voice at all levels in guiding. So, please watch out for opportunities to make this happen.

If you have an idea or opinion, I look forward to hearing it.

Sam Harrold



COVID 19 and us



Here in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland we really know what lockdown means, some of us are able to get some normality back to the daily routine others are back in lockdown, some of us are confused. I know its really hard at the minute to know what we are meant to do, what information to follow, who is telling us the correct guidance.

I want you to know that Girlguiding is working hard to bring you the most up to date information to keep our members safe at the right time. For the latest guiding information from the website [click here](#).



The frequently asked questions are a great way of checking out what's right and what's not.

If you then require further clarity have a chat with your commissioner.

Sam Harrold
County Commissioner

The closing date for the next issue will be
Monday 7 September

Please send all articles to office@leicestershireguides.org



Obsessed with Insta?
Compulsive Tweeter?



Want to help Girlguiding Leicestershire
shout about all the amazing things we do?

We are looking for people to join our social media team!
You'll be posting content and helping to manage one or more of our social
accounts.

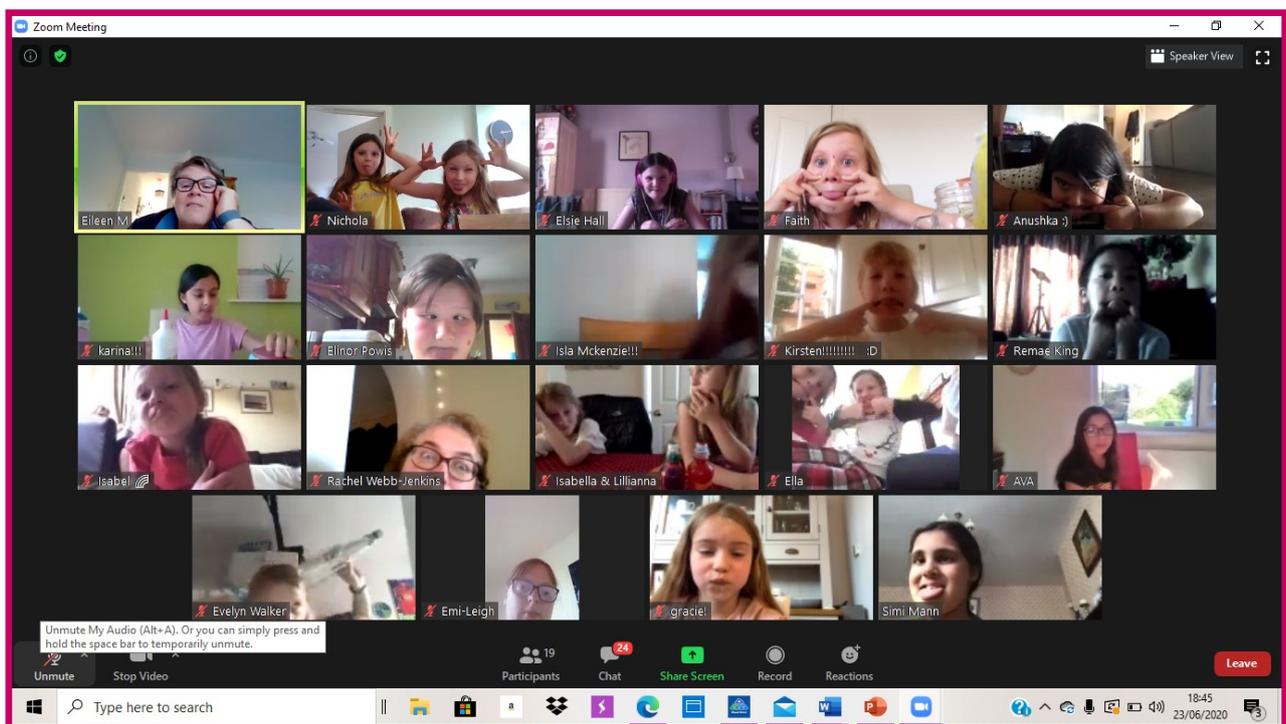
Open to all members of Girlguiding Leicestershire aged 18+. Email
office@girlguidingleicestershire.org
or DM us for more info!



Girlguiding Leicestershire virtual units

This June saw the successful launch of the 1st Leicestershire Virtual Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units. These units really embody the fun and friendships that are formed in guiding, with girls and leaders from across the county and from all different units joining together each week. Embracing technology these units are fully digital, communicating through emails and social media and of course meeting via Zoom.

Girls have easily adapted to these new meetings 'turning up' in uniform, sharing their ideas on white boards, playing memory games, and of course running around the home for exciting scavenger hunts. Over this month the Midlands region Celebrate! at Home challenge has successfully been completed with homemade skittles and musical instruments being made, lots of silly jokes being told and funny faces made.



There are even advantages with this technology as some activities are actually easier for everyone to do at home. Leaders encouraged the fun of making salt dough bowls then happily waved goodbye after all the giggles of the meeting for each girl/home to clear up their own mess!

This is just one of many ways that units have taken on the challenges of the time, letting girls know that guiding continues and is there for every girl.

If you have girls who would like to join these virtual units please email leicestershirevirtualguiding@gmail.com.

Nichola Resoli
Virtual Brownie leader





Polly Robins from 4th Leicester (St Peter's) Brownies entered a national competition with Funky Pigeon and won. Her design was chosen to be used in a card to show support for our key workers, NHS staff or loved ones who need support during the current epidemic.



An amazing 30% of all net sales from Polly's card will be donated to the Royal Voluntary Service.

You can personalise the card, adding messages and photos and then send it to anyone who might need their 'spirits uplifting!' [Click here to see how to order.](#)

The main prize was the card being printed - but she also got a voucher and some great treats.

We are very proud of her!

Kimberley Jayne
4th Leicester (St Peter's) Brownies

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Guides in Year 9 or above, Rangers, Young Leaders & Young Adults:
Did you know that you can work on your
Duke of Edinburgh's Award with Girlguiding?

**Registration now open for Bronze
Silver & Gold awards**

**Registrations
Now Open**

*If you started your award with school, you can transfer to
finish it with us. Email for more details*

Registration form is on the County
Website along with answers to some
frequently asked questions



www.girlguidingleicestershire.org/duke-of-edinburghs-award.aspx



For more information
contact: leicsdofe@gmail.com



Training

As we are currently unable to meet face to face, the training team has postponed all our planned training sessions until September. However, there are still plenty of trainings you can do online.

Virtual Meetings - training and support available

In addition to the leaders chats that our county team have been offering (which have been very popular across the county), there are also some sections on the Learning Opportunities section of GO that you can do.

The new 'Digital Safeguarding e-learning' explains the virtual consent forms and gives guidance on running online meetings.

There are also lots of webinars taking place. These sessions are run by Girlguiding trainers from all over the UK, offering tips and advice about online meetings, technical support, where to start and what activities work well. Webinars offer a chance to hear a real live person, to ask questions and share your thoughts and ideas. Headphones are advisable but webcams are not essential!

A Safe Space

Do I still need to do my A Safe Space training?

Yes. Levels 1 and 2 can be completed online as e-learning.

Girlguiding UK are working to convert Level 3 so it can also be delivered via an online platform. This is due to be available through Midlands region in August.

Level 4 is available virtually now. Midlands region will let you know how to book a place if you need it for your role.

All volunteers should complete the appropriate training levels needed for their role as soon as this becomes possible.

Do I need Level 3 A Safe Space training in order to run online meetings?

We should always make sure that unit meetings are safe, whether they're in person or online. We'd recommend that at least one volunteer has Level 3 when running a meeting online if possible. Make sure you check out our [guidance for safe online guiding](#) too.

1st Response

If you have completed an external first aid qualification which meets the correct parts of the syllabus, it can be upskilled to 1st Response via a virtual chat. To check if an external qualification meets these requirements, contact County Office who will put you in touch with the training team.

If your 1st Response was due to expire between 17 March and 16 June 2020 it will automatically be extended to 30 September. This date will be reviewed by Girlguiding depending on when guiding activities resume.

Nicola Burnett
Training Coordinator



Upcoming Trainings

A Safe Space

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.

Available as e-learning on Girlguiding website.



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. Leaders in all roles must have the correct level of A Safe Space by December 2020.

Monday 12 October

6.30pm - 9.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Friday 6 November

6.30pm - 9.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Sunday 13 December

9.30am - 12.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Level 4

Managing concerns, allegations and disclosures - for commissioners only

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

To be arranged - check our website for future dates.



Training

Full 1st Response

This is a mandatory training for those new to guiding. The qualification is valid for three years and the full course is also necessary if you have not completed a refresher within six months of your qualification expiring.

Monday 10 August

9.30am - 4.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW



POSTPONED

Look on our website for training date updates



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.

New appointments

Mandy Tomsett Argent District Commissioner

Nicola Lomax Piper District Commissioner

We wish them all the best in their new roles!



Well done Olivia!

I would like to share with you a fantastic video which one of our Guides has created. Olivia, 13, has been a Rainbow, Brownie and is now a Guide at 12th Hinckley (Methodist) Guides.



Midlands region launched the Celebrate! at Home challenge and Olivia created the video for the 'Thank a leader, commissioner or Girlguiding volunteer' element of the challenge. I'm very proud of Olivia for her creative take on this challenge and would love to see it shared with other members as I feel the message reaches out to us all.

[See the video here](#)

We have been meeting virtually every week since the start of the lockdown, with two of our leaders as key workers. Many of our girls have said how it's the highlight of their week and the leaders have been enjoying it as much as the Guides too. We've completed the skill builder we had started pre-lockdown, lots of unit meeting activity minutes but more importantly been able to support our Guides well-being, kept a routine and talked through many questions and issues relating to the pandemic. We've laughed loads and had so much fun together, lifting all of our spirits. Our meetings have always been on a Thursday so we've also pulled in the 'clap for key workers' which has been very important to the Guides.

Thank you for all that YOU are doing during the pandemic. Guiding has never been more important to all of our members.

Ruth Garner

Proud leader of 12th Hinckley (Methodist) Guides

Residential qualifications

All of our residential plans have had to be put on hold for the time being. However if you think you might like to take your girls away at some point in the future and don't have a residential qualification you will need to buy a copy of the *Going Away with Guiding* and *Going Away with Scheme* books and request a mentor using the form which can be downloaded [here](#) from our website. You can then have a call with your mentor to start working on the scheme.



If you have already run your camp or holiday but not yet completed the book, now is an ideal time to dust off your qualification book, find the evidence and finish filling it in. Mentoring can be carried out over the phone, Zoom or at a social distance. The modules will need to be signed off by the mentor and the book delivered to the county residential advisers via the county office for verification.

Fiona Clarkson

County Brownie Residential Adviser



A few thoughts on girls moving on to the next section or starting as a new member during lockdown...

Initially I was unsure about offering girls on the waiting list the opportunity to join us on Zoom when we hadn't met them or their parents face to face. So the girls didn't miss out I contacted the parents and received an almost instant reply 'YES PLEASE!'. As a result we had one Rainbow move up to Brownies and a new Brownie start. They have settled in really well and join in everything.



Our former Rainbow has made her promise as a Brownie online - with a surprise certificate and badge presented by mum and dad, and our new Brownie will be making her promise very soon, as well as two others making their promise as they were due to make it the day we closed.

If you are hesitant about offering new girls a place during virtual meetings I would recommend it. Let the parents decide if it's the right thing for their daughter. Make sure they have completed the permission form and see how they get on. It doesn't seem to make any difference to the girls perhaps is us that is overthinking it?

We have two more Rainbows due to start this week, this takes us over our normal maximum numbers but as not all the girls are joining in on Zoom and we have some due to go to Guides soon, it doesn't make any difference to how we are working.



I just think my Brownie unit could have potentially lost girls from guiding during the pandemic lockdown, which is something none of us want to do.

We have done lots of activities over Zoom, making biscuits, lava lamps, pulling funny faces, standing on one leg and completed a skills builder to name just a few!



Eileen Melling
1st Oadby (St Peters Brownies)





Queen's Guide award

The Queen's Guide award is the highest award you can work towards in guiding.

It gives you the chance to develop your skills, whilst contributing to guiding and your local community. It is open to members aged 16 to 25 and must be completed within three years from the start date or before your 26th birthday, whichever is sooner.

The award is based on the concepts of personal challenge and participation and is split into five sections.

Service in guiding - take an active role in guiding at a range of levels.

Outdoor challenge - build your teamwork and leadership skills in a glorious outdoor setting. Where you go and what you do is up to you!

Personal skill development - start a new skill and develop it, or take an existing skill to a new level for a minimum of 60 hours over 12 months. A personal skill could be anything from ballet to circus skills, performing magic tricks to playing a musical instrument.

Community action - get more involved with the world around you and gain a greater understanding of it through practical and research projects of your choice.

Residential - spend two nights and three days away from home with new people.

To find out more about starting your Queen's Guide award check out the website [here](#) or contact Sam Harrold samjhuk@yahoo.co.uk



Meadows District (Burbage)

ran a very successful virtual camp over Friday and Saturday 3 - 4 July.

45 girls from eight units spent the weekend joining in 12 Zoom calls and even more home-led activities.

They camped, cooked and crafted the weekend away.

From making s'mores to whittling their favourite guiding memory into bars of soap, they truly loved every moment.

Tillie Graves
Meadows District Commissioner



Guiding Essentials Leicestershire

The shop is currently closed due to the lockdown.

Together at Heart Covid-19 badge

£1.50 available from the middle of July

Please send orders to equipstore@leicestershireguides.org

Designed by Pippa of 1st Bebington Guides

Of her design, Pippa said 'I used a rainbow, which has become the symbol of the battle against Covid-19 circling around the sun to show hope that better days will come at the end of the crisis. I also added the words "conquering the Covid-19 crisis in 2020" as we will beat this, but we will need to remember when it happened.

I think it's important to thank keyworkers because they have been risking their lives to keep us all safe. Without them, the UK would have ground to a halt. They've done an amazing job.'

50% of the profits of this badge will be donated to the NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Urgent Appeal.

When the Leicester local lockdown ends there will again be the opportunity to order other badges and certificates to be posted. In line with the Trading Service special offer, orders for less than 30 badges will be posted at just £1, full postal charge will be applied to all others.

For up to date information check the shop page at

leicestershireguides.org

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.



WATCH

THIS

SPACE

I know you all enjoyed #Leapover, so we are bringing you two more virtual events this summer to have fun with your units.

HOME₂O

Our first virtual water camp - get ready to have fun with water in your garden. This challenge is open to everyone and badges are available until 30 September.



Coming in August 2020 our second lockdown sleepover.

Girlguiding Leicestershire's Seaside Adventure!



Challenge activities will be emailed to leaders in August.

Girlguiding Leicestershire 97 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7DW
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Registered Charity No 521779

