

13 November 2026

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

Hope you all had a break in the half term holiday - I was very fortunate to have joined a Trefoil trip to Mexico and to spend 10 days at Nuestra Cabana - my 4th World Centre. As with the other World centres I have been to, it is a truly amazing place - if you get the chance I would urge you to go. You can see some of our celebrations here.

Back in the UK, I am certainly feeling the cold as the weather has defininitely taken a turn towards winter, but it was great to see so many girls and adults out on parade for Remembrance Sunday - either those I joined physically or in your Facebook pictures. Keep those photos coming as we go though this half term and build up to the Christmas holidays - we love to see what members are doing.

Best Wishes,
Janet Smith
County commissioner

Volunteer information

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Volunteer Information

Celebrating 80 Years of the Queen's Guide Award

Last month, we brought together over 60 Queen's Guide Award holders at Bucks Railway Centre for a wonderful afternoon tea to celebrate this incredible achievement. We were particularly lucky to welcome a member who achieved her award back in 1957, alongside someone who had gained theirs just a few months ago, and plenty of others in between! It was fascinating to hear their stories and discover how the award has evolved over the years.

Inclusion Resources for Leaders

Our County Inclusion Adviser, Jenny Whitcombe, has created a fantastic range of useful inclusion factsheets to help leaders better understand and support girls in their units.

Covering topics from ADHD to PDA and much more, these bite-sized resources offer practical advice, helpful information and confidence-building guidance for leaders and volunteers.
You can find them all on Anglia's website.

Free Mental Health First Aid Training

Through the charity Mind (Buckinghamshire), volunteers living in Bucks can apply for a place on their Mental Health First Aid course for free, fully funded by the council. It is a full 2 day course, and places are limited.
You can find more information **HERE**.

Disney's Hexed Exclusive Screening - 12 & 13 December

It won't be long until ODEON'S exclusive screening of Disney's Hexed!
Visit the Girlguiding website to access activities, resources and badge ordering information.

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.

Banner Competition

A reminder to everyone planning to enter the Banner Competition 2027 - submissions must be received by **30 January 2027**.
Entries can be from unit level upwards and showcase a collage of activities from throughout the year that celebrate Girlguiding.
We look forward to seeing your creativity and the fantastic range of activities taking place!
Please send your entries to: growthandmarketing@girlguidingbucks.org.uk

Bucks Big Day Out 2027 - Save the date!

Bucks Big Day Out heads to **Chessington World of Adventures** on **Saturday, 25 September 2027!** Enjoy the excitement of the rides, get up close to amazing animals and explore the brand-new PAW Patrol-themed area.
And there's even more to look forward to, as we'll be celebrating a very special milestone - **Rainbows' 40th birthday!** We've got some extra-special plans in store to help make this a day to remember, so save the date and keep an eye out for more details!

Competition Hikes - Save the date!

Next years Competition Hikes will take place on **Saturday, 8 May 2027**.
The competition runs from Ellesborough Guide Centre, across the Chiltern Hills. Visit our website to see a list of our 2026 winners and runners up!

Trainings

Upcoming 1st response training dates with availability

- **28 November 2026** - Princes Risborough - **BOOK ASAP**
- **16 January 2027** - Beaconsfield
- **27 February 2027** - Herons Lodge
- **13 March 2027** - Princes Risborough

Please click on the links above to book your place on a training course.
For further details about First Response Training, please visit our website.

County calendar

Whizz & Tell

Your stories, your adventures, your inspiration!

'Whizz & Tell' is your space to share! It's our members' feature, and we'd love to hear from you. Whether it's something exciting your unit has been up to, a member who has achieved something special, a fantastic event, a personal Guiding story or something that might inspire other leaders and volunteers – you can share it here! If you'd like to feature please contact: growthandmarketing@girlguidingbucks.org.uk.
If it's worth sharing, it's a Whizz & Tell!

Member Spotlight: Lucy Clark – Queen's Guide Award

Lucy Clark is incredibly proud to have achieved her Queen's Guide Award, completing a range of challenges over three years and making memories along the way. Reflecting on her achievement, Lucy said:

"I feel so proud to have completed my Queen's Guide. I have done so much over the past 3 years to gain my award and made many happy memories I will treasure forever! From improving my baking, volunteering at large scale Girlguiding events such as Magic & Mayhem and Wellies & Wristbands and everything in between, I have loved every minute, made new Guiding friends and learnt new skills. Girlguiding has given me so many amazing experiences I am truly grateful for and I look forward to many more to come."

Some of Lucy's highlights included:

- **Service in Guiding:** Volunteering at Magic & Mayhem, Wellies & Wristbands and Brownie virtual sleepovers.
- **Outdoor Adventure:** Taking part in Brownie residentials and building lasting friendships through annual Guiding holidays.
- **Personal Development:** Developing her baking skills through Bake Off challenges and virtual sessions with Brownies and Guides.
- **Community Action:** Supporting Scannappeal at events and creating a presentation for its 35th birthday.
- **Residential Experience:** Taking part in a narrowboating residential and organising a District leaders' weekend away.

"I absolutely loved doing my Queen's Guide and I'm so glad I was able to achieve it, even with Covid adaptations. Once complete, I was invited to Girlguiding Celebrates and wore my badge with pride. I would highly recommend it to others."



National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band

Taking place from **Sunday 1st to Sunday 8th August 2027** at Old Swinford Hospital School in Stourbridge, this residential course is open to Scouts and Girlguiding members **aged 13–25** from across the UK.
The week will be packed with music, fun and new experiences, culminating in three concerts across the Birmingham area.
The full cost is £650, and if you're looking to use the course for your DofE, KSA or QGA residential, this must be your first time attending.
The course is hosted by Birmingham Scout County in conjunction with Girlguiding Birmingham but is open to applicants from across the UK who meet the selection criteria.
Applications close 9am, Sunday 29th November 2026
Find out more and apply at nsgso-nsgcb.com or email alice@nsgso-nsgcb.com

Thames Valley Police Christmas Card Competition

The Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner is inviting all primary school-aged children to enter his Christmas Card Competition. There is no set theme, but designs could celebrate how the police help and support people in our communities. The winning design will be turned into an official Christmas card, with runners-up featured on the reverse. If your girls would like to take part, you can download an entry form and find out more at matthewbarber.co.uk/christmascard.
Entries must be submitted by **Friday 27 November**.

County connections

Stay connected and keep up with everything happening across Girlguiding Buckinghamshire!

Here are three easy ways to stay in the loop:

- **GO**: Update your GO settings and opt in to marketing so you never miss future mailings.
- **Follow us:** Find us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok for the latest news, stories and events.
- **Join our community:** Connect with fellow members in our members-only Buckinghamshire Facebook group.

Facebook - Members Page

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

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