



County Highlights from Exec Meeting Weds 11 Nov 2020

Guiding is being delivered in many different ways across the county. Have a look at the Division reports on the county website to see how much fun is being had and how inventive our volunteers are being!

Section Air and Share sessions - Great response to these opportunities. The advisors are collating all the hints and tips and good ideas and will put them in the Resources section of the county website when complete.

The sessions were very well received by the leaders who attended and so the advisors have suggested that we do a second round in January!

Duke of Edinburgh - Training sessions have moved online and are going well.

Virtual sleepovers - Please remember to inform the GAW team if you are planning to do these.

International update - European Jamboree - North West Region & all other Counties in the UK have withdrawn from the European Jamboree due to the pandemic.

Heritage - Our archivists are working with the section advisors to look at how they can support units in Zoom meetings with Archive resources.

GOLD awards - Lockdown and local restrictions has been changing how we present these. There have been presentations at indoor and outdoor meetings, on doorsteps (socially distanced!) and even over Zoom. Do get in touch with your Division Commissioner if you would like to discuss how to present girls their awards.

Safe Space compliance - Super improvements.....keep going!

Absolute hats off to Congleton Cloud - first district to be 100% people and unit compliant!!!

1st Response - Our Adult Support team are working to get virtual training started. Watch out for information on the website

Just for You sessions - Zoom sessions which are a bit of fun for leaders.

4 sessions available, hopefully there will be something for everyone and it is entirely up to you which sessions you would like to be involved with. Each session will last between 1 to 2 hours and will be very informal - you are welcome to bring your own snacks, drinks and enjoy a bit of time together. There has already been a super Quiz night (thanks to Dorothy!) so watch out for these:

- Wednesday 25 November 8pm - Mindfulness Fun
- Saturday 5 December 10am - Christmas Bakes/cakes

Contact Helen Fitton communications@girlguidingcheshireborder.org.uk for the joining details.



Gift aid webinar - being planned for 1st week of February 2021. Demystifying the process.

Unit support due to COVID 19 pandemic - Unit grants are in the process of being distributed to districts for those units who applied. Please be aware that units applying for any future support will be expected to already be claiming Gift Aid and have submitted a summary of their unit accounts to their commissioner.

Subscription support 2021 - Following the approval of the 2021 budget by the County Exec, we can now advise that the levy for County subscriptions for 2021 remains unchanged at £11.70 per member.

However, due to the ongoing pandemic and reduced income at unit levels, the Exec and Trustees appreciate that this may cause hardship and worry for some units.

There was an opportunity for support to units who required assistance in 2020 by way of the Unit Support Grant but it has been decided for 2021 that the County will subsidise **ALL UNITS EQUALLY** and cover the full County levy for **ALL** members.

This means, in 2021, the subscription invoice will show the following:

Girlguiding	£17.70
NW England Region	£7.00
Cheshire Border County	<u>£0.00</u>
	£24.70

Divisions and Districts may add on a local levy to cover any outgoings they anticipate and have been asked to make these figures known to unit leaders as a matter of urgency. Please be aware that this is an exceptional year and cannot be repeated moving forwards. The 2022 levy will be added in the normal way.


If any units are still concerned about meeting the Subscriptions costs in 2022, please talk to your DC in good time, so that she can assist as best she can. Please be aware that units applying for any future support will be expected to already be claiming Gift Aid and have submitted a summary of their unit accounts to their commissioner.

The annual subscription payment is a membership fee and is separate to the running costs of a unit. When considering how to ask parents for weekly/termly subscription fees it may be useful to show them a breakdown of your unit costs, for example, subscription fee £A, Rent £B, Craft £C, Badges £D etc.

Parents can then clearly see that, to remain a member of Girlguiding, their child will need to pay a subscription fee as well as an additional fee to participate in unit guiding. Historically, this has been about the same for each unit but this will now be quite different as units are delivering the programme in so many different ways - for example, costs to provide a craft on the doorstep are more per person than to run a zoom session. Template letters are available to help with this; <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/running-your-unit/finance-insurance-and-property/subscriptions/subs-during-coronavirus/>

Thank you to Julia Lunn for all her work in her role as Moreton Division Commissioner. Julia has now become the Chair of our Adult Support team

Welcome also to Kim Williams who has taken on the role of County Growth and Retention Coordinator



Julia Prince - is a new volunteer within Alsager District. She is training to become a Music Therapist and currently works with adults and children who face extra challenges accessing music by facilitating musical experiences for anyone and everyone! Julia has already led some highly entertaining and fun activities with the Brownies she is at and is very happy to extend this to other units, districts and divisions If you would Julia to do a session for your girls, please contact Helen at communications@girlguidingcheshireborder.org.uk and she will pass on Julia's details. Big thanks to Julia for offering to do this!

Vacancies - There are several roles across our county that remain vacant. Volunteers willing to carry out these roles will make a real difference to local guiding. Do contact Karen/Linda for an informal chat to find out more

- Chair of PR and marketing
- Moreton Division Commissioner
- 1st Response adviser
- Outdoor activities adviser
- County Growth and Retention Coordinators (2 spaces available)
- 1 Express rep for 19-25yr age group
- Central and Sutton District commissioner
- Crewe North District commissioner
- Congleton West District Commissioner
- Grant coordinator
- Water Team; paddle instructors, a principle sailing instructor and/or a senior sailing instructor
- Finance committee members (ideally one from Weaver)

Finally, Sue Banks from Jodrell District sadly passed away 29/10/2020 - a donation has been made in remembrance to East Cheshire Hospice. Go well and safely x

Massive congratulations to the following members:

Leadership Qualification:

Lucy Evans - Module 1 - Rainbows
Gemma Hartley - Modules 1-4 - Rainbows and Brownies
Sarah Walker - Module 1 - Brownies
Julie Angus - Modules 1-4 - Guides
Jane McBrien - Modules 1-3 - Rainbows
Georgie Mulryan - Modules 1-3 - Brownies
Susan Kaufman - Modules 1-4 - Rainbows
Alice Ball - Modules 1-3 - Brownies
Hannah Bradshaw - Module 1 - Brownies
Rachel Robinson - Module 1 -Rangers

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Claire Barlow - Gold
Noah Thorley - Gold
Sarah Hilton-Watts - Gold
Molly Whittingham - Gold
Charlotte Stephens - Gold

Young Leader Qualification:

Victoria Bailey
Charlie Kenyon

Moreton Division Report

Sandbach District

Most units have been in contact with their girls and are holding Zoom meetings. Volunteers are doing a great job and girls in units which are unable to offer guiding at the moment have been invited to join other units' meetings to ensure as many girls as possible are able to continue their guiding adventure. A couple of units had started meeting face to face indoors but had to stop with the second lockdown. Units have taken part in 'Act your Age' with Children in Need.

Sandbach's next district meeting is in December when we will be doing a quiz. Di Bolton's role as District Commissioner comes up for renewal at the end of the year.

Alsager District

We held outdoor meetings in the park, on the field and in the yard at the Guide Hall and volunteers excelled themselves in adapting activities to keep everyone safe. We played games, excitedly hunted for treasure, got smoky around campfires, and made beautiful collages from the results of our scavenger hunts.

As soon as we could, we swept the cobwebs out of the Guide Hall - literally - made it Covid-secure and welcomed the girls back indoors. Nothing fazes the girls and as usual they took everything in their stride. New girls and new volunteers tried guiding for the first time and loved it. We tried our hand at decorating Gingerbread men, learnt to lash ropes and make a delightful tea-light bonfire, chanted songs quietly as we can't sing loudly, learnt the basics of first aid using our teddies as our patients and made gorgeous tessellated pictures. It's back to Zoom meetings and activity packs but the fun goes on!

Holmes Chapel

Holmes Chapel District has continued to offer Girlguiding to the girls in the area throughout.

During lockdown this was through virtual meetings but as things were eased after the Summer Units began face-to-face meetings outdoors. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all had a chance to get together. During the last few evenings before second lockdown, 2 Rainbow groups and 1 Brownie group, enjoyed hot chocolate, marshmallows, and Sparklers out in the open air.

Congleton Cloud

Girlguiding has continued to operate in Congleton Cloud district since the start of the first lockdown. Some units have held virtual meetings or sent activities via email or hand-delivered activity packs and some units managed to meet face-to-face, indoors, and outdoors, when allowed. One Brownie Unit visited their leader's farm to enjoy outdoor meetings in one of the fields. The Guide Unit even held a virtual camp, involving camping in their own gardens or making dens to sleep in inside their home and completing challenges set by their leaders.

Badge work has been completed and presentations made across the whole programme. Two Guides, Sammy, and Louisa, gained and were presented with their Guide Gold Award just before October half term at the Unit's virtual meeting. All leaders have been working really hard to keep their Units going through this unusual time and are looking forward to a rest over the Christmas period.

Congleton West

Five units in the district are holding regular Zoom meetings - one unit only started in early October, but numbers doubled between the first and second meeting which was really encouraging. One unit was Zooming successfully during the summer term but then enthusiasm waned. However, hoping to do a couple between now and Christmas Keeping in touch with the leaders of the remaining units, trying to encourage and link up with units elsewhere to get ideas on how to use Zoom.

We are encouraging girls from 7th Congleton Guides, which definitely cannot restart at the moment, to join up with 3rd Congleton Guides. That seems to be going well and over half the guides from 7th are now joining the 3rd Congleton Zoom meetings and a couple of older ones are on the Ranger waiting list to join next year.

The District is planning to have a pre-Christmas social meeting via Zoom when Christmas jumpers or other festive decorations will be worn, everyone will enjoy a drink and we may even make gingerbread or do a quiz together.

We would love to welcome some new volunteers and hope that the newly appointed Retention & Growth coordinator will have some good ideas on new ways to approach this.

Weaver Division Report 30/10/2020

7 Units with the Division are now closing or temporarily closing until next year. Christmas Challenge badge from another County to be shared within the Division for Units to complete if they wish, private Facebook Group to be created for photos to be shared. Units will be recognising Remembrance Day through UMAs or on their doorstep as individuals.

Nantwich District is slowly getting back into Guiding. The majority of the Units are now doing some face to face activities with girls, with a lot of units starting indoor meetings after half term. One Unit is closed temporarily and likely to reopen in spring.

Wistaston District have had a mix of units doing virtual and face to face meetings outdoors. 5 units will be meeting indoors after half term. 3 units will be unfortunately closing.

South East District 1st Haslington Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are zooming weekly; continue to post activities on Units' Facebook page and to girls that miss meetings. Will be supporting Children in Need, International Kindness Day, and Parliament Week. New girls join all/move sections after half term. One unit closing temporarily.

Remaining units are running Zoom meetings or sending out regular updates.

Crewe North District 18th Rainbows held a couple of outdoor meetings in September. 4 bronze awards gained. Are now running Zoom meetings. Bag of activities delivered to those not joining Zoom meetings. May have another outdoor meeting before Christmas.

More Units running Zoom meetings who were previously sharing activities on Facebook. 2-3 Units planning to meet indoors after half term. 2 Units closing temporarily.

Crewe North and South East Districts held a virtual camp for all sections in July to replace planned District Camp.



Middlewood Division Report

County Exec. November 2020

Be Well

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and even Leaders have taken part in online exercises, from Dance to musical theatre and Move and Burn for Adults! Before lockdown we had several units complete risk assessments and have had fun outdoors including Rainbows at the ducks.

Adventure

Many units have taken time doing the Girlguiding adventures at home, with activity packs through doorstep delivery with lots of girls achieving UMAs Skills builders, an influx of applications for Bronze, Silver and Gold badges. One Rainbow unit had a great adventure doing a virtual sleepover. Girls and leaders have joined in singsongs via zoom.

Skills for the Future

Many leaders have now taken up zoom meetings with girls, learning more creative ways to meet virtually with guest speakers, pets and crafts joining the sessions and taken part in What's App chats, learning new media skills.

Know Myself

Girls have enjoyed virtual promise ceremonies and have been confidence building during zoom meetings through sharing family tales and their pets and activities they enjoy.

Express Myself

Leaders have taken part in Section air and share sessions with the opportunity to share zoom and other ideas and keep in touch with a wider range of leaders than just their district. District Commissioners have been offering support to those leaders who feel unable to continue guiding at the moment and giving girls opportunities to join in zoom meetings with other units.

Take Action

Thanks to all DCs who have been supporting leaders to complete their relevant Safe Space and changing unit roles where necessary to ensure the Division will be Safe Space Compliant. Julia has been supporting leaders with additional needs to complete their safe space relevant to their roles.


Capesthorpe Division Report

Alderley Edge District News

We currently have two Brownie and one Guide unit meeting via zoom and are delighted that the Guide unit has had seven new Guides join since September. One Brownie unit is in the planning stage to start face to face meetings and another Guide unit is in the planning stage to commence zoom meetings. In this current climate we very much respect that unit leaders are governed by their own personal circumstances and choice. The Guide unit is currently completing the Remembrance badge and will be working on the Parliament badge hoping to focus on food shortages for deprived school children. The Brownies units are working on the Remembrance badge, the Children in Need Badge - Act your Age challenge and a fabulous Halloween badge devised by Moulsham District Guiding.

Wilmslow District

Wilmslow has a total of 12 units. Two Rainbow units are keeping in touch by sending out packets of things to do. Two Brownie units are meeting Face to Face indoors. The remainder of units are all



meeting on Zoom, some weekly and some fortnightly. Zoom activities are being shared between units.

Jodrell District News

Rainbows have either been preparing to get back to face to face meetings after half term or have been Zooming. Crafts, bingo, and scavenger hunts have been lots of fun. Microwave mug cakes were so popular that we are planning more cooking sessions!

Brownies have been continuing with Zoom meetings including puppet making, an animal experience and cooking fajitas. One Unit has been having outside meetings playing crazy golf at the hut and games in the park. Next term they are planning a torch light walk and a focus on wellbeing and yoga.

Guides have carried on with Zoom meetings and welcomed new girls. One Unit is working towards Innovate Level 4 badge and have done some baking as a science, designed creative sunglasses and celebrated Ava Lovelace, the world's 1st computer programmer. Another Unit welcomed a new adult helper whilst all still on Zoom doing activities from Take Action, Dear Future Me, and Black History month.

Rangers Knutsford & Goostrey Rangers are running joint zoom meetings. Varied sessions with varied attendance but zoom yoga was a great success.

Handforth District

Rainbows

Unit has had 3 F2F meetings, others are planning for next year. Some have been sending out materials rather than using Zoom for this age group.

Brownies

Most now on Zoom with high attendance on different evenings, some moving from sending home adapted materials to starting F2F after Oct half term.

Guides

One Guide unit used their map reading skills during an evening hike around Handforth at the end of August and from the amount of noise generated enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends. The rest have been successfully Zooming and had a couple of F2F meetings