

# The Blue *sheet*



Norfolk's guiding news

Thinking Day 2021



*Inside this issue:*

Happy Thinking Day ♦ Advisers Special

Covid-19 safe - Front cover shows sisters Milly  
(38th Norwich Brownie) and Sofia (4th Norwich Rainbow)

[www.girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)

## This time last year we had absolutely no idea...

how things were going to change for all of us - and change so quickly and in so many different ways. Nor did we anticipate the effects of the pandemic lasting as long as they have.

All face to face guiding activity was suspended on 23 March 2020 and has been suspended for most of the year - although units did make the most of outdoor sessions during the summer and also the period when face to face indoor meetings could be held. New words and phrases have entered our vocabularies - lockdown, social bubbles, Zoom, 2 metre distancing, blended offer, 'hands, face, space'... and I am so proud of how guiding in Norfolk has adapted and carried on.

We have seen some fantastic things happening either via social media channels such as Zoom or leaders keeping in touch with activity packs delivered during lockdown walks - and we have also had many volunteers working so hard and in difficult circumstances in key worker jobs. I am immensely proud of you all. Whatever time you have been able to give, be it a little or a lot, our young members certainly appreciate it and do benefit from being part of such a great organisation.

Despite the lockdown happening around subscription time last year, everyone did what they could to get their invoices paid on time and hopefully we will see the same resolve this year. Our numbers have fallen quite considerably during the year but we will work hard to build them back up again over the coming months. We also had a tremendous effort across the county to complete safe space training by the end December 2020 deadline and again I am very proud that we achieved an excellent compliance figure. Thank you to everyone for that great effort.

So, as we await the Prime Minister's announcement (on Thinking Day) of his proposed roadmap for the next few months, I want to say a huge personal thank you to everyone and hopefully we will be able to meet in person again very soon to share a cup of tea and piece of cake. There are so many celebrations to catch up on!

Happy World Thinking Day.

*Christine Martin*  
County Commissioner



## Girlguiding Norfolk County Awards

The following awards and volunteer long service certificates were presented to members of Girlguiding Norfolk County between February 2020 and February 2021. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers across Norfolk also achieved a number of section awards between September and December 2020.

### Anglia Brooch - 4

The Anglia Brooch is awarded for commitment and level of service above 'the call of duty', notable display of courage, bravery or initiative.

### County Commissioner Commendation - 7

Given to members who have made a significant contribution and commitment to local guiding.

### Guiding Star - 1

An award for members under 26 who have displayed exceptional courage.

### Commonwealth Award - 6    Young Leader Qualification - 3

### Adult Leader Qualification - 29

20 leaders have completed modules 1-3 or 1-4 and 9 qualified leaders have completed either module 1 and/or 4.

### Section Awards

(across all sections)

Bronze - 67

Silver - 20

Gold - 30

### Long Service Awards

5 years - 48

10 years - 37

20 years - 22

30 years - 8

40 years - 4

50 years - 1



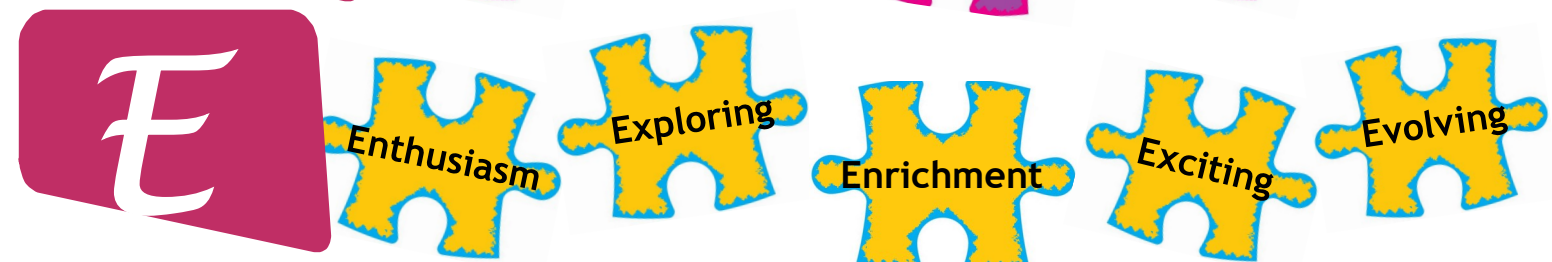
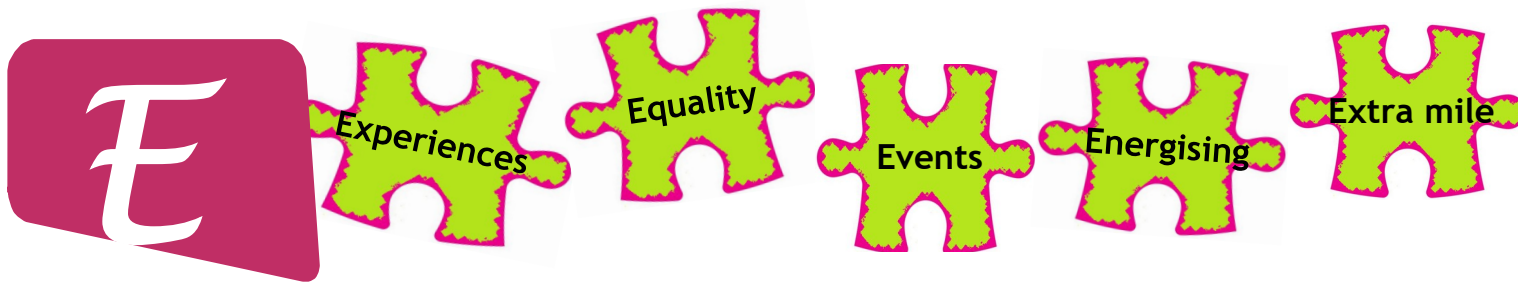


# World Thinking Day 2021...

is based on the theme of Peace. The WAGGGS definition of peace is as follows:

*Peace is not just the absence of war, it means dignity, safety, and well-being for all. How peace is defined is different for everyone and it can range from being happy in ourselves and seeing the smiling faces of our loved ones, to conflict resolution within a community and ending violence and harmful practices around the world.*

We'd love to hear how units in Girlguiding Norfolk celebrated World Thinking Day in this challenging year. Email [bluesheet@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:bluesheet@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)



## Leadership Qualification

In a nutshell, after a few checks on GO, I'm responsible for sending out Leadership Qualification (LQ) books to new leaders in training (LIT) and liaise with the mentor. Once I have received reports from the Division verifiers, I post out badges and certificates to Commissioners to present to those who have completed the different Modules of the LQ. I also liaise with mentors, Division verifiers and take part in the Anglia Region LQ coordinators meetings.

Did you know there are things you can be doing towards the LQ even if your unit isn't meeting at the moment? Eg - reading, online trainings, webinars and learning how to use GO - see the help files and find the section 'For Unit Volunteers'. The majority of Leaders in Training will be able to complete the LQ if your unit is holding virtual meetings. There is

a Covid-19 update on the website regarding First Response - just type 'First Response Training' in the GGUK website search box.

There are 5 'Quick Wins' on the Girlguiding Anglia website. Head to [www.girlguiding-anglia.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding-anglia.org.uk) and under 'Blog' scroll back to 24th November 2020 and look at 'Leaders in Training and Mentors - Facebook Interactive'.

Leaders in training, remember your mentor is there to help you, but if she, your unit team or your District Commissioner can't answer your question, please get in touch.

If you are considering starting the LQ, there is document worth reading on the Girlguiding website - 'Getting started on the leadership qualification'. However, I would recommend you spend at least a term as a



Unit Helper first to see if the leadership role is the role for you.

Mentors, by logging on to GO, you'll find there is a webinar and an e learning package both called 'Mentoring' and you can read the Mentors Handbook which is on the Girlguiding website.

*Kate Hill*  
*lqcoordinator@*  
*girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk*

## County Website

The Girlguiding Norfolk County website is our showcase to a wide audience. This includes not only our members and prospective members, parents and girls but also many others who may be interested in guiding in Norfolk. In particular, the ARC pages are designed for a broad spectrum of people and attract interest from around the world.

My role as website manager began in 2016 when it was decided that we needed a new website. I led a group of volunteers through the process of deciding what we wanted from our website, some design ideas and the content. I then worked closely with a website development company who put our ideas into reality and the ARC section was further developed through a similar process in 2019. My role now is to keep the website up to date and ensure that the content remains current and appropriate. We use the ARC pages dynamically to support the activities going on there, which has been particularly important during the current lockdowns. My current project is working towards making the website fully accessible for anyone with additional needs, such as using a screen reader or just a keyboard instead of a mouse. If anyone has experience of this and would like to help, please contact me on the email below.

*Cathie Marriage*  
*Girlguiding Norfolk County Website Manager*  
*website@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk*





# Happy Thinking Day from Girlguiding Norfolk Advisers

## Going Away with Guides

Happy Thinking Day!

My role as Going Away With (GAW) Adviser for Guides and Rangers is to assist you in achieving a residential licence or a Guide permit.



There are also the Catering and Health & First Aid schemes to achieve.

When thinking about a residential qualification, your first point of call will be your District Commissioner who will then put you in touch with your Division GAW Adviser who will find you a suitable mentor for the section you volunteer with and will explain everything you need to do.

We assist the Division Advisers to answer any queries and questions that you may have, put on practical and theory trainings for you to gain experience and talk to others in similar situations.

Seeing the girls so happy on residential and getting the chance to try activities they never even knew existed is what guiding is all about for me.

I'm always on the end of the phone or email, happy to answer any questions you have.

**We are looking to offer Zoom trainings very soon, so keep an eye on the website for all the details.**

*Sharon Spinks*  
Going Away with Guides Adviser  
[goingawayguides@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:goingawayguides@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)

## Queen's Guide

Hello everyone. As Queen's Guide Adviser my role is to keep track of all those working on the Queen's Guide Award in Norfolk. I make sure details are correct on GO and offer help and support to members and their mentors throughout the time they are working on the award. Much of this is done via email, so my favourite part comes when I meet girls on completion of their award, usually with Val Purdy who assesses the Outdoor Challenge trip. We love hearing first-hand about all they have done and can sign off their record book. I post off the book by recorded delivery to Guide Headquarters and then comes an anxious wait until the book returns signed by the Chief Guide herself. That is the signal for great celebration and for planning a special occasion to present the beautiful badge and certificate to our new Queen's Guide.

The QGA is a personal challenge that can be undertaken by any member aged 16-26. In some ways it is similar to Gold D of E, but with added elements linked to Guiding. As well as working with a unit and others to give Service in Guiding, there are sections following a skill, undertaking community action, an outdoor challenge and attending a residential opportunity. Some flexibilities have recently been introduced to make it more possible to continue with the award while Covid-19 is limiting our activities.

So if you think you are up for the challenge take a look at the syllabus and get in touch with me.

*Marion Morgan*  
Queen's Guide Adviser  
[queensguides@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:queensguides@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk)



# Happy Thinking Day from Girlguiding Norfolk Advisers

## Training

Just like unit meetings, trainings have gone virtual too! Headquarters have increased the range of webinars they are providing: sign in to GO and under your name should be a list of options including 'my events'; click onto that, scroll down to the blue button 'view available webinars' and take your pick! To register, click on the 'Actions' arrow, then 'register'. You should receive confirmation and all necessary details.

Wondering what the Norfolk Trainers are up to? Many of us are now webinar trained, through the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and have been involved since the first lockdown with delivering national and regional trainings, especially ensuring the Safe Space requirements could be met! We've also

been delivering First Response sessions virtually for Norfolk since October, so if yours is due to run out soon please look for details of upcoming sessions on the website and book via email.

We are now required to complete a 6 hour course consisting of 2 virtual sessions and a face-to-face practical (which is delayed until such times as we can safely meet).

Us Trainers do like to run sessions other than Safe Space or First Response, so if there are any subjects you would like us to cover let us know and we will do our best to put them together. Unfortunately, it is incredibly difficult to find a time that suits everyone, especially as we have commitments with our own units but we are happy to help wherever and whenever we can. Contact the team on the email below.

*Aileen Beck*  
Training Adviser  
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## International

As part of a worldwide organisation Girlguiding enables its members to connect with other Guides from around the world and my aim as County International Adviser is to open the eyes of members to the unique nature of this worldwide organisation. My role is to support leaders in Norfolk to offer these exciting and once in a lifetime international opportunities to young members. Furthermore working in partnership with Anglia Region we are able to offer these international adventures direct to young members.

However International experiences can start in the meeting place, learning about the World Centres, taking part in activities linked to Thinking Day or even completing 'international challenge packs'. Start small but think big!

*Susan Newton*  
International Adviser  
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# Happy Thinking Day from Girlguiding Norfolk Advisers

## Archive Resource Centre

The ARC (Archive Resource Centre) is Girlguiding Norfolk County's very own Guiding museum, home to over 30,000 items from the start of Girl Guides in 1910 through to the present. Importantly, the collection is not locked away behind glass. In fact, getting hands-on with Guiding's heritage truly brings the history alive, and we can discover amazing stories and traditions from the past. There are original uniforms to try on, books to read, hundreds of badges to admire, and so much more!

The ARC Angels are the youth panel for the ARC, who offer the skills and opinions of the younger guiding generation, and are currently meeting virtually every few weeks to work on exciting new projects.

Last summer, we created the Time Traveller badge, filled with many ideas and resources to bring Guiding history alive in unit meetings. We also have had fun researching, creating activities, dressing up in original uniforms for photoshoots and being recorded with old items. This year we are looking forward to interviewing older Guiding members to record their memories throughout the decades, and to begin planning a special event at the ARC for September's Heritage Open Days soon.

We welcome Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders, and Inspire members too! Plus, regular attendance earns you a special ARC Angel badge to show off on your camp blanket.

If you are interested in joining, please email Girlguiding Norfolk County Archivist Helen Green at [archivist@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk](mailto:archivist@girlguidingnorfolk.org.uk) for more information.

*Jasmine Downes*  
ARC Angel



## Division Commissioner

My role as a Division Commissioner...

When I was asked to write exactly what my role is... well... it took a while to think what I actually do!

I would say that my main role is to be there as a sounding board, confidante, friend, finder of information, circulator of information,

supporter and friendly face to the District Commissioners in my Division.

I thoroughly enjoy being a Division Commissioner as I get to meet some wonderful women throughout guiding. I particularly enjoy spreading the guiding word and ensuring that all the District Commissioners have as much

information as possible on what guiding can offer them and their girls, to ensure that all opportunities are offered to all.

I hold division meetings once a term and Zoom has made this so much easier, but I am always at the end of an email or phone.

*Victoria Fonzo*  
Division Commissioner

# Happy Thinking Day from Girlguiding Norfolk Advisers

## District Commissioner

I have been Hautbois District Commissioner since February 2019 and feel privileged to be working alongside a brilliant volunteering team. The support of leaders in both the district and county has enabled me to carry out the role to the best of my ability. You will have skills to bring to the role as well as learning many more. There is no such thing as a daft question; ask for help and you will get it. We are lucky to have a huge array of knowledge in our district and more widely. I would tell any leader thinking of doing the role, make sure you ask for support and you don't have to do it on your own. You will get lots of information to pass on and to act on, so be

prepared to regularly spend some time on the role but this does vary. You will get the opportunity to complete training and learn new skills. From risk assessments, to volunteer recruitment skills to a good knowledge of using Zoom - so much of what guiding gives you is transferable and I have used in my workplace.

A lovely plus of being DC is that it gives you the opportunity to carry out guiding with all the age groups. From Rainbows to Rangers, I have joined in with some great activities. What I love about guiding is it always offers you opportunities, with the chance to have fun! Hautbois is extremely good at organising district events

and I have missed it so much during the pandemic. We would have now been busy preparing our Thinking Day 2021 celebration. Last year we had over 160 girls and leaders gathered together in one place - hard to visualise now!

I am proud of Hautbois Rangers for wanting to organise a small scale Zoom event as they were sad to miss it this year and they see it as a fixed regular part of their journey through guiding. As DC, I can't wait to be able to help lead and organise something for the district as soon as it's possible and continue those traditions for the next generations.

Going forward is going to be difficult for Girlguiding but what we achieve as a team makes a difference to both girls and our volunteers and that is why I am proud to be a DC, shaping what it is we offer. Give it a go and you will be challenged, learn so much but ultimately be rewarded by the role.

The photo shows some of the team from Hautbois District WTD 2020 (I am front row first left!)

*Gina Brown*  
Hautbois District Commissioner



## And finally... The Blue Sheet

Published four times a year, this is the chance for any member of Girlguiding Norfolk to share with the rest of the county and beyond all the exciting experiences, opportunities, events and unit activities that we all love about being part of Girlguiding. We try to include everything that is sent from a unit exploring a Skills Builder activity in their weekly meeting to an international adventure to a far flung part of the world.

Email your news and high resolution pictures to the address below remembering to check photo permissions.

*Claire Everson*  
Blue Sheet Editor  
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