

Wirral County Catch-Up!

July 2026

A message from our
County Commissioner

— Jenny —

We hope this newsletter helps keep all our members up to date with everything happening across the county. It will also be in the news section of our website, so you can catch up whenever it suits you. Look out for the next edition at the end of next term! 💙🍀 Thank to the editors for making this happen!

As Lead Volunteer, thank you for the time, energy and care you give to creating amazing experiences for our young members. Everything you do makes a real difference, and I'm incredibly grateful for all you bring to our Guiding community.

Our teams are already planning for 2027 and beyond. The Young Member Experience Team will introduce one major event per section each year, alternating between higher and lower cost options to balance excitement and accessibility. Next year will include a celebration for the Rainbows 40th Birthday!

The Volunteer Experience Team is developing new resources for younger volunteers & planning another Training Day, alongside a brand-new Volunteer Social in early 2027.

The Inclusive and Impactful Team is exploring new ways to support volunteers, including the new 'no photos' badges in the GGWE shop, and looking ahead to Rainbows' 40th birthday PR celebrations.

Our Hadlow volunteers continue to maintain this fantastic county resource, and we encourage all units to make the most of it.

The shop team is excited for the arrival of the new uniform.

Girlguiding volunteers: turning ordinary evenings into extraordinary adventures.

Have a lovely summer. ☀️

Coming Up...

County events
happening soon!



Guides and
Ranger trip to
Alton Towers on
Saturday 26th July



Brownies head
to Gillivers World
Saturday 18th
July

HadlowFest

Date: Friday 23rd –
Sunday 25th July 2027

Info: Details coming soon...

**SAVE
The
DATE!**

Brownie, Guide and Ranger event

Date: 17th & 18th April 2027

Info: Event at Hadlow. More
magical details coming
soon...

Annual Judges' Service

Date: Sunday 11th October

Info: 10.30am at Liverpool
Cathedral

**Upcoming
Guiding events
for your Diary!**

County Volunteer Social Event

Date: 14th May 2027

Info: Details coming soon...

**For more information and events visit Wirral's county calendar at
<https://girlguidingwirral.org.uk/county-calendar/>**

Subscription 2027

You may be aware from next year subs will only be charged per young member. This will bring longer term benefits to having larger and flexible volunteer teams.

For many units, there will be an increase in the total bill as the cost of the volunteers is shared across the young members. Young leaders who are rangers will be on the ranger unit invoice.

2027 subs will be £69 plus whatever is added by your district and division. From 22nd July you will be able see your trial invoice on GO (same as in the normal subs process).

If you have any questions or concerns about paying your invoice, please contact your local commissioner or Jenny cc@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

**Thank You
Sheena!**



Sheena has been Wirral County's residential adviser for the past 15 years and is now retiring from her position. From everyone in the county we would like to say a huge thank you for the time, hard work and expertise you've put into our county. You've helped shape and create an immeasurable amount of precious memories for so many young people and leaders over the years.

Talking about her experience, Sheena said "My sincere thanks to all of our Going Away With mentors and their Commissioners, past and present, who have supported me in my role as County Going Away With Residential Adviser. Over the last 15 years I have awarded around 60 Going Away With licence badges and certificates to Leaders from all sections, enabling them to make lifelong guiding memories for our girls and Leaders alike."

Your legacy will live on for years to come!

Got something to share?

If you have anything you'd like to be featured, or if you'd like your unit to be part of our unit spotlight send us an email at

newsletter@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Do you know a **Wirral Wonder?**

We're excited to announce a brand new award for Girlguiding Wirral members – The Wirral Wonder Award!

The Wirral Wonder Award is for members who have done something above and beyond! In honour of their achievement, they will receive a special badge and certificate

How does it work?

The ways in which a Wirral Wonder Award can be achieved are as wide as your imagination! To be considered you must be a member of Girlguiding Wirral and you must be nominated by another person, they do not need to be a member. Some examples that could earn an award include helping an individual or group in the local community, going above and beyond in their role in Girlguiding, or showing exceptional bravery. All nominations will be considered on an individual basis by the thanks and recognition committee.

How can they submit a nomination?

Nominations and more information for this award can be found on the [Girlguiding Wirral website](http://GirlguidingWirral.org.uk). If you have questions about any awards you can also contact the thanks and recognition committee by email at Awards@GirlguidingWirral.org.uk

Our awards committee is chaired by County President Cath with Caroline, James Thompson, Lynne Chapman, Lisa Lloyd, Charlotte Beattie and Lauren Clay.



The Wirral Wonder award badge and certificate

Sarah Landon

Sarah Landon for her tenacity in creating an interactive trail around Bebington for their celebration of 100 years of World Thinking Day. Sarah was a key member of the team who persuaded 18 shops and places of interest to have posters and donate prizes for the trail winner! Sarah was surprised by Cath whilst out with her rangers at the local park playing pitch and putt!



Our first **Wirral Wonders!**



Judi Smitton for showing creativity for Wallasey division's display celebrating 100 years of World Thinking Day at Wallasey library. Judi demonstrated creativity and innovation going over and above what was expected! The display featured Brownie Barbie(s) in old Brownie uniforms doing activities such as climbing, kayaking, camp cooking and team building!

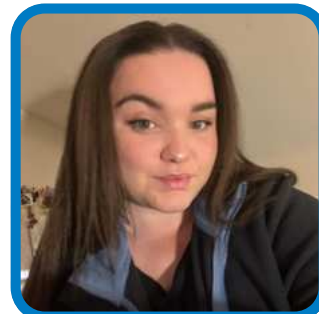
Judi Smitton

Introducing...

Meet three of our fabulous new county team members!

I'm Eleanor, and I look after social media for Girlguiding Wirral. I love sharing the brilliant things our units are doing – but I can only post about your events if you tell me about them! Whether it is something coming up, something awesome you did, or something to pop in Wirral Wednesday, send it over! I need your unit(s) name, the activity/badge you did and a photo with permissions. The more you send, the more we can showcase the amazing guiding happening across Wirral!

pr@girlguidingwirral.org.uk



Eleanor Goode
Social Media
Coordinator



Sophie Lewis
Inspire Coordinator

Hello all! I am Sophie Lewis and I am excited to share that I am the new Inspire Co-ordinator for Wirral County. Inspire is a community within Girlguiding that allows members of Girlguiding aged between 18 and 30 to connect with other people their age and join a supportive network of like-minded Girl Guides! You could run events, travel internationally, share skills, complete awards or qualifications, and most importantly, challenge yourself! My role involves organising events, sharing opportunities and making sure people feel welcome and supported. I am really looking forward to representing the Inspire provision locally and getting to meet you! If you know of anyone who would like to be involved, if you yourself would like to be involved or you would like to share some ideas, I'd love to hear from you. Keep your eye out for some exciting events coming up!

inspire@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

As your local Inclusion Adviser, I'm here to support leaders in making sure every girl can take part and shine in rainbows, brownies, guides and rangers. I can offer practical advice on adapting activities, supporting girls with SEND, communicating with parents and building confidence around inclusion. Whether you'd like help planning for a specific girl, want ideas to make your unit more accessible, or simply want to talk something through, I'm always happy to help. In my professional life I am a Primary School SENDCo with over a decade of teaching (and guiding) experience behind that. There are no stupid questions when you're learning something new

inclusionlizzy@girlguidingwirral.org.uk



Izzy Finch
Inclusion Advisor

Leader Development Programme *Update!*

Lynne Chapman gives us an update on all things LDP and mentoring!

LDP

We have 28 volunteers completing the LDP at the moment and 4 volunteers have completed so far this year. Coming up after the summer, "Complete the 4 LDP webinars in a day" – dates and venues will be circulated early September.

Mentors

Mentors are a key part of the LDP process, and we are short of mentors. If you would like to know more about mentoring why not book onto one of the mentoring trainings after the summer. The dates are Wednesday 23rd September or Monday 23rd November. You can book on via the learning platform at the start of September. Mentoring is a really rewarding experience and I would recommend it.

Any volunteers who would like to know more about the LDP, becoming a Mentor, or any leaders in training, can get in contact via LDP@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

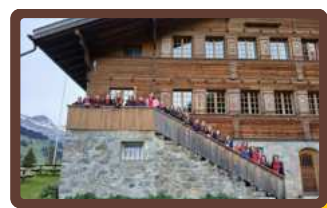
Cath's Corner!

Cath Naylor, our County President, has had a busy few months in her role!

- I attended the County Thinking Day centenary celebration in February – it was a great event to commemorate 100 years of World Thinking Day!
- We presented thank you gifts to those who have ended roles: Doreen Stanley as County Trefoil Chair and Sheena Chalmers as County Residential Adviser.



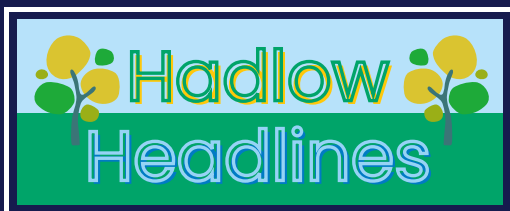
- We had a Vice Presidents' lunch at The Shippons in Irby in April. Joyce Twemlow, Vice President, recently celebrated her 90th birthday.
- I've visited several units recently including 19th Wallasey Brownies Gold Award party. I presented two Hero Awards as well.
- I've sent cards to leaders & families to say Get Well Soon, Congratulations, Condolences and other occasions. If you know anyone who might benefit from a card email me at president@girlguidingwirral.org.uk



Unit Spotlight

1st Ness and 1st Thornton Hough Guides went to Our Chalet in Switzerland! It looked incredible!





News from our county campsite!

Hadlow Chair & Committee Update

As part of a review of all governance in county, the Hadlow committee roles and structure have been reviewed and restructured to make the roles more manageable in size and responsibility and building on the team structure we have at county.

Over coming months, we will be recruiting for the following roles, existing committee members are welcome to apply -but we want to hear from anyone interested

Chair of Hadlow – overall responsibility for running the site safely for visitors, campers and sleepovers

Site services lead – for all things health and safety, wardening and working parties

Engagement and funding lead – leading the team for small events, activities, PR and fundraising

Visitor Support lead – ensuring all visitors have a smooth, welcoming and positive experience

Our outgoing chair of Hadlow, Linda will stay in role to facilitate a smooth handover to 1 or 2 people taking on the role; this must be complete by July 2027.

Linda is happy to be contacted with questions-

HadlowChair@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Hadlow Shop Opening Hours July to September

The shop at Hadlow will have reduced opening times during the summer holidays, please see right for more information. Due to a delay in the new leader uniform arriving, leader preview sessions at Hadlow have been cancelled

News from The Wirral Essentials Shop

Sue Dutton shares the experience of a Hadlow shop volunteer

Firstly, what an amazing team of Hadlow shop volunteers we have! Their enthusiasm to serve you all knows no bounds, and we are all so excited for the launch of the new uniform.

Being a shop volunteer is not just about selling guiding uniform and resources and hoping the till balances at the end of the day, it's the interaction with all our customers. It's the children who come in clutching their £5 notes determined to spend every penny and more if they can; the leaders who want to find a badge that fits their latest activity; it's the volunteers we meet from other counties who regularly use OUR shop; its meeting up with old friends we have not seen for a while.

More importantly it's the meeting of parents who are amazed at the fantastic facilities we have at Hadlow and to whom we talk about how important it is for them to use Hadlow shop as all our profits help with the upkeep and development of the site. We are the face of PR for Hadlow and Girlguiding Wirral!

If you are interested in joining our team in the shop on a rota basis please get in touch with me for an informal chat

Sue Dutton

GGWEChair@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Saturday 11th July – 10am to 4pm
Saturday 18th July –CLOSED
Saturday 25th July CLOSED
Saturday 1st August – 10am to 4pm
Saturdays 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
August – CLOSED

County Advisors

Jenny Brown

County commissioner
CC@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Doreen Stanley

Archivist
archives@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Karen Payne

Arts Award adviser
ArtsAward@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Sharon Hodgson

Arts Award adviser
Artsaward@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Cath Naylor

Awards chair
President@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Jan Walls

Chair of Trefoil Guild
trefoilguildchair@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Emma Doran

Camp adviser
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Sue May

Commissioner mentor coordinator
CommissionerMentors
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Cath Auty

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Cat Barlow

Inclusion adviser
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Izzy Finch

Inclusion adviser
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Mel Green

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Charlotte Isaac

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Lynn McCoy

International adviser
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Lynne Chapman

LDP coordinator
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Eleanor Goode

PR adviser
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Dani Mee

Queen's Guide Award coordinator
QueensGuide@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Nicky Mullin

Residential adviser
Residential@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Gill Bates

Walking adviser
Walking@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Charlotte Isaac

Inspire coordinator
Inspire@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Roles and Recruitment

Are you looking for a new guiding opportunity?

Please get in touch if you have an interest in training, the Duke of Edinburgh award and retaining our members
cc@girlguidingwirral.org.uk



With the launch of the new uniform just around the corner **Doreen Stanley** takes us through some of the uniform from the last 116 years!

In the beginning girls copied their brother scouts, with khaki blouses staves and wide brimmed hats. By 1911 Baden-Powell Guides adopted blue



In the 1930s they lost the bag and had a dress instead of shirt and skirt.



By 1911, blue had quickly become recognised as the correct colour with a wide brim hat and a bag for useful items including 1st aid things.



1946 saw the loss of the wide brim hat to be replaced by a beret and the advent of the blouse. A lot of older leaders will remember that one. The pockets were filled with notebook, pencil, string, clean hanky and money for the phone box.

In 1964 the belt was dropped and the pockets moved and the tie became a crossover. The 'air hostess' style had was a change too. They usually ended up squashed in a pocket.



Ready to help Grow Guiding?

Girlguiding North West England has launched Mission Grow — a region-wide call to action to help us grow guiding by welcoming more volunteers into our community.

How it works

Recruit a new volunteer to Girlguiding and, once they become an active volunteer on GO, both of you will receive a free exclusive Mission Grow badge.

The challenge will run until Thursday 31 December, with the form staying open until Friday 15 January 2027.

County challenge

We're also introducing a friendly county competition! A special growth-themed prize will be awarded to the county showing the strongest engagement and growth across the challenge period.

Find out more about how to get involved via the region website

[https://
www.girlguidingnwe.org.uk/
mission-grow/](https://www.girlguidingnwe.org.uk/mission-grow/)



Our county events are run by wonderful volunteers. Can you help?

Get involved in HadlowFest – email Gill dibbinsbrook@girlguidingwirral.org.uk

Help to make our Rainbows 40th birthday celebration! Email Jenny cc@girlguidingwirral.org.uk