

**GIRLGUIDING LEEDS**  
**MINUTES OF ANNUAL VIRTUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**(Due to Covid-19 pandemic)**  
**FRIDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021**

The meeting took place via Zoom, approximately 16 people were in attendance and were briefed on how to comment and/or ask questions etc. using the Zoom facilities.

**County President Lynne Reid** opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to this, the second Zoom AGM meeting, noting that this year couldn't have been more difficult.

Lynne praised all the leaders who had managed to keep their units together. The full version of 2020 is attached.

A warm welcome everyone to this, the second zoom AGM meeting. This year, 2020, couldn't have been more difficult and challenging.

The annual report was given by County Commissioner Louise Flynn, presented in a slide show on screen with narrative from Louise.

**Slide 1** Welcome to our review of 2020.

**Slide 2** 2020 began as a normal year for Girlguiding Leeds, a calendar full of events for girls and volunteers alike to look forward to. On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020 my first County Thanks & Recognition afternoon tea was held in Cookridge. Where Lynne and I presented 575 years of awards to volunteers across the County.

**Slide 3** At the end of February, the adults celebrated being part of Girlguiding Leeds with a County Training Weekend at Waddow.

**Slide 4** During the day we had the opportunity to learn reflect on what guiding used to look like, and how it could look in the future. Ironically, we looked at how technology could help us in our units. Who knew how beneficial this session was going to be in the coming months! Saturday evening, we went pig racing with lots of opportunities to chat with friends and make new ones. Our last in person event for some time.

**Slide 5** on 16th March Girlguiding suspended unit meetings and encouraged girls to stay in touch with their units and complete activities and badges at home.

**Slide 6** But no matter what we kept our guiding light alive by lighting a candle each Sunday evening at 19.10 - 20:20, our 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Slide 7** In April the extended County Team and deputy commissioners from around the County came together via zoom to start to work on the County Strategy. Over the course of the next couple of months we created the summary that has been shared with you all.

**Slide 8** We've worked really hard in the background to pull all of our policies and procedures together, updated mailing lists, and generally keeping in touch with our volunteers via Snippets and our Newsletter. Our thanks go to Davina our County Administrator for all that she has done during the last year, she has been a truly amazing asset for the County.

**Slide 9** The County Commissioner Summer Challenge encouraged all ages to take part in five summer themed activities over the course of the summer holidays, and the section newsletters were a bit hit for many units who had not been meeting.

**Slide10** In September - our new website was launched after much debating of content between us and the web designers. Who knew how much effort goes into building a website. I hope you agree that it was worth it. Late in October we started discussions with a marketing company to support us in developing a marketing strategy, to encourage new adults to volunteer.

**Slide 11** Guiding has been different in 2020 but we have still found time to celebrate our success. We gave out 52 long service awards which totalled a further 310 years of service between them, 20 adults achieved their leadership qualification or additional modules. One younger leader Poppy Bell, also achieved her Queen's Guide Award. Our young members were also working hard and 72 gold awards were presented.

**Slide 12** In October Girlguiding were lucky enough to be partners with Children in Need as one of the charities that would benefit from the fundraising. Lots of units and individuals across the county join in and "Acted their Age" to raise funds for a fantastic charity. I visited 59 virtual unit meetings over the course of two weeks, slightly more than my age, but it was fantastic to see all those faces even if it wasn't face to face.

**Slide 13** Although we were unable to meet face to face, the County came together for the Virtual Pantomime, Jack & the Beanstalk, which the Divisions and County paid for. This was enjoyed by over 280 units across the County.

We also launched our new Thanks and Recognition Team, which due to it being held virtually has allowed people that could not normally join committees have the opportunity to get involved at County level.

**Slide 14** As you can tell Guiding in 2020 has been different, the leaders have risen to the challenge some have zoomed, others delivered activities and packs to girls, some have been isolating and others busy with home schooling and being key workers. Although Robin Hole and the Trefoil Centre have been closed for much of 2020 there has still been a team of volunteers who have maintained them - thank you.

**Slide 15** The training team worked with Region and delivered safe space training via zoom, so all leaders had the correct level of training by the end of the year - thank you to the team who delivered it and the leaders for completing the trainings, a huge effort by everyone.

**Slide 16** Throughout 2020 we've kept the spirit of guiding alive in Leeds, had fun, earned badges and celebrated our success. None of this would have been possible without our amazing volunteers - Thank you!

Lynne thanked Louise for her report, and remarked how busy the County has been in spite of Covid.

Louise gave the Financial AGM Report 2020 and a summary was shown on screen.

Louise said a full copy of the full report or any section accounts was available on request.

- The accounts cover all county funds and properties and their income and expenses during the year to 31 December 2020.

- In 2020 the county made a deficit of £22,297 in comparison to a surplus in 2019 of £182. The main reason for the deficit is the new website and marketing strategy that we commissioned.
- Subscription payments look different but this is due to the Division levies being included in the County value as the new Divisions did not have their bank accounts set up.
- The balance sheet continues to look healthy with all figures looking very similar to 2019.
- County running expenses fluctuated in year: As usual, some have dropped and some have increased but most are fairly consistent with 2019. The largest increases in expenditure is in relation to paid administrative support for the county, IT and website support.
- The General Fund: this is used for county administration. It covers the cost of running our county head office, the Trefoil Centre including the paid staff that help to keep the County running smoothly. The general account had a small deficit this year.
- Robin Hole: In 2020 the fee income decreased by 87%, we have not been in a position to undertake any work, but we are in the process of arranging works to allow visits and overnight stays again. The committee do a great job of overseeing the running of the house and camp site. The house is normally in constant use throughout the year and still gets booked up well in advance.
- Robin Hole received a grant of £10,000 from the local Council which has been used to offset the income reduction.
- Guiding Development: this section is used for county trips, events and trainings for all sections, the only major events that took place last year was the thanks and recognition afternoon tea and training weekend at Waddow.

Lynne thanked Louise and asked if anyone would like to ask any question. There were no questions raised.

Claire gave us some details for future highlights. So far 2021 has built on the success of last year, as restrictions are lifting leaders have done what's right for them - some units have met outdoors, others inside and some on zoom. I'm sure the flexible blended approach will continue.

Julia gave us a brief update on Wider Opportunities, and provided a brief outline about the Thinking Day event planned for 2022.

In November we're hoping to invite leaders to Jingle Mingle - a thank you evening and an opportunity to meet others from across Girlguiding Leeds. Before I hand over to Lynne to formally close the evening, I'd like to thank Liisa and Davina for their support and contributions this evening.

Lynne thanked everyone for attending and thanked all in the county for everything they have done over the last year, and said how lovely it is to hear that we have such a lot to look forward to.

She hoped that we could all soon get together and meet each other in person.

She thanked everyone for coming. The meeting closed at 8pm.