

## LOUISE'S MESSAGE

A big welcome to 2024, I hope all of our incredible county members and volunteers had the chance for a rest and recharge over the festive period, but also a chance to reflect on the amazing things you did for girls and young women in 2023. My appreciation and thanks goes to all of you, in 2023 we welcomed 200+ new young members and 100 volunteers to start their Girlguiding journey across the county. A great start to our return to pre pandemic numbers.

For 2024, we are continuing to ensure we deliver on all aspects of our county strategy to provide exceptional experiences for girls, a rewarding volunteer experience and by being inclusive and impactful. We are doing this through events, activities, partnerships, training and support to name a few but you will also notice we have some exciting volunteer roles available to help us achieve our aims - why not look for a new volunteer challenge in 2024 and join us?

I wish you all the very best for you, your friends and families and your guiding activities in 2024.

## MEMBER EXPERIENCE SURVEY

Our 2023-2024 member experience survey is here! Following a great year of adventure in 2023, we want to take the opportunity to gather your thoughts and reflections regarding your member experience in Girlguiding Leeds county, and your suggestions for 2024 and beyond. Please take the time to complete this survey - feel free to include your young members as well where relevant. Follow the link below to complete the member experience survey.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

## NEW GIRLGUIDING FORMS

Girlguiding have updated the new starter forms and information and consent forms. You can find the latest versions of these forms in our [forms and resources library](#) and full guidance on when and how to use them on our [getting parent or carer consent page](#). Some helpful changes which should make admin a bit easier!

## SAFE SPACE TRAINING – PLEASE READ!

Did you realise that your Safe Space training needs **renewing every three years**? If you get a notification to renew, please do so as soon as you can. Any additional time is added to your last renewal date, so you don't have to do it any more frequently. If you do it straight away this will save at least an hour of another volunteer's time downloading lists and chasing you. It will also save Girlguiding nationally £1 as they don't need to prepare and post a letter! Please help!

## PROPERTIES

Robin Hole is now **accepting bookings** for your adventures in 2024. There is currently plenty of availability however we suggest booking early to avoid disappointment! You can find out more about the county properties on our [website](#) and you can also take the [virtual tour](#).

**Date for your diary:** We are changing the Robin Hole spring cleaning from the usual Saturday to **Monday 18 March**. If you are free on a Monday and would like to come and help then please put the date in your diary. We would love to see you there.

## HELP NEEDED AT COUNTY EVENTS 2024?

Can you help on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June for a Grand Day Out of fun activities for all sections at Wetherby Racecourse?



More help is needed with admin, publicity, activity planning, first response, transport, as well as lots of help on the day.

If you would like to join the organising team or can help on the day, please contact Jane Girt on [adventure@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:adventure@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)

Are you free at any time over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April for a Brownie Activity Camp at Robin Hole?

Help will be needed with pitching tents before the event, cooking, first response, car parking as well as activities such as bouldering, slack lining, campfires, archery and orienteering, at the camp.

If you could offer some time over the weekend or before, please contact Jane Girt on [adventure@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:adventure@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS

### Spy Academy Weekend

This is a **spy themed virtual event** where the girls in your unit can participate in loads of fun, different activities giving them spy based skills! There are activities that are appropriate for members from Rainbows to Rangers and will require different levels of equipment and time therefore being accessible to as many members as possible.

Please complete the [Expression of interest](#) form if you want your unit to be involved **before the 7 February** to ensure that you get all of the relevant details in time

If you have any questions please contact [inspire@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:inspire@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)

### Pirate Brownie Camp – 26–28 April 2024

Information has been sent to all volunteers who help at brownie units. Please check your inbox (or your spam/promotions folder) if you don't think you have received it. Further copies can be obtained from your local commissioner.

### Grand Day Out – 29 June @Wetherby Racecourse

Information is now available to book your places at the all county event "Grand Day Out". Check out the dedicated webpage [here](#).

## York City FC Foundation

York City FC Foundation are pleased to announce the up and coming Foundation Fixtures for the season ahead. We have Three Foundation Fixtures coming up just around the corner! Up to 500 tickets will be made available each game for young people aged 5-13 through local groups, grassroots sports teams, charities and third sector organisations thanks to support from Persimmon Homes.

We are offering each group up to 15 free children's tickets (age 5-13 years) which can be claimed with a minimum purchase of 2 adult tickets at a cost of £22 per adult.

There will be fun activities on the mini pitches outside the LNER Community Stadium from 1-2pm. Come and see the Minstermen in action!

Complete the relevant form below to apply for tickets now! Please ensure you have fully confirmed the number of tickets required before completing the form as orders cannot be amended.

*Saturday 20th January 2024 Vs AFC Fylde 3pm Kick-off:* <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16-sD2sbs3Xj64rHSj2iAH9wxDZQi3AGpyOUroCtfbZc/edit>

*Saturday 3rd February Vs Maidenhead United 3pm Kick-off:*  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Aq8ImFPwEIPUz7OIQnZnrzY9avQ67TBIPh5Cexfxatc/edit>

*Saturday 2nd March Vs Wealdstone 3pm kick-off:*  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1d04IApZhEATEuR3AbIXMhiOMtgbSpyLm4gwXJzeJBko/edit>

## WHAT IS BRIDGE?

Bridge is a new network for Girlguiding members aged 14-30 in North East England. There will be a meeting in York on Saturday 9th March where you will get the opportunity to choose from a range of activities all of which will give you skills in using your voice for change, building confidence as well as gaining knowledge about well being.

Bookings close on the 21st January so make sure that if you want to go, you get booked in.

For more information look on the region website linked below!

<https://girlguidingnortheast.org.uk/events/welcome-to-bridge-our-new-region-network-for-14-30-year-olds/>

## CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON UNIFORM

There is now a dedicated webpage where you can have your say on uniform changed from 2026. In February, Girlguiding will introduce a set of activities for each section to help volunteers and girls of all ages to feed into the design. These will be optional, but by choosing to do them, you'll be helping us to get as many girls involved in the design process as possible. [Welcome - Redesigning our uniform \(foleon.com\)](https://www.foleon.com)

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Do you have girls who are thinking about doing their Duke of Edinburgh's award? Did you know you can do it through Girlguiding? It is an internationally recognised programme available to 14 to 24 and is an opportunity to discover new interests and talents, gain essential life skills and have fun. There are three levels available:

- Bronze – for those aged 14 to 24 or 13 and in the school year when you turn 14, takes at least six months
- Silver – for those aged 15 to 24 or 14 and in the school year when you turn 15, takes at least six months if you've completed Bronze or twelve months as a direct entrant to Silver
- Gold – for those aged 16 to 24, takes at least twelve months if you've completed Silver or at least eighteen months as a direct entrant to Gold

**Leaders** – there's also the opportunity for girls and young women who are not involved in Guiding to do the Volunteering section of the D of E award with us. Particularly at Bronze and Silver, D of E is often run in schools so it's worth reaching out to your local school if need volunteers.

If you want to know more, please contact [DofE@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:DofE@girlguidingleeds.org.uk)

## END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

If you are having any problems with preparing your accounts, then please do ask for help. You can either speak to your division commissioner or attend one of the accounts drop-in sessions we will be holding at the Trefoil Centre – the provisional dates for these are Saturday 3 February 10am to 12.30pm, Monday 5 February 7pm to 9pm and Saturday 16 March 10am to 12.30pm.

Contact us via [admin@girlguidingleeds.org.uk](mailto:admin@girlguidingleeds.org.uk) if you would like to attend one of these sessions so that we can make sure there are enough people available to help.

We are happy to help you from whatever stage you've got to including if you're not sure where to start – just bring along whatever paperwork you have (receipts, bank statements etc). [End of year accounts | Girlguiding.](#)



## COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Are you looking for a new challenge for 2024? We have volunteer roles within the county which could just be the thing you are looking for. This includes the following:

- Task & Finish group members for:
  - Pirate Themed brownie camp (26-28 April 2024)
  - Grand Day Out (Saturday 29 June 2024)
- County International Adviser
- County Ranger Adviser
- Lead for Growth & Communications Team
- Chair and Finance Representative of The Trefoil Centre Committee (2 roles)
- Training Coordinator

If you would like to find out more or apply for any of these exciting roles, then [email](#) for more information.

## EVENTS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	LINK
Saturday 24- Sunday 25 February (All members)	A virtual event with sleepover to celebrate Thinking Day. Join in the fun for just the Saturday or the complete event, the choice is yours! 	<a href="#">Expression of interest</a>
Friday 26 - Sunday 28 April (Brownies)	Pirate Themed Brownie Camp @ Robin Hole An opportunity for units to give camping a try, without the need for a camp licence. 	Info emailed directly to Brownie leaders. Or on the webpage: <a href="#">Pirate Brownie Camp - Girlguiding Leeds</a>
Week commencing Monday 10 June 2024 (All members)	Out & About Week 	TBA
Saturday 29 June 2024 (All members)	"Grand Day Out" - all section County Activity Day 	<a href="#">Register your unit</a>