

Joint Annual Review 2021

Girlguiding Essex North East

Julie Craven, County Commissioner

As this is my last Annual Review as county commissioner, I've been reflecting to when my term began. Zoom was merely a noise made when playing with a toy car, Pandemic was a newly released zombie film and Essex North East was embarking on the quality pilot scheme.



In the last five years we have seen an updated programme roll out, a revised safe space qualification and GDPR law changes to name a few. Our volunteers across the county have embraced change while continuing to offer diverse opportunities to the young members in our care.

In 2017 a second staff member was employed to help raise our profile and recruiting potential. In 2018 we held a county training day for 350 members keen to learn about "the new programme". 2019 saw many units across the county embrace the Future Girl initiative and then in 2020 our leaders and young members demonstrated that Girlguiding is more resilient and adaptable than we could ever have imagined!

Guiding Development offered virtual first response refresher courses while we could into late December 2020 and have enabled 105 volunteers attend first response courses since July when essential face to face training could resume, enabling more units to reopen. Opportunities to learn techniques to help anxiety were offered virtually.



During the last year we have taken part in the light trail STEAM project sponsored by Essex 2020, Snapping The Stiletto animation project, Chelmsford Heritage Weekend and carnival and have had an amazing number of units taking part in UK Parliament Week and the Children In Need joint fundraising. At the beginning of the year, having completed the County Commissioner's Challenge the term before, we sent a request out to members for their positive artwork and were wowed by their creativity. The GENE Team have adapted and continued to broadcast their monthly radio show throughout the pandemic and lockdowns.

Units began meeting again face to face late spring and embraced the outdoors. Girls from 7th Braintree Brownies displayed their care of community by collecting and donating 164 Easter eggs to a local home, to the delight of the elderly residents. Other units have litter picked, grown flowers, left random acts of kindness in all shapes and forms and made a difference, however small, to where they live.



This past term units and districts have been on residential trips and visits. SYNERGY an all section unit for girls with additional needs recently spent an enjoyable but wind swept weekend near Whipsnade Wildlife Park.

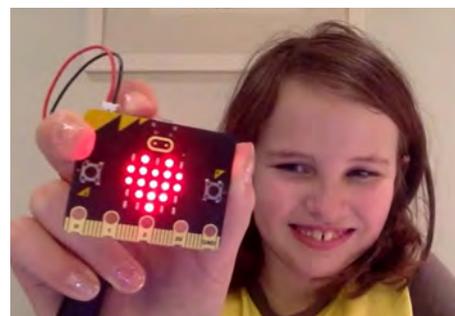
Units, districts and divisions have held birthday parties and swapped birthday cards as part of the Anglia Region's 50th birthday.

We have a new website in development which will be launching in 2022 and our membership numbers continue to recover post pandemic with 114 more adult members and 821 more young members than 10 months ago.



Long service awards in the last year amount to 35 five years, 25 ten years, 18 twenty years, 5 thirty years, an incredible 5 fifty years and our very first sixty year! Thanks to the Awards Committee 1 Anglia Brooch, 1 Young Persons award, 7 County Commissioners Good Service and 6 County Thank you badges have been presented as well as Jack Petchey Awards to 5 leaders and 28 girls.

Whilst there is a lot that I wish I could change for everyone in the last five years being county commissioner isn't one of them. I have learnt a lot about myself and guiding and I have met a vast array of interesting and amazing people.



I would like to especially thank Kerry Brother, Assistant County Commissioner for her support, friendship, valued opinions, account chasing and her role in ensuring annual membership subscriptions are paid on time, hours, and hours of work! I wish Kerry well on her recovery from Long Covid.

Sheila Everitt, County President for her many roles (there are quite a few) and knowledge of the County and dedication, and for attending many events on my behalf.

Anne Francies who has been my rock over the past 5 years, from assisting in county events, facilitating trainings, meetings, communications, recruitment, website to name but a few of her many hats, you truly have been amazing to work with and I can't thank you enough.

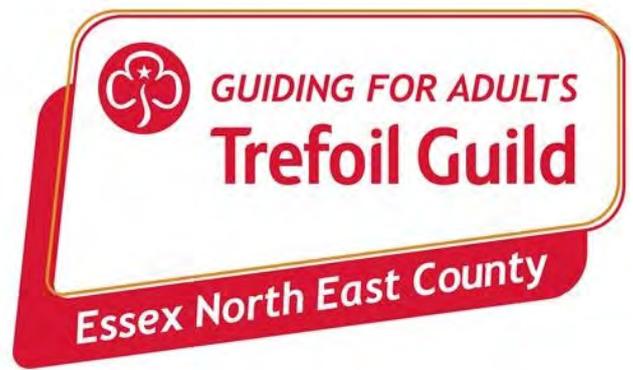
Maxine Jones, PR for promoting guiding in our County in such a positive way, for the partnerships she has formed on our behalf, and her patience with me on the many social media trainings I have attended.

Jean Harvey, Chair of Guiding Development, not an easy role but she has a passion for it and has shown in her commitment to providing and delivering trainings within the county and region.

To all the Commissioners and Advisers past and present for your support, time, and commitment.

And lastly our volunteers, especially our leaders who week in and week out give their time so willing to provide the girls in our care opportunities, adventure and a safe space to just be.





Joint Annual Review 2021

Essex North East Trefoil Guild

Anne Pope, County Chair

We began 2021 still in lockdown due to the Covid pandemic. By this time several Guilds in the county were able to hold meetings on Zoom. All Guild chairs have kept in touch with their members during this difficult time and many went the extra mile to make sure that members were kept informed and updated. The many different ways included Zoom meetings, newsletters, phone calls and good old fashioned letters.



On Saturday 24th April the Anglia Annual Review was held on Zoom. This was a very successful event. It began with the usual business meeting and then we were treated to an interesting talk on the secret of tiaras. Our County was well represented with 7 members joining. Similarly the National Annual meeting was also held virtually on Saturday 19th June. A group of us met together and watched the business side which was then followed by an interesting talk about the first all women trek across the Antarctic via the South Pole.



Region have been very helpful in keeping up our spirits during lockdown. It began in December 2020 with the publication of the Anglia Xmas Special. This booklet was sent to every member in the Region and contained lots of puzzles, quizzes, games and craft ideas to keep us busy in the Winter months.

This was followed in January by the launch of the Anglia Times. This was a monthly newsletter which allowed us to keep in touch with what was going on in the Region including details of Anglia's 50th Birthday Challenge. It also included many ideas and activities for the Guilds to attempt. The main highlight was the 50th birthday party to be held in August. This was the first time that most of the members were able to meet up safely outdoors. The celebrations ranged from garden parties where members dressed up and wore fancy hats to beach parties where they played games, swam and paddled in the seas. The weather played a big part in the celebrations with many enjoying lovely sunshine whilst others needed to wear jumpers or warm jackets. Each guild had received £15 towards a celebration cake and the results were spectacular with many using the Anglia ship as decoration. Everybody agreed that the best part was being able to meet up face to face and have a really good chat.

Since then guilds have begun to meet up regularly with visits to parks, zoos and cookouts at Prances.

At the beginning of September 15 members from around the County enjoyed a few days of fun and friendship at Foxlease. It was a chance to meet up with our Trefoil friends from around the Region and of course there was lots of chat and laughter. During the day members could partake of several activities including walking in the forest or into Lyndhurst, taking the bus into Lymington or doing treasure trails inside and out of the site. Plenty of crafts were also on offer and the evenings were spent with quizzes, board games, and singing. the theme for the week was Alice in Wonderland.



On the 24th October we held our annual County lunch at Cone Valley Golf Club. (This had to be postponed last year) As always Colne Valley did us proud with delicious food in a delightful setting. Nearly 80 members were able to join us and most enjoyed catching up with friends and having a good natter. The raffle raised £200 which will be donated to Essex Air Ambulance.

I am pleased to report that the following members received the Thanks and Recognition badge during 2021:

From Clacton Night Owls - Mary Amoroso, Marian Harvey, Carole Oakley, Gladys Eckworth

From Maldon - Ann White

From Witham - Christine Tanner

The following members received Voyage awards:

Cheryl Beeney, Chelmsford North - Silver

Esther Wilde, Colchester - Bronze

Diane Cox, Maldon - Bronze

Brenda Fisher, Maldon - Silver

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Guild chairs for keeping in touch with members during what has been a very difficult year. I would also like to thank the County Team for their help and support.

Finally I would like to invite all Trefoil members and Leaders to our Thinking Day Service to be held at 2pm on Sunday 20th February at Kelvedon United Reform Church.

