

Stop Press

Welcome to our December edition of the Girlguiding Derbyshire newsletter! As we step into this wonderfully festive season, we'd like to send our warmest wishes to all our volunteers. We hope this month brings you plenty of joy, sparkle and time to celebrate everything we've achieved together this year.

This issue is packed full of exciting updates, including **two fantastic international opportunities** now open for Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders—perfect chances for adventure, friendship and unforgettable experiences.

You'll also find information about our upcoming **County Day on 21st March 2026**, where members from across Derbyshire will come together for inspiration, connection and celebration.

And don't forget... the **2025 Christmas Badge** is still available to purchase! Complete the order form here:

<https://bit.ly/ChristmasBadge2025>



1st Response and other training opportunities

1st Response training dates

Dates for 2026 so far. All bookings can be made by clicking the link below:

Sat 17th Jan - Etwall- 1 SPACE

Sun 8th Feb- Melbourne- 10 SPACES

Sun 8th March- Spondon- 8 SPACES

<https://www.girlguidingderbyshire.org/learninganddevelopment>

Other training opportunities

Gift Aid- virtual session- Friday 9th Jan- 8-9pm

Step by step information session on how to apply for Gift Aid and boost your unit funds.

Booking link: <https://bit.ly/GiftAidJan26>

Money Matters- virtual session- Tuesday 20th Jan- 8-9pm

Help and support on how to manage and keep unit accounts

Booking link: <https://bit.ly/MoneyMattersJan26>

Events

Date	Event	Venue	Booking link/more information
Sun 7 th Dec	Christmas Event	Lees Brook Academy, Morley Rd, Chaddesden , Derby DE21 4QX	Fun filled day for all sections!
Fri 9 th Jan 2026	Gift Aid Zoom session	Online-zoom needed	Step by step information session on how to apply for Gift Aid and boost your unit funds. Booking link: https://bit.ly/GiftAidJan26
Tues 20 th Jan 2026	Money Matters zoom session	Online-zoom needed	Help and support on how to manage and keep unit accounts Booking link: https://bit.ly/MoneyMattersJan26
Sat 21 st March 2026	County Day 2026	David Nieper Academy	Booking link and more information coming soon- save the date!
Sunday 22 nd February 2026	County Thinking Day Event	Different areas across the County	We are looking to get all areas together to celebrate World Thinking Day as we would love to celebrate the 100-year anniversary 'together'. Your areas should be sharing more information soon
17-19 th April 2026	County social weekend	Pax Tor, Darley Dale	More information coming soon but this is a chance to get together and socialise. There will be different options available- from staying over, joining for the day/half day or joining for an evening meal. Save the date!
6-9 th August 2026	County Anglesey Adventure- Guide and Ranger groups	Conway Centre, Anglesey	See poster below for further information

Anglesey Adventure: Sea Wonders

County trip to Anglesey for Guide and Ranger units (ratio of 1:5)
When? 6-9 August 2026

Where? Anglesey Outdoors Centre, Holyhead, Anglesey

Cost? £400 for girls and £225 for leaders

Whats included? Accommodation, transport, food and all activities: sea kayaking, gorge walking, raft building and more!

Contact for more information contact
peaksanddalesnorth@gmail.com and to book your units place
office@girlguidingderbyshire.org

£100 non returnable deposit due by 31st January 2026



Anglesey Adventure!

International opportunities- please share with your Guides, Rangers and Young Leaders

Trip 1: Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime? Japan 2027

In summer 2027, we're taking a small group of up to 12 young people from Girlguiding Derbyshire on a once-in-a-lifetime journey across Japan.

Over two unforgettable weeks, we'll explore some of the most exciting, beautiful and culturally rich places in the world:

Tokyo where we'll find neon lights, anime energy, the world's best Disneyland all in the busiest city on Earth.

Kyoto home to beautiful temples, Japanese traditions and some of Japan's most breathtaking history.

Hiroshima a powerful and important part of world history and heritage.

Nagano National Girl Scout Centre of Japan where we plan to spend a few days volunteering and connecting with Japanese Girl Scouts.

We may also investigate visiting Osaka (if we have time) with its brilliant food, bright lights and legendary fun.

But the programme is not set. Once the group is selected, we'll design the trip itinerary together, choosing the activities and deciding how we want this adventure to be.

Before you apply, here are a few important things to know:

It's hot. July/August in Japan is no joke; humidity and high temperatures every day. So, you'll need to be able to cope with the heat.

It's active. Expect 20k steps a day as we explore multiple cities across Japan. This is a full-on, exciting, on-the-go trip as we'll want to pack in as much as we can.

It's different. Not just the language, but the food, customs and cities too. Tokyo alone has nearly twice the population of London, so you'll need to feel comfortable navigating very busy, very vibrant places.

You'll need to be aged between 16-18 in July and August 2027.

If you're curious, open-minded, up for a challenge and love discovering new places, this might be the adventure you've been waiting for.

Sound like your kind of trip?

Come along to our selection event on 11th January from 11am to 4pm at County Office, Ripley, and for those who are selected our first get together will be on 1st February 2026.

Please email International@girlguidingderbyshire.org to book your place (this selection event is only for the Japan trip).

Trip 2: Cycling the Netherlands 2027

Are you looking for a challenge in 2027? Girlguiding Derbyshire and Derbyshire Scouts are teaming up to run a week long cycle touring exploration of The Netherlands for Guides, Rangers, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders in Summer 2027.

We aim to cycle around 250km in total, travelling between campsites plus programme days to take part in activities and cultural activities.

The estimated cost is £650. You don't need to be an experienced cyclist, but be prepared to put some training in. We will be holding selection rides for participants in Spring 2026. More info about these dates will be shared through DigiPost and on the leaders Facebook group in the New Year.

Interested adult? We are still looking for leaders to ride with the girls or to drive a support vehicle. If you think this could be you, please contact International@girlguidingderbyshire.org

Volunteer opportunity- Carsington Water Half Marathon and 10K Saturday 14th February 2026

We have been asked if we would like to help with this event and promote Girlguiding at the same time. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Rachel on accgrowth@girlguidingderbyshire.org

Walking Advisor update

Our walking advisor, Danielle, is taking on her own challenge - walking Land's End to John O'Groats from 1 March to 30 June next year. We're looking for someone who might like to take on the walking advisor role whilst she is away. Danielle will handover to you before she goes, so you'll be up to speed. No walking qualifications necessarily needed, just a love of walking and a desire to share it. If you are interested, would like to hear more or would like to have a (no obligation) chat to Danielle about it, you can email her on walking@girlguidingderbyshire.org

Army Engagement team- unit opportunities!

We're delighted to share a fantastic opportunity for units to work with Kevin Herron and the Army Engagement Team.

They can visit your unit to talk about life in the Army, answer questions, and run engaging, age-appropriate activities that bring their experiences to life. It's a brilliant way to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and broaden horizons for your girls.

 To book a visit, please contact:

WO2 Kev Heron – kevin.heron769@mod.gov.uk

A great chance to add something exciting and meaningful to your programme!

Handley Goat Farm- unit opportunities!

Handley Farm in Shottle (near Belper) is offering **free educational visits** for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Units can explore a working goat farm, meet the goats and learn about farming and its challenges. The farm has already welcomed local schools and scouting groups with great feedback.

More information: www.handleyfarm.org.uk

Or email: hello@handleyfarm.org.uk

Hockey: Super 6s Indoor Finals- unit opportunities!

On 1 February 2026, Hockey is coming to Derby! Super 6s Indoor Finals at Derby Arena, a full day of top-level action featuring the top four men's and women's teams in the country competing for the national title. With eight fast-paced matches in one day, it's a fantastic chance for young people to experience elite sport up close.

We also offer group booking options, which allow units to reserve excellent seats now and pay later, making planning easy for leaders.

For more information: <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events/2026-super-6s-finals-day/super-6s-finals-on-the-day>

Down Syndrome UK- Sunflower Challenge

Take part in the sunflower challenge with your unit. Order a free pack on the link below to take part. Sunflowers to be planted at the beginning of March in the build up to World Down Syndrome Day on 21st March. The challenge serves as a beautiful metaphor for the diversity and individuality that makes each child special and is a great way for children to learn about inclusion, kindness and responsibility. Pack order- [click here](#)

County day 2026

Time to laugh, learn and share!

When? Saturday 21st March 2026

Time? 8.45am-4pm

Where? David Nieper Academy, Alfreton

Cost? £6pp

Bookings will open the first week in January and the link will be shared with all registered County members and on our social media pages.

There will be opportunities to meet and chat with County advisors.

A range of sessions will be available for you to choose from, including one specially for young leaders and another for leaders in training.

Some of these (but not all) are

Slow flow
Yoga

Stress
relieving
crafts

Tricky
Conversations

Be Well ideas

The new
"Going Away
With"
scheme

Science

Neurodiversity

Music

Teamwork

Effective
Communication-
LDP Module

Recruitment



Girlguiding
Derbyshire county



Gift Aid zoom session

When? Friday 9th Jan, 20:00-21:00

Where? Held virtually on Zoom so from the comfort of your own home!

Unsure how to claim Gift Aid and want to find out more about setting up your account, getting appropriate details from parents and submitting your Gift Aid claim? Join us for this virtual session where we walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have- all from the comfort of your home!

For more information see the link in the calendar to book



Money Matters zoom session

When? Tuesday 20th January, 20:00-21:00

Where? Held virtually on Zoom so from the comfort of your own home!

Help and support on how to manage and keep unit accounts

Join us for this virtual session where we walk you through the process and answer any questions you may have- all from the comfort of your home!

For more information see the link in the main post.

