

Stop Press

Welcome to the March newsletter of Digi-post.

As we move into spring and the evenings begin to grow lighter, we can all look forward to brighter days ahead – and hopefully some better weather too. It has been wonderful to see units, districts, and areas coming together to celebrate World Thinking Day. The sense of connection and shared purpose is always inspiring.

We are very much looking forward to seeing volunteers at County Day on **21st March**. It promises to be a fantastic opportunity to connect, learn and share ideas.

County Award nominations are now open. You can nominate someone via the following link:

<https://www.girlguidingderbyshire.org/derbyshire-awards>

Nominations close at the end of April.

Do consider putting forward a young member, adult leader, unit helper, admin assistant, or anyone who has gone the extra mile. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognise those who make a real difference.

Also included in this newsletter is information about the **Netherlands Cycling Trip** and the **Water Weekend**, both exciting opportunities offering adventure, challenge, and unforgettable experiences.

1st Response and other training opportunities

1st Response training dates

Sunday 8 March – Spondon Guide Hut

Sunday 29 March – Matlock Green Guide and Scout Hut

Saturday 18 April – Chesterfield Guide HQ

Sunday 26 April – Matlock Green Scout and Guide HQ

Sunday 14 June – Buxton Fire Station – 9 spaces

All bookings can be made here [Learning & Development | Girlguiding Derbyshire](#). If the course is full, please join the waitlist.

Other training opportunities

All Members Call – Tuesday 17 March 7:30pm–8:30pm

For further details: [All member and volunteer calls | Girlguiding](#)

Face-to-Face Safer Guiding training

A trainer led session to complete Girlguiding's safeguarding training for all volunteers. This is an alternative to the 3-hour e-learning option.

Please wear uniform if you have it and bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Matlock Green Scout and Guide HQ – Sunday 26th April 9:30am–14:30pm

To book: [Safer Guiding – Sun 26 Apr 2026 – Matlock Green Scout and Guide HQ Tickets, Sunday, Apr 26 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm | Eventbrite](#)

Events

Date	Event	Venue	Booking link/more information
Sat 14th March	Youth United Event	The Community Hub, Albion Walk	We are looking for volunteers to help run our stall in Derby. More details on page 4
Sat 21 st March 2026	County Day 2026	David Nieper Academy	Bookings are now closed. We look forward to seeing all booked on, on the 21st March
17-19 th April 2026	County social weekend	Pax Tor, Darley Dale	Booking link: https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/leaders-social-weekend
Friday 1 st - Sunday 3 rd May	County Water Weekend	Trent Lock Scout Activity Centre	Booking link: https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/girlguiding-derbyshire-county-water-activities-camp
Sat 9th May	Belper Town Football takeover	Belper Town Football club	All sections football event, led by coaches. More details coming soon!

Commissioner support

Derbyshire Commissioner support zoom calls 2026 - for all ACs and DCs:

- Monday 1 June
- Tuesday 13 October

Please put the dates in your diaries- a good opportunity to share information and support each other in your role.

Saturday 9th-Sunday 10th May- Midlands Commissioner weekend

- Jubilee Conference Centre, Nottingham
- There is no cost to this event. More details will be shared ASAP

Wednesday 10 June - Chat with confidence

- There is no cost to this event. More details will be shared ASAP

UK Commissioner call

- Wednesday 9 June - 8 - 9pm
- Held on zoom. Tailored updates and insights to support you in your leadership

County Day 2026

County Day 2026- details

Please wear your uniform, bring your lunch and a reusable cup for hot and cold drinks. The cost to attend is £6 which can be claimed from unit funds. You need to make payment for this either by cheque or BACS as soon as you are able. Payment details:

Market Place

There will be an opportunity to buy items from the Derby Guide shop as well as talk to the different advisors we have in the county. Members from the county Rome to Home team will also be in attendance, raising money for their trip this summer.

Help needed!

Coming to county day and able to lend a hand?

We need help with the following 'jobs' to ensure county day can run smoothly. If you can help, please contact Rachel on accgrowth@girlguidingderbyshire.org

- Registration- checking in members and handing out information packs
- Signage around the site- setting up and collecting in at the end
- Transporting items from the county office to Alfreton and back again
- Car park- supporting members with finding the venue and parking

County water weekend:

Friday 1st May (18:00) – Sunday 3rd May (16:00)

Held at Trent Lock Scout Activity Centre. This event is for Guide units to come along, camp, try new activities, build confidence and enjoy being outdoors. A unit may take up to six Guide places with one accompanying leader. Cost is £65 for girls and £20 for leaders which includes camping, food and activities across the weekend. For more details please contact James on

water@girlguidingderbyshire.org or see the booking link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/girlguiding-derbyshire-county-water-activities-camp>

Bridge the Gap- Art Competition

We are helping to spread the word about an Art Competition for children aged 7-14 in Derby that is currently open for entries. It is free to take part and there are some great prizes up for grabs.

The organisation running the competition is a not-profit that provides early-intervention mental health and emotional literacy support for children and families. Bridge The Gap's 'This is what hope looks like' Art Competition invites young people to express their interpretation of hope. Submissions can be created in any medium – from paint and collage to digital art or photography!

All entrants' work will be displayed at an exhibition at Derby QUAD and 12 talented winners will have their artwork featured alongside a 'Walk of Hope' at an upcoming Gala Dinner in support of Bridge The Gap.

Please note, the deadline for submissions is 6th March 2026.

Competition details and submission

here: <https://www.wearebridgethegap.com/hope>

DofE Advisor- Vacancy

Danielle is now heading off on her coast-to-coast walking tour and will no longer be running DofE. This is an opportunity to take over the post and ensure DofE continues within our county.

DofE is well established in our county and run by multiple units, about 30 girls complete an expedition each year. As DofE Advisor, it is your role to co-ordinate this well-established team, supporting units, so that they can give girls the opportunities to challenge themselves. The DofE advisor approves the DofE expeditions, organises assessors, and verifies the completed awards. No walking or DofE qualifications are necessary, but a knowledge of DofE is helpful. A full handover, training and support can be given, so if you're new to DofE but fancy the role, please don't let this put you off. The role could also be job shared.

Contact dofe@girlguidingderbyshire.org or

accprogramme@girlguidingderbyshire.org for more information.

If you would like to follow along with Danielle's travels, please see this link to her blog:

<https://zigzagginguptheuk.com/>

Netherlands Cycling trip update

The leadership team for the trip is now in place, now we just need some girls!

The trip is joint with Derbyshire Scouts and open to Guides aged 12+ and Rangers.

Trip dates are Saturday 21st August – Sunday 29th August 2027.

We are running selection rides around the County in April, May, and June 2026, with monthly training rides to get us fit and used to riding as a group.

All the info for selection dates will be shared in the next County newsletter, or email Netherlands@girlguidingderbyshire.org for updates, or see us at County Day.

Belper Town Football takeover

Back for 2026! We will be taking over Belper Town Football club again with places for Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

When? Saturday 9th May 2026

Cost- £5 per person

What is the event? Skills training sessions in the morning led by different coaches and then all sections tournament in the afternoon.

More details to follow but save the date!

We are also looking for volunteers to help run the event. If you are passionate about football, passionate about Girlguiding or sports in general then please consider volunteering. There are roles for everyone to help from registration, supporting activities, photography and more! Contact Lucie on accprogramme@girlguidingderbyshire.org for more information.

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers for a Youth United event on 14 March 2026, 10am–1pm at The Community Hub, Albion Walk (Derbion). (set up from 9.30am) Help us run our stand and chat with young people while promoting Girlguiding Derbyshire.

Derbyshire Police, Fire, St John Ambulance & Scouts will also be attending.

Please message Lucie on accprogramme@girlguidingderbyshire.org you can help for all or part of the event!

There is a Youth United meeting taking place on the 4th March, 7pm at our Ripley office that anyone helping is welcome to join, although this isn't necessary.

Walking CPD sessions 2026

We are pleased to tell you that we are now launching our walking CPD programme for 2026.

Details are below for you. Do share this within your walking communities too.

Everyone with a current walking qualification on GO should receive an email with this information later this week.

The sessions are now available to book via the Girlguiding Learning Platform here: <https://learning.girlguiding.org.uk/course/view.php?id=745>

The confirmation email will include the Zoom link for the session.

We have some great sessions scheduled for this year's CPD programme. These are:

Understanding your responsibilities as a leader, learning through the mistakes of others with Paul Smith on Monday 16 March at 7.00pm

Understanding your responsibilities as a leader, learning through the mistakes of others with Paul Smith on Monday 23 March at 7.00pm

Mindfulness and walking with Helen Smale on Monday 20 April at 7.00pm

Upland wildlife with Joyce Reid and Anna Hill on Monday 27 April at 7.00pm

If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please book soon via the Learning Platform, as places are limited.

Region opportunities

There are a number of events and opportunities advertised on the Region calendar: https://www.girlguiding-midlands.org.uk/whats-on/calendar/?cal_month=3&cal_year=2026

Coming up in March:

Successful Recruitment Stands- online webinar talking about how to promote and recruit for Girlguiding- Mon 16th March

Coming up in April:

Neurodiversity Matters- online webinar helping to expand your knowledge when working with members who are neurodiverse- Sat 11th April

Click to book: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/leaders-social-weekend>

Adult members social weekend

Fri 17–Sun 19th April

Pax Tor

Come and socialise with other leaders from across our County

Walks, campfire, meals and general down time together

Limited space available. See link to book your place

Three different options:

1. 2x night stay (Friday/Saturday) £25
2. 1x night stay (Friday or Saturday) £15
3. Day visit only (Saturday) £5



PAX TOR

Make it your next adventure!



We are a fully-equipped and refurbished residential house catering for up to 24 members for all sections, payable per person per night, located on a wooded hillside on the edge of the Peak District in Darley Dale.

The house is a home-from-home providing a cosy living experience with outdoor campfire cooking facilities and covered crafting area.

For further information go to <https://www.girlguidingderbyshire.org/pax-tor-derwent-valley>





ALLERGY & FREE FROM SHOW

9-10 MAY 2026 • NEC, BIRMINGHAM

**Exclusive offer for
Girlguiding
members and
their families**

If you or someone in your family lives with allergies, intolerances or specific dietary needs, the Allergy & Free From Show is a brilliant weekend out packed with inspiration, advice and hands-on experiences.

Taking place on 9-10 May at the NEC Birmingham, the show brings together hundreds of trusted brands, expert clinicians, nutritionists and campaigners. You'll be able to discover safe and delicious free-from food, skincare and household products, hear from leading voices in health and wellbeing, and get practical, evidence-based advice you can really trust.



Why attend?

Meet with 150+ brands and sample the latest free from products

Listen and learn from a stellar line-up of speakers

Watch live cooking demonstrations in the Kitchen sponsored by Arla LactoFREE

Brand new for 2026 – visit the Hormone Health Hub and explore the latest insights and expert guidance on hormonal health

Explore the Health & Wellness Zone for feel-good inspiration

Register now and join thousands of others who are taking control of their health and wellbeing at the Allergy & Free From Show.

**To book your place click the link below and enter the code
GIRLGUIDING when securing tickets. Tickets can be secured for you
and your family**

The Allergy & Free From Show - The Allergy And Free From Show Tickets | Sat 9th - Sun 10th May 2026



Girlguiding

Girlguiding Walking Week 2026

Saturday 17- Friday 23 October 2026

Brathay, Ambleside, Cumbria

At the Girlguiding walking week 2026 you will be able to do either a walking course or social walking. You should aim to arrive late afternoon or early evening on Saturday 17 October.

☛ Are you interested in attending a training course to extend your existing walking skills?

☛ Have you previously completed a training course and are now ready for assessment?

Would you like to:

- Enjoy a walk for pleasure in the Lake District with like-minded people
- Complete a Logbook walk or Quality Mountain Day towards your walking qualification or renewal
- Extend your existing walking skills and gain experience of walking in your chosen level of countryside with support from other experienced walkers
- Attend a skills workshop to refresh or extend your current skills
- Share walking information and experience with other leaders

Walking Courses

These courses will further develop your skills so that you can lead fun walking activities in more remote areas, that will build girls and young women's confidence, as well as giving them time out in the open air to think and re-charge. Our courses are open to all Girlguiding members aged 18 and over, who have the relevant walking experience. Bursaries to cover 50% of the course fee or 50% of travel costs will be available for those who will use the qualification to take young members into the hills.

You can find out more about Mountain Training walking qualifications here: <https://www.mountain-training.org/qualifications/walking/>

We are not planning to offer Girlguiding L3 training or assessment courses this year.

If you have any queries or need help with deciding which course is right for you, speak to your country/region walking adviser or contact walking@girlguiding.org.uk.

Mountain Training Hill and Moorland Leader (HML) Training

If you are already qualified at Level 2 with further hill walking experience, this course is a natural next step. However, you do not need to have gained a walking qualification to do HML training if you already have enough relevant experience. You need to have logged at least 20 quality hill days. This course is 3 days in duration, from Sunday 18 to Tuesday 20 October. You can choose to book for social walking too for the rest of the week if you wish to, or depart on Wednesday am.

Mountain Training Hill and Moorland Leader (HML) Assessment

This course is for those who have completed HML or ML training, or who have had MT exemption from HML training, and who have logged at least 40 quality hill days. This course is 3 days in duration, from Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 October. You can choose to book for social walking too at the start of the week if you wish to.

Mountain Training Mountain Leader (ML) Training

This course is for those with experience in remote and extreme country who have logged at least 20 quality mountain days. This course is 6 days in duration, departing Friday 23 October pm.

Mountain Training Mountain Leader (ML) Assessment

This course is for those who have completed Mountain Leader training or have had exemption from such training from MT, and who have logged at least 40 quality mountain days. This course is 5 days in duration, departing Friday 23 October am.

Social Walking

You can choose to enjoy a leisurely lowland ramble or scale a mountain or do something in between. You can come for just a few days or the whole week, as you prefer.

This event is open to all Girlguiding members and volunteers aged 18 and over.

This event is suitable for those with some hill walking and navigation experience. A Girlguiding walking scheme trainer will be present to help you choose a walk suitable for your experience and walking objectives. Ideas for walk routes will be available. You will be able to get together with other participants to form small walking groups and choose your routes each day, either self-led or led by other participants. We will also be offering some skills workshops on different days during the week, such as ML ropework refresher, gaining confidence to lead Grade 1 scrambles, upland wildlife for example. We will do our best to tailor the workshops to the needs of those present and availability of appropriate instructors during the week, so please do let us know in advance what skills you would be interested in.