

From the County Commissioner....

How things change from one bulletin to another! Here we are with the 'guiding in lockdown' edition of the bulletin - not something I would have dreamt of when writing for the bulletin in January.

It's been impressive to see the creativity and adaptability shown by so many of our leaders and girls in these strange times.



There have been virtual meetings on Zoom, there have been craft packs delivered to garden gates on daily walks and challenges issued by email. Over the school holidays, units have joined in enthusiastically with our LEAPover, clearly demonstrating that whilst we may be apart, we are still together.

Whilst you cannot meet or get together in the usual ways, we know you are enjoying meeting online, chatting on the phone and interacting on social media. Guiding goes on and we'll appreciate our girls all the more when we're back in our units later this year.

Rachel Webb-Jenkins

A huge thank you to all those units who paid their subscriptions on time!

Over the last five years I have had a great time being Rachel's assistant county commissioner along with Seonaid. We have created many memories together and I hope we created many for you and your units too. We will be sharing many of these with you in the autumn at our celebration event.

Moving forward to July when I become county commissioner, I would like to introduce you to Laura Clarke from Leicester East division and Megan Thomas from Leicester South division who have agreed to be my assistants.



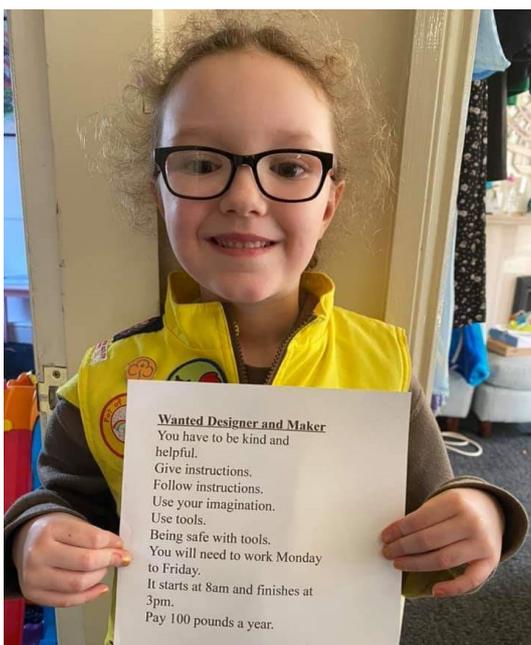
Laura is an experienced leader; she has been a commissioner and has lots of experience in events.

Megan is currently a Brownie leader and has previously held roles at all levels of guiding.



We are looking forward to the challenge of the next five years, but we will need your help along the way, so keep reading the Bulletin and stay in touch through social media to find out how you and your units can have a voice and get involved in Girlguiding Leicestershire.

Sam Harrold



A Brownie from 3rd Broughton Astley Brownies completing her Jobs badge at home.

Looks like this could be a very interesting dream job.

Anna Ranson
3rd Broughton Astley Brownie leader





Midlands Region

Chief Commissioner's Award 2020

Do you know someone who has given outstanding service at a local level? Someone who has made a real impact to guiding locally? Then please nominate them for a Chief Commissioner's Award.

The nominee's local commissioner and county commissioner must sign the application form. The proposed date for the presentation in 2020 is Sunday 6 December, subject to confirmation.

Please note: There is a new form to be used for this year's award - please do not use old forms. Contact Maggie Silver (maggie.silver@outlook.com) for advice/copies of the form/notes for those making nominations, and return completed forms to maggie.silver@outlook.com to arrive no later than **Friday 22nd May 2020** - please note that there will be **NO extension to this submission deadline**. If you wish to send by snail mail, please email Maggie for her home address - please **DO NOT** post to County Office as it is currently closed.

A description of what makes the nominee special and stand out will be required on the new form. This recognition is not to be used as a long service award.

Maggie Silver
County Awards Adviser



Sadly, Jungle Jinks Brownie Camp is cancelled for August 2020. It will make a comeback in summer 2021.

All cheques received will be destroyed. Any queries, please contact office@leicestershireguides.org

ROOOOAAAAARRRR.

New appointments

Laura Clarke	Assistant County Commissioner
Megan Thomas	Assistant County Commissioner
Lindsey Hutchinson	Woodbrook District Commissioner

We wish them all the best in their new roles!





Hi everyone!

Those of you who don't know me, I'm Naomi. I'm the Leicestershire 18-30 coordinator and I am currently devising some new content for Girlguiding Leicestershire's social media pages.

During this lockdown phase, we're really trying to utilise our resources and get as many girls as possible to not only continue with their usual guiding activities, but also to attract new girls and volunteers for when we have the go ahead to meet face to face again.

If you have any interesting stories or photos of meetings which you have been holding during this period suitable for social media, please send them to me, ensuring you have the relevant photo permission.

Additionally, I am wanting to put a few quotes, profiles and guiding stories together. So if you or any of your girls have any exciting, inspiring or wonderful stories about individuals or even leaders themselves, please send them to me with a picture, after checking that you have their permission. My email address is

naomi.lowe95@hotmail.co.uk

I will do my best to share as many of your stories and events as possible.

If you have anything exciting in the future, please also send your info and photos to this address.

And if you aren't already, please follow us on:

Instagram: @girlguidingleicestershire

Facebook: Girlguiding Leicestershire

Twitter: GirlguidingLeic

Please do not send photos/stories/events directly to these pages as they may not get picked up and shared.

Naomi Lowe

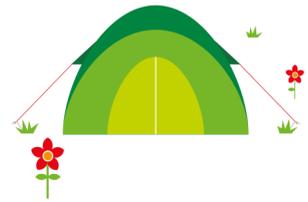
The closing date for the next issue will be

Monday 29 June

Please send all articles to office@leicestershireguides.org



Leicestershire's Easter Adventure Party!



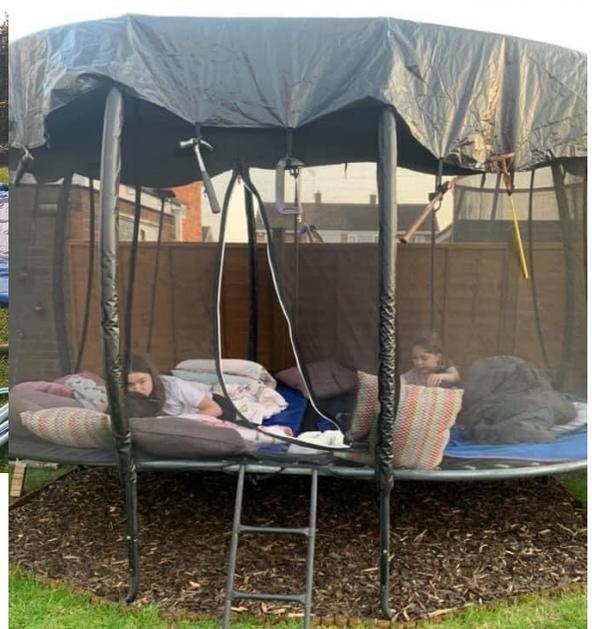
Did you LEAPover?



- Pack your bag (remembering your pyjamas!)



- Sleep over at least one night somewhere that it is not your bed - a den, a tent, a blanket fort, a sheet over the washing line - everything counts!
- Take a photo of your 'tent' and share it



- Help to make a meal



- Wash up!



LEAPover

- Have a campfire - real or pretend - and sing your favourite campfire songs.



- Write a letter, card or draw a picture for someone who you haven't seen for a while or someone who is on their own



Training

The county training team are a group of enthusiastic volunteers who take part in running their local units and enjoy sharing their knowledge and skills with you. We run sessions for everyone including those new to leadership, young leaders and commissioners as well as our more experienced leaders.

Some of the training sessions we run are mandatory (A Safe Space and 1st Response), others are useful for camps and holidays (backwoods cooking and food hygiene). We also deliver training to explain and enhance the guiding programme including additional activities to support you developing the girls and young women in your units.



This year we have launched 'New to guiding' training sessions, aimed to provide new adult volunteers an introduction to Girlguiding including our structure, a brief history and offering an opportunity to ask questions, no matter how great or small they may seem.

As a county, we want to make our training sessions as open and accessible to everyone. Last autumn we asked you to complete a survey telling us what we could do to help everyone access our trainings better and make our sessions more relevant.

These are the main points raised and what we are trying to do to help you.

Expense of trainings. Girlguiding Leicestershire does not charge for training, although other counties may do so if you attend their sessions. All reasonable costs incurred for attending a training (travel, parking, resources) are legitimate expenses that can be reclaimed from your unit.

The day or time of trainings is not convenient. The team do offer sessions during the daytime, evenings and at weekends. If these are not convenient please let your commissioner know and we will try to accommodate you.

The trainings are not held in convenient locations e.g. little parking, poor access via public transport. We have started to run leader days around the county, please make sure you check the website for more information when the COVID-19 restrictions are removed. We are happy to run sessions on days, times and at locations that suit our members. This month every commissioner should receive updated details of how to request local trainings in their area.

Thank you to the 212 members who responded, and for all the positive feedback on what we already offer.

If we can help in any way, please speak to your commissioner and we will do our best to provide the support you need.

We are always looking to increase the number of trainers we have in the county. If you are interested in becoming a trainer or simply finding out more about what the role involves please get in touch.

Nicola Burnett
Training Coordinator



Training

Whilst we are unable to offer face to face training there are several on line sessions you can complete to help keep up to date and go towards your Leadership qualification.

Leaders in training - those marked with * will count toward your qualification

* **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW** [go to the e-learning programme overview](#)

SKILLS BUILDERS AND UNIT MEETING ACTIVITIES [go to the unit meeting activities and skills builders e-learning](#)

INTEREST BADGES [go to interest and anniversary badges e-learning](#)

AWARDS [go to the awards e-learning](#)

* **PROGRAMME PLANNING** [go to the programme planning e-learning](#)

Or you could log into a webinar with a qualified trainer

Webinar - To attend a webinar, which is a live event online, check out the schedule in your events pages on GO. Webinars are booked on a first come, first served basis so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment

BRANDING - how to create the right image of Girlguiding and keep to branding guidelines
[go to branding e-learning](#)

DATA PROTECTION /GDPR [go to keeping information safe e-learning](#)

Commissioners have you completed this? [go to being a commissioner e-learning](#)

Mentors a chance to upskill [go to mentoring e-learning](#)

***And remember to do your A Safe Space levels 1 and 2 if you haven't already done them!** If you are not sure which levels you need please check with your Commissioner.

[A Safe Space Level 1 e-learning](#)

[A Safe Space Level 2 e-learning](#)

Detail of all these are on [the Girlguiding website](#).

In this challenging time you might find this helpful
[go to MindEd](#)

Eileen Melling
Membership Support coordinator

MindEd

Girlguiding and MindEd have created an e-learning pathway for our members, covering mental health and young people. To access the modules, register and select 'Girlguiding' as your user group >



Upcoming trainings

Full 1st Response

This is a mandatory training for those new to guiding. The qualification is valid for three years and the full course is also necessary if you have not completed a refresher within six months of your qualification expiring.



Monday 10 August

9.30am - 4.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW



1st Response Refresher



You have six months after your 1st Response expires to complete the 1st Response Refresher. If you don't complete your 1st Response Refresher in this time, your qualification will no longer be valid. You will then need to complete the Full 1st Response course again, in order to be the named first aider for your unit or for any activities.

Sunday 5 July

1.30pm - 3.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Look on our website for training date updates

To book a place on a training, please complete the on-line booking form via [our website](#)

- Bookings will be *provisional* until you have received a *confirmation* email from County Office.
- Please do not just turn up - courses could be full.
- Uniform/guide wear is worn at all trainings.
- There is no charge for the training sessions. However, for 1st Response only, if you fail to let County Office know that you are unable to attend, then your division will be charged £5 per place.
- There is often a waiting list so PLEASE tell us, if for any reason, you have to cancel.



Upcoming Trainings

A Safe Space

Levels 1 and 2

Introduction and creating a safe space

Required for everyone including assistant leaders, occasional helpers, young leaders, unit helpers and home contacts.

Available as e-learning on Girlguiding website.



Level 3

Recognising, telling and taking action - for unit leaders, residential leads and event coordinators, mentors, advisers and trainers

At least one leader, assistant leader or leader in training in every unit needs to complete this training. Leaders in all roles must have the correct level of A Safe Space by December 2020.

Sunday 5 July

9.30am - 12.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Monday 12 October

6.30pm - 9.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Friday 6 November

6.30pm - 9.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Sunday 13 December

9.30am - 12.30pm

County Office, 97 Princess Road East, Leicester, LE1 7DW

Level 4

Managing concerns, allegations and disclosures - for commissioners only

Please note: you must complete Level 3 before attending this course.

To be arranged - check our website for future dates.

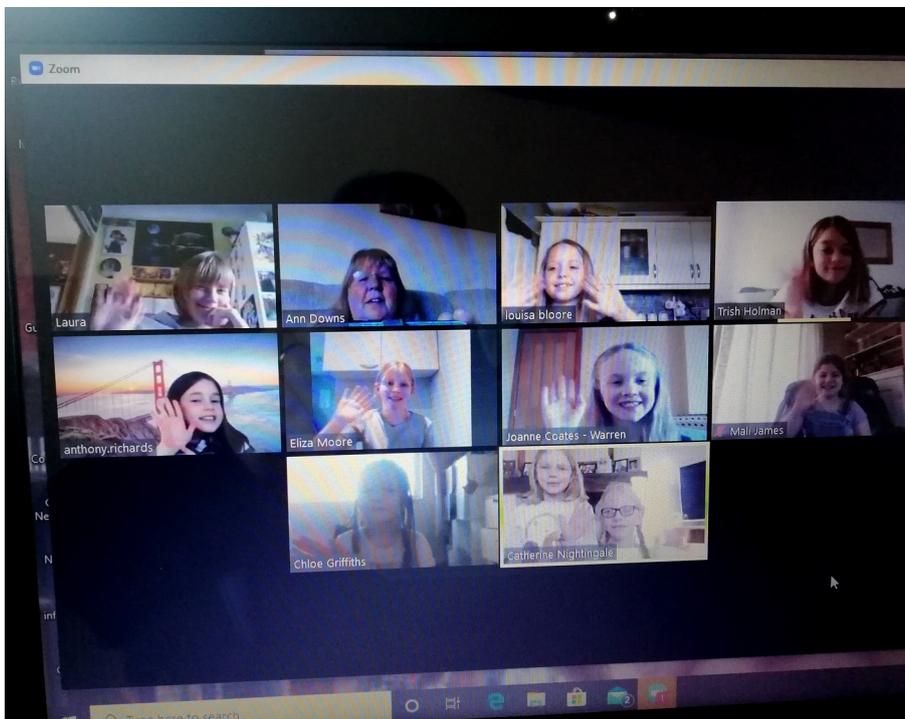


Virtual meetings - one leader's experience

It was with trepidation that I started to explore the possibility of hosting a Zoom meeting for my Brownies. However I was starting to miss those little faces and the buzz I usually get from our meetings. Also I thought it might help the girls (and families) to give them something other than home or school work to think about.

I set out ground rules based on Girlguiding's recommendations (there's now a permission form on the website.) I had 12 parents agree immediately and with a second email after our first meeting a further 3 signed up. I was all set - or so I thought!

First meeting scheduled for normal Brownie time - complete fail - panic as all the parents tried to contact me to see what had gone wrong! We rescheduled for the following day after tuition from a mum who uses Zoom for her work. There are also useful guides on the Zoom site that have now been put up, including videos - you have to create an account to see them.



Success, 12 little faces and two leaders appeared - but the noise! Note to self make sure you find the 'mute all' button for next meeting. All chatted and set a challenge (Positive pebbles) also did a scavenger hunt (lots of bottles of wine appeared for W). We found 35 to 40 minutes was quite enough - and I was one very happy leader feeling decidedly pleased with herself.

Other challenges were set over the next two meetings - inviting everyone in the house to become the 'team' required to fulfil the UMA aims.

Hole in one was very popular and it was good to see pictures on our Facebook page. This has also been a brilliant way of showing evidence and seeing what the girls have been up to, as well as seeing the family working together. It also gives the adults a break - they seem grateful for another adult making decisions.

Zoom will not be for everyone - we all have our own concerns at the moment and **should not feel pressured** into anything - but for those wondering if they could, I would say give it a go. Yes, I am concerned about the girls I don't reach however I'm now in email contact with some and setting challenges. Yes, the internet lets us down sometimes (last meeting for example) but on the whole I feel better after a meeting. The response from parents, who are so grateful that there is a chance to see friends and do something 'normal' in this otherwise very strange time, makes me think I did make the right choice for our unit.

Ann Downs
1st Barlestone Brownie leader



Sharing programme resources online

As some members have continued to run guiding online while units are not meeting in person, Girlguiding want to help bring the fun and adventure of our programme to girls in this difficult time.

Girlguiding are sharing 2 programme activities for each section every week - you can use these for virtual meetings or girls can do them themselves - see [adventures at home](#).

Girlguiding have added a lot of guidance to their website regarding the sharing and adapting of resources while we are in lockdown. Look at [using programme activities and resources for virtual guiding](#) for the full information but here are the important points.

Copying and sharing activity cards

If you're running virtual meetings, you can copy and share unit meeting activity cards and skills builder activity cards with girls and their parents or carers as well as with your leadership team. You can also share any extra activity information, so they can do activities at home.

You can only share cards with members and volunteers in your own unit and if you have the original unit meeting or skills builder activity card.

Girlguiding are sharing activities from the programme that can be done at home every week in our Adventures at home section - these cards can be shared with friends, family and other volunteers and you don't need to be a member to try them out.

Once we get back to have in-person unit meetings, activity cards should not be shared and you will need to follow the usual guidelines on using programme materials.

Adapting activities

You might need to adjust programme activities to make them more suitable for doing at home, with limited supplies or in a virtual meeting.

If you do make any changes, make sure your updates are clearly labelled with your unit name or logo, so everyone can see who made the adaptation. Adaptations should only be used while we're not having usual unit meetings and are not for use instead of buying the activity card.

Interest badges and badge books

Information about interest badges in the badge books cannot be copied or shared directly.

If a girl in your unit has started an interest badge and wants to finish it, but doesn't have her badge book at home, you can remind them of the remaining challenges. But you cannot directly share any badge content from the books.

Girlguiding have created new badge planning sheets to help leaders and families to support girls to complete interest badges at home if they wish to do so.

- [Download the Rainbows badge planning sheet](#)
- [Download the Brownies badge planning sheet](#)
- [Download the Guides badge planning sheet](#)
- [Download the Rangers badge planning sheet](#)





International opportunities for girls



The international selection weekend became an international day!

The girls attended an action-packed day with challenges from trying foods from around the world, navigating the centenary scramble wearing a full back pack to even some yoga! The girls all entered the spirit of the event and the squeals followed by comments of 'that's not bad' were great to hear.



A huge thanks to Ruth Blackwell and Diane Goldby for coordinating the day, Amanda Tomsett for taking the bookings and of course all the division international advisers who supported.

At the moment, we are unable to tell the girls anything but will be writing to them in due course so they know we have not forgotten them. There will be opportunities, we just don't know what - yet!

Janet Gelsthorpe
Guiding Development



My birthday turning seventy should be a celebration;
My present from the government was home self-isolation.
I want to reassure you all I had a lovely day
And thank you for good wishes which so many sent my way.
There's others there among you who have things to celebrate
Which will take place in different ways as you self-isolate.
But let us make the most of this unusual situation
As after all we're British and resilient as a nation!
Together we can beat this thing if we all keep the rules
to social distance properly and not behave like fools!
Just look out of your windows at the flowers and the birds
The beauty of the springtime and new life is beyond words.
Our lockdown is like winter and we're all in hibernation
But once this thing's all over we'll reunite with jubilation.



Pam Cornish
Guiding Essentials





Girlguiding Parkrun takeover - Rutland

Girlguiding Rutland, for the second year in a row, took over a junior Parkrun. A very successful event with over 50 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers, all supporting the junior Parkrun with marshalling and running the full distance of the course.



Supported by leaders we gave out scrummy cupcakes and the event was covered in the local press including Rutland Radio and the Rutland Mercury newspaper.



Girls were thrilled to receive a badge and are looking forward to next year when Girlguiding takes over to encourage them and their friends to do their best.



Nichola Resoli
1st Barleythorpe Brownie leader





Girlguiding Parkrun takeover - Conkers

It was a challenging morning for all of us with the unknown virus situation and whether it would affect attendance numbers of runners, but more crucially volunteers. The guiding turnout was incredible, real commitment!



Thank you, Alyson, for leading the great effort and also to Kris and Joe for the very big part they played. Rebecca and Jenny were spot on with timing and Dianne's number checking was spot on. The results were faultless.

Well done to all the helpers!



Dianne Letts
Ashby Division Commissioner





Girlguiding Parkrun takeover - Market Harborough

On the weekend of 14 and 15 March Market Harborough Division came together to take part in the Midlands parkrun takeovers weekend.



We volunteered and took part at both the 5km and junior events across the weekend with over 90 girls, leaders and parents involved.

It was a fantastic weekend and although we didn't beat our record breaking junior parkrun numbers from our first takeover in 2019 we certainly came close! Thank you to everyone involved especially the parkrun teams from both events for their support.

Denise Cannadine
Market Harborough Division Commissioner



Guiding Essentials Leicestershire

The shop is currently closed due to the lockdown.

Badges, badges, badges.

You may have seen that Girlguiding, in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, has produced a badge to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day (Friday 8 May). Leicestershire Guiding Essentials shop have pre-ordered 1000 of these badges, which cost £2. These will arrive when Trading Services reopen - at a date as yet unknown. Perhaps you might want to have a virtual VE Day 75th anniversary party with the girls in your units or they could organise a party with their families?



You will also be wanting badges that your girls have earned during the lockdown. Orders can be sent by email - equipstore@leicestershireguides.org. These will be stored in date order and fulfilled when we are able to open again.

We also have more Australian Bushfire badges at £2.50 which arrived just before the lockdown began.

For up to date information check the shop page at

leicestershireguides.org

or contact 0116 204 4902

or email equipstore@leicestershireguides.org

Please support our shop as surplus income from sales comes back into the county, for the benefit of all our girls and leaders.



Badges galore!

1st Hamilton Brownies have not let the lack of 'usual' meetings stop them working towards their interest badges and clocking up more UMA minutes.



Since restrictions were put in place Brownies have been baking, painting, growing vegetables and investigating mindfulness. They have also been painting pebbles with messages, dancing, creating rooms in boxes, finding alternative ways of sharing their promise and creating stories using their senses.

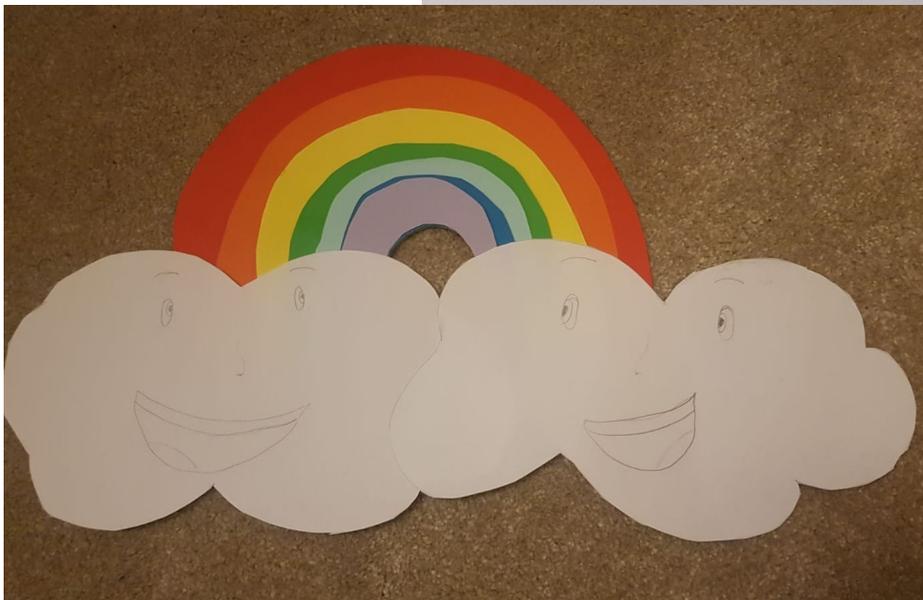


We can't wait to see what they will produce in the next few weeks!

Laura Clarke
1st Hamilton Brownie leader



Here are a few pictures of rainbows our Guides have been doing this week that they have put in their windows.



Tracey Ball
Oadby & Wigston Division
Commissioner





Ada from 4th Barwell Rainbows showing us how she did the Plait a mat unit meeting activity at home with her Mum.

Sam Harrold
4th Barwell (Chapel Street Methodist) Rainbow leader

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