



## **1. Summary of the Organisation**

- 1.1 Girlguiding is the leading UK charity for girls and young women. Girlguiding gives girls opportunity to try adventurous activities, cooking, camping, games and more.
- 1.2 After a long absence in Wilmington, 19<sup>th</sup> Dartford Brownies was successfully launched in April 2019 and have continued to thrive since. The unit started with 14 Brownies and has grown to between 18 and 22 girls throughout this year with numbers fluctuating as girls move to Guides.
- 1.3 As expected, Girlguiding's membership has reduced in the last year mainly because of the pandemic. We have seen an overall decline of 30%. Girlguiding now has a 320,000 strong membership made up of 240,000 young members and 80,000 volunteers. A decline was inevitable after the past year, but the fact that nine out of 10 volunteers and two in every three members have remained with us throughout is a real achievement.
- 1.4 More positively, 19<sup>th</sup> Dartford Brownies has seen five Brownies successfully move onto Guides in West Dartford. We do not currently have a Guide Unit in Wilmington, although this is something we will pursue when adult volunteers are recruited. Two adult volunteers have also joined and become an invaluable part of the Unit team.

## **2. Our Activities since March 2020**

- 2.1 This year has brought unprecedented change to how we run our weekly Brownie meetings. After the initial lockdown was announced, 19<sup>th</sup> Dartford Brownies immediately swapped to Zoom calls where girls logged on each week to complete badges, craft activities and play games. Some highlights of our initial Zoom sessions included scavenger hunts, making a room in a shoebox, dance activities, and mug cake cooking!
- 2.2 In September, we briefly returned to outdoor face-to-face meetings with the added challenge of social distancing 7-9year olds in a large field! Here the girls enjoyed outdoor games and science-based activities. We were even able to go indoors for a couple of weeks before locking down again after October half-term.
- 2.3 From October to March we continued to Zoom, with the Brownies completing more badges, cooking and craft activities. A favourite of the Brownies was completing the 'Feathers and Flamingos' challenge badge, culminating in all the Brownies participating in the Big Garden Birdwatch with their families.
- 2.4 On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, we finally were allowed to meet face to face at Paxwood, our local Wilmington Campsite. The Brownies enthusiastically launched back with slime, an adventure assault course and a woodland scavenger hunt.

## **3. Member Achievements**

- 3.1 The achievements of the Brownies themselves this year, despite the pandemic, should be recognised. Collectively the girls have achieved 57 skills builder badges, 19 theme awards, almost 50 interest badges and 4 section awards, including 3 Bronze awards and 1 Silver Award.
- 3.2 Brownies also complete UMAs which give points towards theme awards in minutes, since starting Brownies, the current girls have collectively completed 21,645 minutes of UMAs alone.

## **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Despite the dramatic changes to Brownie meetings, 19<sup>th</sup> Dartford Brownies has offered fun activities throughout the pandemic, providing a familiar routine for girls in a time of turmoil. I would like to thank all the adult volunteers, young leaders, parent and members of the community for their continuing support in running the unit.



Photos (from top left to bottom right):

- Slime activity at Paxwood;
- 'Hole in One!' Make your own golf course.
- Remembrance wreaths
- Chill out 'Catch a story' time.
- Distanced team sports activities.
- Brownie Zoom Party with strange headwear.
- Canvas bags decorated as part of a 'Make Change' environmentally focussed evening.