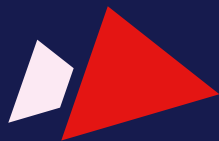




**Girlguiding**  
Ayrshire North county

# Annual Report

2023 – 2024



# County President Report

I am sitting writing this just having attended the Annual FOGGS meeting in Stirling. FOGGS stands for Friends of Girl Guiding Scotland. The purpose of this group is to raise funds to help support guiding in Scotland. Money is used to support the opening of new units or re-opening of units. This is always an expensive time having to buy books, badges, craft materials and everything else. Please remember this and always know there are ways that units can be helped.

Another extremely important part for the members is the opportunity to meet up with guiding friends, often made over many years.

This summer some of our girls went to Larkin Camp in Yorkshire and also to Calgary in Canada. You will learn more about these camps in another report BUT I feel absolutely sure that the girls that went will have made friends both with those within their own group and those they met whilst there.

I think this is one of the most important things that we have in girlguiding - the opportunity to make friends and to keep them, sometimes for life. I am still in touch with someone I was in guides with in 1956! Yes, I know I'm very old!

Another really important thing I have learnt is that if you are a guide and have to move, there are always guides in your new area who will make you welcome. I have lived in 5 different counties in the UK and been involved in each county. I have even joined the Boy Scouts when I was working in Morocco as there were no guides!

What I am hoping is that all the wonderful experiences we have through guiding are valuable, we make friends and learn how to work with others and be part of a big team, as a county and as a country.

Sadly the weather has not been too good this year but lots of units have still managed to get out and about and enjoy many outdoor activities. It never fails to amaze me what wonderful ideas people have to have fun outside, even if it is just cooking sausages in the rain!!!

**"We must always remember that the journey is just as important as the destination."**



Lots of girls are working towards their various awards, and recently I was honoured to present a bronze and two gold awards to members of Kilmarnock Rangers. These are particularly impressive as the girls are of the age when exams and work also play a part in their lives.

Well done to all units working towards awards, but we must always remember that the journey is just as important as the destination.

Now, I must sadly say goodbye to Louise, Catriona and Mary who have come to the end of their time as County Commissioner and her deputies. They started at a very difficult time after COVID and have built a strong executive to support them. They have not only delivered an excellent county programme but have left the County in a strong position both in terms of members and the county structure and financially. It is not an easy task but they have done very well. I wish them a quiet "retirement" but hope we see plenty of them in the future. I take this opportunity to wish Sarah and her team all best wishes for their term of office.

**Lastly, but most importantly, I thank each and everyone of you for all you do for Ayrshire North. For being there each week for the girls; for encouraging them to do their best; for helping to overcome lots of different problems but most of all giving them the opportunity to become rounded, happy people who enjoy being part of girlguiding. Thank you.**

**Kim Main**  
County President

# County Commissioner Report

## The last 12 months have focussed on adventure, awards, and a handover!

A couple years ago we decided we'd like to try our hand at something a bit different and so for the first time we had a County group go to a jamboree down south. We had a group of 14 go to Larkin 2024 during the summer – which was a week-long Guide/Scout jamboree in North Yorkshire. I had the pleasure of being part of the team and loved every second! The weather really showed up for us and we had a fantastic time. We met old friends, and made some new friends; we visited the historic city of York; the Guides/Rangers did activities like rock climbing, open-air swimming, horse riding, kayaking, and more! The site itself had carnival rides one day, and pig racing the next (yes, really!). We enjoyed it so much that we're already talking about going to Poacher in 2026. We hope this is going to kick start a more regular pattern of going to these jamborees to provide a slightly more affordable, and accessible, international adventure.

A more far flung adventure was that a group of 8 girls and 5 leaders joined a group from Banff and Buchan for a trip to Canada. They met up with friends made back at Ayrwaves 2017, met lots of Canadian Girl Guides, and enjoyed a stay at one of their campsites (although sleeping inside to avoid the bears! No, I'm not kidding).

We also had another joint training day with Ayrshire South, and I was particularly pleased that we managed to use the day specifically to support leaders in training by providing all of their 'formal' training in person, in one day. We also had a couple sessions on mental health awareness, led by our very own Hazel McSorley and Eilidh Gibson. It had great take up, and is possibly something we need to lean more into.



I also really enjoyed the wreath making we did in December! It was so much fun, and something a bit different.

When it comes to awards and honours – we've certainly had no shortage of them either!

We welcomed Isabel McNicoll and Irene McIlwain to our Vice President contingent. Both are wonderful ladies who've given a lot of time and energy to our County so I was really pleased to be able to extend the thanks and invite them to be Vice Presidents.

Helen Cooke of 1st Hurlford Guides also received the Scottish Chief Commissioner Award. Helen is my fellow leader at Guides, and was the one who encouraged and supported me in all my Guiding development so it was an honour to present the award to her. We managed to get a fair number of Guiding friends and family to surprise her at the end of the Unit meeting... so much so, she doesn't trust me anymore when I invite her to things or when I organise outdoor unit meetings!

We also have a new Queen's Guide in our County – Leah Finnigan. She completed the award in less than a year, having started it last summer when the age range increased. I got the opportunity to review her award and evidence and she did a really outstanding job – and has certainly set the bar high! Learning how to crochet; creating a pack with accessible games; joining Girlguiding Scotland's consultative group; and more.

And as a County we've definitely got momentum now in terms of Queen's Guide candidates. We have at least 4 people who've started in the last 12 months, and a bunch of the girls who went to Canada are interested, so it'll be exciting to see how they all get on!





In terms of young member awards, it's always a joy seeing them achieving the Gold Award – which takes so much hard work and perseverance. This year we also had two Kilmarnock Rangers achieve the Commonwealth Award – Erin Malcolm and Sophie McCabe.

At the last Annual Review we also launched a new initiative – Girlguiding Ayrshire North's Help Fund. This is something I was always keen to do and so I'm glad we made it reality. None of us want girls or volunteers to miss out on Guiding due to finances – but sometimes Units aren't able to subsidise, or there can be embarrassment/ shame from parents and they don't want to raise it with Unit Leaders. So this fund has parents apply directly to the County for the financial support they need – and so over the last 12 months we've given out £1500 to support specific young members and volunteers. This has mostly included vouchers for uniform, and helping cover subs for a term. The plan is to open this every term to support our members to continue in Guiding.

Finally, a really significant part of the year was bringing my term to a close and handing over to the new team. Being County Commissioner has truly been an honour, and it's hard to believe we were in COVID lockdown when I started. I extend a huge thanks to the rest of the team:

Catriona Gilmour and Mary Dunlop, Assistant County Commissioners – a great personal support to me and the ideal sounding boards! They did what was asked of them with poise, and never lost their sense of humour.

Cheryl Campbell, County Treasurer – I knew we'd work well together, and we certainly did. We elevated how County finances are planned and handled – setting us up for even more success.

Ashley McDonald, Guiding Delivery Lead – she took the leap in being the first group to go international following COVID; and helped plan and run so many amazing County events, which created some of my favourite memories from the last four years.

Fiona Malcolm, Growth & Retention Lead – she's been so level-headed, reliable, and her team got us back on the right path of onboarding and supporting new volunteers post-covid.

Claire Liddell, Marketing Communications Advisor – from day one she's taken my ramblings and turned them into legible newsletters. She updated all our branding with ease, updated the website, and started the much loved throwback Thursdays on Facebook.

Kim Main, County President – always there when you need a reminder of why we do what we do!

There are so many more people I could thank such as Division Commissioners, County Executive Trustees, Vice Presidents, the Blair Committee, Galston Friends of Guiding, those who've supported Leaders in Training, all of those who support events and volunteer onboarding, my fellow Hurlford volunteers, and my friends and family for putting up with me talking about Guiding almost 24/7. Being on this adventure with you all by my side has made it so much more fun! I also loved having our County Fun Day at the end of September as it showed our County at its best, and was a nice way to finish.

**I look forward now to seeing what the new County Commissioner team have planned. Sarah is absolutely the right person to take us forward. She has my full confidence, support, and I'll be cheering her on from the side-lines.**

**Louise Crichton**  
County Commissioner





**30**  
Units

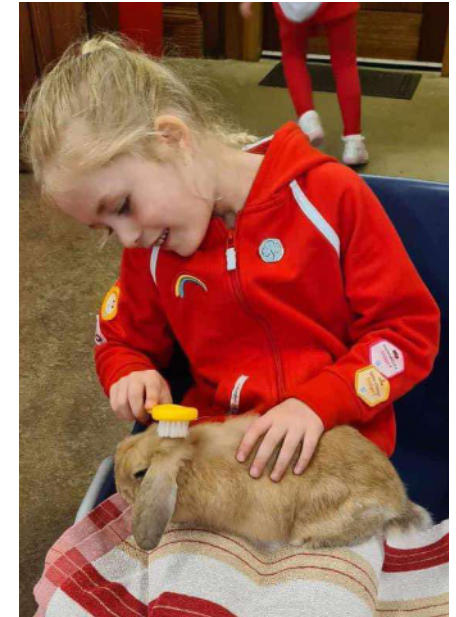
**423**  
Members



**3rd and 3rd A Howard Rainbows took part in our annual Thinking day celebration singing very enthusiastically for all their families!**

We had 13 gold awards in June and several throughout the year as well as numerous bronze and silver. Two rainbows completed every interest badge in their badge book!

And one of our favourite nights was a visit from Bunny Luv Mobile Petting Zoo.



**Lorna Miller**  
**3rd and 3rd A Howard Rainbows**



**Our Unit went to the Ayrshire North Fun Day at Blair where the girls had to find the lost Unicorns of Scotland through challenges.**

The Brownies also took a visit to Asda to learn about the food bank and the girls learned about budgeting. We donated the items bought to the food bank.

**Hazel McSorley**  
3rd Dreghorn Brownies



**Our oldest Brownies attending a sit and sew session. Lots of sore fingers but happy girls with a banner made for our hall. This was used as a leavers outing before heading for Guides.**

We also had an around the world themed Fun Day at Blair activity centre!

Barney owl celebrated her wedding with a Brownie chick night where we designed wedding dresses and learned how to dance the slosh!

**Lorna Millar**  
2nd and 2nd A Kilmarnock Brownies



106 Units  
1463 Young Members  
382 Volunteers

# Girlguiding Ayrshire North's Year in Photos





27  
Units

346  
Members

Guides  
Ayrshire North county

**Kilmaurs Guides have had a great year!**

Some of their Guides helped 15th Kilmarnock Guides with planting a hedge at Blair in October. Then in April the unit was back at Blair for a weekend residential with an Adventures in wonderland theme, based on a mix of the Have Adventures theme and Alice in Wonderland.

The girls completed activities such as potion making, did some Campfire cooking and had a movie night. A great time was had by all.

They're very much looking forward to the Science Centre Sleepover in November.

**Sarah Williams**  
1st Kilmaurs Guides

**We've had a very busy year at 1st Kilwinning Guides, starting off with a Body Shop fundraising night, followed by our Christmas Camp where we even got to experience Blair in the snow- it was magical!**

Starting back after summer we have explored Arran, where we enjoyed the ferry, the scenic views, feeding the ducks and of course, the cheese shop! We recently had a pamper night, making bath bombs and having an indoor campfire, with more marshmallows of course! We are looking forward to the next few months with the Science centre trip and another year of girl-led guiding.

**Rowan Carswell**  
1st Kilwinning Guides





We have had a busy year! Our rangers completed a whole range of activities including learning how to knit, researching family trees, gutting a fish, tin can cookery, shoe box challenge and cooking pizzas in a homemade oven.

The Rangers had also completed some training including the 14-17 year olds Safe Space with a member of county coming to deliver the training.

The Rangers explored the Kilwinning Heritage with a visit to the Abbey Clock Tower. Some of our girls also received Bronze award at the top of the Abbey Tower.

One of our Rangers completed the "Lead Away Permit" where the girls planned and organised the weekend. The highlights were the snow on the Friday and Saturday, Christmas dinner and Secret Santa.

**Betty Wilson**  
1st Kilwinning Rangers



**"Rangers is  
your space –  
where you get  
together with  
other girls to  
have fun, learn  
more, give  
back, hang out,  
and just be  
you."**

### Friday 1 December 2023

On the Friday night the day of arrival, I organised everything that was needed for the stay and got the wigwams ready for everyone that was attending.

Once everyone arrived, we put all of our things into the wigwams that we were using and made the beds in preparation for the night.

Later that night we went into the chalet and prepared the camps dinner. After we had finished we cleared the table and got ready to do the first set of arts and crafts and also put up our Christmas tree in the chalet so we could place our secret Santa gifts underneath.

Just before going to bed I made sure that everything was put away and that the chalet was clean for us for Saturday morning.

### Saturday 2 December 2023

As breakfast was at 8am, I had to make sure that the food was ready in time, with the help from everyone we were able to do just that. After breakfast was done, we went back to the wigwams to make sure they were decent and went on to our second set of activities. Once done I prepared lunch and we had to clear the tables before hand.

After lunch we did some indoor activities such as an obstacle course and indoor football. As the snowy conditions stopped us from doing anything outdoors, I had to improvise to make up from the other plans. The camp hung out in their wigwams till it was time for dinner.

At 6:30pm we had Christmas dinner with the Guides and then did the Secret Santa that was prepared by Betty and the other leaders that were there. We then ended the night with some party games and then headed back to the wigwams around 9pm.

### Sunday 3 December 2023

As we were leaving Sunday afternoon there wasn't much time for a long breakfast, it was just cereal. Not only did we have the wigwams to clean; but I also had to clean the chalet, make sure that the tables were put back, all the utensils that were used were to be put away, the food was packed up, the bathrooms were cleaned and that the floors were washed. And that took most of the morning!

For a quick lunch we had the remaining leftover and made sandwiches. With our parents coming to pick us up at 2:30pm that gave me time to do the last minute look at round to make sure heating was off, electricity was off, the wigwam keys were put back, the Chalet was locked and the key was put away.

**Rachel Walker**  
1st Kilwinning Rangers





# Kilwinning Trefoil Guild Report



**Trefoil Guild**  
Ayrshire North county

**The Kilwinning Trefoil Guild have been keeping busy this year.**

The guild celebrated their 60th birthday evening in September, many former members were invited to attend the celebrations.

The guild hosted the joint Counties lunch between Ayrshire North and Ayrshire South.

In June, the Kilwinning trefoil guild went to Troon to have a go at the Town Treasure Trail.

Many of the Trefoil Guild members have been enjoying walks with the Scottish Trefoil Ramblers. In June, walks to Upper Irvine Valley and Loudoun Hill were hosted by Elizabeth Higton. In September, one of our members lead a walk along the Clyde Walkway in Glasgow.

**Photos and notes provided by Elizabeth Howie  
Trefoil Guild**



**“The Trefoil Guild is a great place to find friendship, to get involved in new challenges, or get active in your community”**





Girlguiding  
Ayrshire North county

# International Trip to Canada

In August a group of 8 girls and 5 leaders left the county for what promised to be a once in a lifetime Canadian adventure. We met up with another Guiding group from Banff & Buchan county at the airport and boarded a plane for an 8 hour flight which was over in a flash.

Our trip was an adventure from start to finish! We kicked things off by settling into our campsite and admiring the surroundings before diving into a whirlwind of activities. At the Royal Tyrrell Museum, we toured the incredible fossil collections and got our hands dirty making fossil casts. The viewpoint from up high in the hoodoos was beautiful.

The thrill continued with a heart-pounding white water rafting trip in Canmore, where the rapids and mountain views left us breathless – and a little chilly. Exploring Cochrane was a delightful change of pace, with charming shops and the best ice cream at MacKay's. At JKL Ranch, horseback riding through scenic trails and hiking to a refreshing waterfall made for unforgettable moments and some stunning photos.

Calaway Park was a blast, with roller coasters, carnival games, and classic amusement park snacks like beaver tails – more delicious than they sound. Our cultural day was both enlightening and fun, capped off with a cosy campfire and songs under the stars. Banff offered jaw-dropping views from the Sulphur Mountain gondola and a serene boat ride on Lake Minnewanka, plus some great shopping and of course the girls found McDonalds!

The Calgary Zoo amazed us with its diverse animals and conservation efforts, and the panoramic views from the Calgary Tower were stunning. Heritage Park transported us back in time with historical buildings and a steamboat ride, plus meeting a Mountie was a highlight. As we packed up on the final day, we took down the flags and said our goodbyes, reflecting on the wonderful memories we made during the trip.

**Sarah Williams**  
1st Kilmaurs Guides



# Volunteer Awards

## Long Service Awards

### 40 years

Mae Henderson (2nd Kilbirnie (Auld Kirk) Rainbows)

Doreen Sharp (1st Stewarton Guides)

### 30 years

Eleanor Cook (Irvine And Dreghorn Division)

### 20 years

Lynn Coull (2nd Beith Brownies)

Gillian McDade (1st Stevenston Rainbows)

Ailsa Morrison (Largs Rangers)

### 10 years

Jena Buchanan (5th Ardrossan (St Peter's) Brownies)

Tracy Clark (1st Arran Rainbows)

Gillian Cooper (2nd Girdle Toll Brownies)

Kaitlyn Elliot (1st Stewarton Brownies)

Erin Fagan (Kilmarnock Division)

Leah Finnigan (5th Kilmarnock Guides)

Kirsty Girvan (3rd A Howard Rainbows)

Louise Kearns (2nd Bourtreehill Rangers)

Gayle Lucas (5th Bourtreehill Brownies)

Shona MacFadyen (1st Ardrossan (St Peters) Rainbows)

Rachel McGarry (2nd A Kilmarnock Brownies)

Aimee Ronald (2nd Stewarton Rainbows)

Stephanie Sharp (1st Bourtreehill Rainbows)

Lotti Winning (1st Darvel Guides)

### 5 Years

Emma Baird (10th Irvine Mure Church Brownies)

Katie Bilham (1st Dreghorn Rainbows)

Chloe-Jane Croft (10th Irvine Mure Church Brownies)

Liz Finningan (24th Irvine Brownies)

Jennifer Flavell (4th Largs Brownies)

Vickie Hume (5th Dreghorn Brownies)

Abbie Lyon (2nd A Kilmarnock Brownies)

Abigail McCallum (22nd Ayrshire Crosshouse Hospital Rainbow and Brownie and Guides)

Phoebe McCutcheon (1st Kilmaurs Brownies)

Christina McKelvie (5th Pennyburn Brownies)

Fiona McLaughlin (1st Howard Rainbows)

Jacqui McNair (24th Irvine Brownies)

Nicola Mooney (25th Kilmarnock Guides)

Sarah Morton (1st Newmilns Guides)

Olivia Noble (3rd Dreghorn Brownies)

Megan Sharp (1st Bourtreehill Rainbows)

Ruth Stevenson (1st Kilwinning Rainbows)

Alison Wallace (1st Newmilns Rainbows)

Laura Wilson (1st Onthank Rainbows)

Gillian Wood (2nd West Kilbride Guides)

## Leadership Development Programme

Laura Goldie (2nd Kilmarnock Brownies)

Jacqueline Murphy (16th Irvine Brownies)

## Young Leadership Qualification

Isla McMaster (2nd Stewarton Rainbows)

Hannah Nelson (1st Bourtreehill Rainbows)

## Going Away With

Tracy Donnelly (1st Newmilns Guides)

Shannon Dunlop (1st Kilmaurs Brownies)

Julie Jackson (5th Bourtreehill Brownies)

Fay Wilsher (1st Darvel Brownies)

## Scottish Chief Commissioners Award

Helen Cooke (1st Hurlford Guides)

## Queens Guide

Leah Finnigan (5th Kilmarnock Guides)

## Girlguiding Celebrates

Jemma Breingan (1st Kilwinning Rangers)

Zoe Breingan (1st Kilwinning Rangers)

Fiona Malcolm (1st Kilmarnock Rangers)

# Young Member Awards

## Gold Awards

Alexa Blane (1st Stevenston Guides)

Alexandria Power (15th Kilmarnock Brownies)

Erin Malcolm (1st Kilmarnock Rangers)

Eve Gribbon (1st Stevenston Guides)

Heather Dewar (1st Newmilns Brownies)

Hollie McCulloch (3rd Dreghorn Brownies)

Holly Allison (15th Kilmarnock Brownies)

Katie Wilson (1st Kilwinning Rainbows)

Lauren Stevenson (15th Kilmarnock Guides)

Lillie-mai Byrne (1st Newmilns Brownies)

Lilly Dickson (3rd Dreghorn Brownies)

Mimi Dawson (15th Kilmarnock Brownies)

Safiya Derakhshin (15th Kilmarnock Brownies)

Sheridan McCallion (1st Newmilns Brownies)

Sophie McCabe (1st Kilmarnock Rangers)

Vivienne Howat (15th Kilmarnock Brownies)

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Emily Tosh - Bronze (1st Kilmarnock Rangers)

Erin Malcolm - Bronze (1st Kilmarnock Rangers)

Erin Mooney - Bronze (14th Kilmarnock Brownies)

Eva Young - Bronze (1st Kilmarnock Rangers)

Jessica Stevenson - Bronze (15th Kilmarnock Rainbows)

Nicole Smith - Bronze (5th Kilmarnock Guides)

Emma Walker - Silver (1st Largs Rangers)





This annual report is available as an online PDF free to download from our website to help **save paper** and **save trees!**

## **Girlguiding UK (306016)**

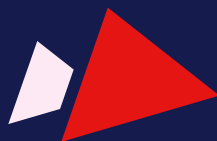
President: Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex  
Chief Guide: Tracy Foster

## **Girlguiding Scotland (SC005548)**

President: Linda Urquhart  
Scottish Chief Commissioner: Elaine Rough

## **Girlguiding Ayrshire North (SC036295)**

President: Kim Main  
County Commissioner: Louise Crichton



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