



Girlguiding

Ayrshire North county

Annual Report

2022 - 2023



County President Report

This year has been another extremely busy one for everyone. I'm beginning to believe that the older you get, the faster the year goes!

Very sadly at the beginning of our guiding year, we lost Queen Elizabeth, which impacted on so many people. It also gave us an opportunity to look at our heritage. Many members of the Girlguiding family spent time in London volunteering at the occasion of the funeral.

We then entered the festive season with lots of Halloween parties and activities, closely followed by Christmas when girls not only did fun things for themselves but for other less fortunate children. It never fails to amaze me at how much support Girlguiding gives to other charities.

Although I am a bit of a technophobe, I am nonetheless very impressed by all the activities which are shown on Facebook. I hope that by seeing what other units are doing it can give encouragement to other groups to try out new ideas. Keep posting them...

The county had a team involved in the Dash to Dublin, and apart from having a really great time, the team came first, so well done to Ashley and her team.

This was followed by pack holidays, hikes and camping which involved lots of girls and young women. Well done all you outdoor enthusiasts. Remember we have our very own camp site at Blair for both camping in tents or sleeping in mini chalets.

King Charles was crowned in the summer and this was yet another occasion for the population to see the historic rituals involved in a coronation. I can't believe that I have now seen two coronations in my lifetime. One of our members Betty Wilson attended the coronation and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



This year has been the 80th anniversary of our older members group The Trefoil Guild, with a huge variety of activities taking place.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I should like to thank everyone in Girlguiding Ayrshire North who make guiding possible for our young people.

The County Executive who have a very difficult job in making sure we are run properly, training is up to date, run county events and keep us financially viable. The vice president's who are in the background ready to help out when necessary and most importantly of all, you the guiders who turn up regularly, come rain or shine, to run weekly meetings for the girls. Without you there would not be guiding for girls in Ayrshire North.

THANK YOU!

Kim Main
County President

County Statistics

117
Units

1467
Young Members

375
Volunteers



County Commissioner Report

In the last 12 months, I and the rest of the County Commissioner team hit the halfway point of our term! It both feels like we can hardly believe it's only been 3 years, but it's also been a jam packed 3 years so it feels longer. We've achieved so much in 3 years but I'll just focus on the last 12 months in this report.

Starting with events – it's been jam-packed including dipping our toe back into international trips! Girlguiding UK arranged two cinema trips, firstly Matilda and then the Little Mermaid, where we booked out several screens at the Odeon Kilmarnock. The events team out did themselves with our incredible Thinking Day event at Auchenharvie Academy as well as Heads of Ayr in September. My personal favourite part of Thinking Day was the football – first thing in the morning people weren't keen on being outside when it was a bit chilly and drizzly, but they ended up loving it! I thought it was fantastic that we brought in external organisations to run the events so you all got to enjoy the fun with your young members.

We ran a joint Training Day for volunteers with our neighbours, Ayrshire South, at Marr College. Unfortunately I wasn't there as I was struck down with the flu, but I was assured it was a great day and we have plans in motion to run another in February 2024.

A little surprise trip was that of Erin Malcolm, Sophie McCabe, Emma Birch-Boyd, and Katrina McCracken who got invited down to London with the Scottish Chief Commissioner Team to attend the Thinking Day service at Westminster Abbey.

A couple of our girls also got to lay the wreath. They also got to meet the new Chief Guide, Tracy Foster, on her first official outing!

We also all got the opportunity to get our creative juices flowing through Pencil Express. We had exhibits in Kilmarnock, Irvine, West Kilbride and Kilwinning.

Ashley McDonald also led our first international trip since the pandemic to join Girlguiding Scotland at Dart to Dublin! The formidable group went to London where they viewed the sites, visited Pax Lodge, hit the West End, and then used every mode of transport, except plane, to get themselves to Dublin (train, last-minute minibus, ferry, and taxi). And then they went and won the full wide-game! A couple of the girls attending also got their Guide Gold Awards presented by the Scottish Chief Commissioner, Elaine Rough.

They're not the only two who received Gold Awards this year though – we had an unbelievable 88 Gold Awards presented in the last 12 months, which is nearly triple the number we had last year. A huge well done goes to all the young members, and the volunteers supporting them to get their awards.

We've also had a couple special volunteer awards too, both of which we miraculously managed to keep surprises!

Elizabeth Howie, a County Vice President, our County Archivist, and previously a long-time volunteer in Saltcoats, reached 60 years of service. An absolutely incredible feat and show of commitment to the Guiding movement – and she's still as passionate as ever.



Irene McIlwain of 5th Bourtreehill Brownies, but also with many previous hats, received the Scottish Chief Commissioner Award. A few of us gate-crashed a Brownie sausage sizzle at Eglinton Park during the summer to surprise her with the well-earned award.

Service awards, and other awards, are just one way we're able to thank you all for the time and energy you put into Guiding. I wish I could thank you all individually, so this year we tried with the little plantable seed hearts during Volunteers Week 2023 – which I hope you liked!

Unfortunately though, that brings me to the sad passing of three of our Guiding friends. Ann Russell, a County Vice President, suddenly passed in Autumn 2023. Heather Newlands, a helper in Stewarton Division, passed in early Spring 2023 following a period of ill-health. And Elaine Millar, another helper in Stewarton Division, also passed in early Spring 2023. We wish all their families well, and keep them in our thoughts.

Separately, Girlguiding UK introduced new branding earlier in 2023, so we're in the process of updating all our promotional materials and online presence to align. I personally really like the new branding – I think it's modern, minimalist, but with touches of tradition, and it's even better knowing it was co-designed with young members. We're also now fully in the swing of the new Leadership Development Programme. Huge thanks goes to Ruth Winning, Leadership Coordinator, for getting so many volunteers through the old Leadership Qualification in the final weeks. We can now focus our attention on the new Leadership Development Programme and helping volunteers be proactive, get online, and upskill.

The last year has been great fun as always, and I'm excited to see what the next 12 months bring – we have lots of interesting ideas up our sleeves! And I look forward to bringing you all on the journey and continuing to give our young members a fun, safe space to be themselves and make friends.

Louise Crichton
County Commissioner

Rainbows

Ayrshire North county



The 3rd Ardrossan Rainbows have been very busy this year!

The girls had a sleepover in the park church again this May and they loved it. They wanted to go straight to bed when they got in, even though there was a whole day of games and arts and crafts to complete before going to bed. It was our first ever sleepover where not one girl went home, all girls were asleep by 10.30pm and there was not one excuse e.g. "I cant sleep", "i need a drink". We obviously tired the girls out during the day.

"We enjoyed having the lady come to our unit to teach us science, it was so fun, we made the cola shoot into the air and it soaked some of the mums and dads."

We have had 2 girls Alba MacDougal and Lucy Harkin complete their gold award. These were the first 2 girls to get fully through their awards and get gold.

Lucy Harkin and Neve Laughlan have also completed all of their 12 interest badges.

We have covered a lot of badges during this year.

We had a pamper and pizza night with our parents. There were hair braids, tattoos, orbeez foot baths, nail painting, hair crimping and plenty of food.

"For our summer trip we went to Broom Farm and we got to ride the ponies, I was scared at first but then i had a go and i loved it. I want to do it again."

We also had a night with our scooters and bikes and learnt the green cross code.

At our awards ceremony we also had a talent show and we had girls on pogo sticks, dancing, singing, gymnastics, football and more.

We raised over £1,300 this February while doing a sponsored bounce to raise money for our activities through the year and to put towards our annual memberships.

Kerry Elliott
3rd Ardrossan Rainbows

NOVEMBER



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 30	 31	1	Girlguiding Ayrshire North County Annual Review 2	3	4	Guy Fawkes Night 5
6	7	8	9	10	Remembrance Day 11	Remembrance Sunday 12
13	14	15	16	School Holiday (NA) 17	18	19
School Holiday (NA) 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	St. Andrew's Day 30	 1	 2	 3

Brownies

Ayrshire North county



3rd Dreghorn Brownies had fun this year going to a Sea World sleepover, Celebrating the King's Coronation, and being on the float at the Dreghorn gala.

"I loved the Loch Lomond sleepover the best because it was so much fun and the sting rays were looking at us when we were asleep and they looked funny." - Holly

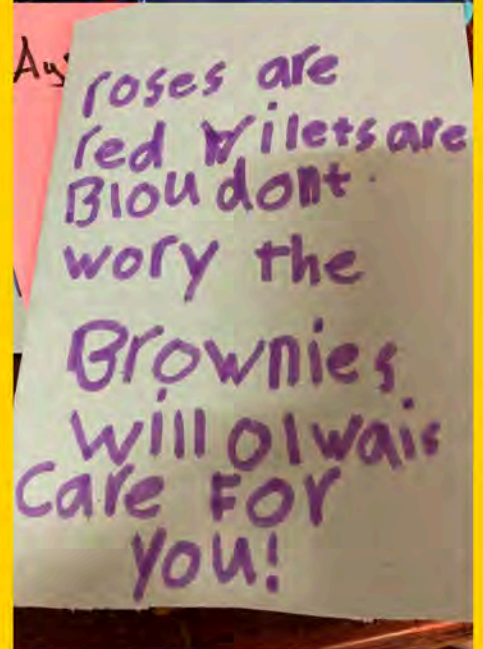
"My favourite trip from last year was tubing. It was the most fun thing from last year with the Brownies. I loved the spinning and spending time with my friends. I can't wait to do it again." -Lilly



Hazel McSorley
3rd Dreghorn Brownies

2nd and 2nd A Kilmarnock Brownies raised £911 for the Ayrshire Hospice, had 2 residentials, joined a Thinking Day service, did some gardening, and had a trip to Blair Drummond.

Lorna Millar
2nd and 2nd A Kilmarnock Brownies



JANUARY



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
New Years Day 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Schools Return (NA & EA) 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	Burns Night 25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

How we celebrated Thinking Day

Scottish Trip to London

4 Ayrshire North girls and 1 Ayrshire North Leader, along with 4 Ayrshire South girls joined Girlguiding Scotland on a trip to London to lay wreaths at Westminster Abbey for Thinking Day.

During the trip, Erin and Sophie made their Ranger promise on the London Eye.



Thinking Day County Event 2023

We welcomed nearly 400 members to Auchenhavrie Academy on 18th February to celebrate World Thinking Day together. Girls experienced a variety of activities including mocktail making, circus skills and a science workshop with fun exhibits! The event was closed off with an awards ceremony.



FEBRUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 29	 30	 31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	School Holiday (NA & EA)	10	11
School Holiday (NA & EA)	School Holiday (NA & EA) Shrove Tuesday	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	Thinking Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	 1	 2	 3

Dart to Dublin

Guides
Ayrshire North county

Rangers
Ayrshire North county

The trip to Dublin and London was definitely one to remember.

Over just a week, I've made lifelong friends and so so many special memories that will always have a place in my heart. A favourite of mine has to be when we needed to complete a task during the main event in Dublin - to sing a guiding song in public. As we walked along trying to think of the best way to do it, we passed some buskers, so we went over to them and asked if we could sing a song with them, they agreed and it was brilliant! For their kindness we gave them one of our county badges each. This ties in with my other favourite memory - us actually winning the event, and as we were walking through the streets back to the hotel, we saw the same buskers, we ran over and told them we won, they pulled out the badges and held it to their hearts and were so happy for us, it was really sweet!

In London, I loved going to the London dungeons. I love scary things and I've been a few times and it never gets old. I mostly loved watching my friends reactions to the jump scares because I found it hilarious (they weren't so amused). I also loved going to the musical themed cafe for dinner, where we got loads of live performances, singalongs and lots of musical references plus the food was amazing, it was so delicious, I recommend Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake!

Finally, my other favourite memory was the London eye, it was magical. If you haven't had the opportunity to go on it and witness London from above, it's worth the trip, even better, we got our own pod as it was late so we saw all the lights below us! Breathtaking is an understatement!

These are only a few of the wonderful memories I made on this trip, but there's so many more, if I could do it again I would, and I wouldn't change a thing.

Isla
1st West Kilbride Ranger Unit



GOOD LUCK TO ASHLEY
& THE AYRSHIRE NORTH
GUIDES, RANGERS
& LEADERS.

ENJOY DUBLIN!



MARCH



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 26	 27	 28	 29	1 St. David's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Mothering Sunday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Schools Close (NA & EA) Good Friday	30	31 Easter Sunday Daylight Saving time Begins

Kilwinning Centenary 2022

On the 9th November 2022 1st Kilwinning celebrated 100 years of the Unit with an afternoon of celebration in Kilwinning Abbey Hall. Some girls were presented with Bronze and Silver awards and some made their promise as guides. Tea and cake was served and of course the usual campfire.

1st Pennyburn Guides and Brownies also celebrated 50 years.

We had special guests of past and present members of Kilwinning Division, Trefoil members, Division Commissioner, and Louise, County Commissioner.

Our New unit flag was dedicated by Isobel Deaconess at the Abbey Church. It was a very moving moment. It was a time to reflect on the past, and to look forward to the future of guiding in Kilwinning. Here's to the next 100 years!



1st Kilwinning Queen's Guide Awards

I am so proud that we have 2 new Queens Guides from 1st Kilwinning Guide/Ranger unit. Georgia Gorman and Abbie Clark have just completed Queens in 2023.

That makes 8 Queens Guides from 2018; 2018 with Rowan Carswell and Eilidh Gibson, 2020 with Jenna Fee and Chloe Smart, and 2021 with Jemma and Zoe Breingan.

Rowan, Eilidh, Jenna and Chloe all leaders with 1st Kilwinning Guides attended a UK Queens Guide reception at Edinburgh Castle on 5th November 2022. It was a lovely evening meeting with all other Queens Guides from all over the UK.

Jemma and Zoe who are Ranger Leaders were presented at Blair Activity Centre in June 2021 and have been invited to London in November to an event in Leicester Square to celebrate their success. We are looking forward to hearing all about it.

Being a Queens Guide is very special, it takes 3 years of work to complete all the elements, Many trials and tribulations, laughter and tears along the way, but so rewarding at the end, and so good for your CV. For university applications, and job applications.

Congratulations to all, I am so proud of each and every one of you.

Betty Wilson
1st Kilwinning Guides / Rangers

APRIL

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Easter Monday						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Schools Return (NA & EA)						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	St. George's Day					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Scan the QR Code to view the youtube video:



In response to the terrible case of Sarah Everard, 1st Largs Rangers wanted to do something for girls and women’s safety.

The girls came up with the idea of a short film and having roped in some willing volunteers set about creating, scripting and storyboarding under the Guidance of Chris Fallen from RigArts, who we had hired to guide us through the project.

Funds were raised from various sources and we generously supported by the Allander Youth Trust, Arnold Clark Community Fund and Co-op, Largs, without whom the project would not have been possible.

Chris provided state of the art equipment, then trained the Rangers in its use and in film techniques, including the different types of cameras, lenses and set ups used to create the shots that would tell their story.

We spent many (many), very (very) cold, Monday evenings through the winter setting up, shooting, re-shooting and recording sound, but I think you will agree, the final film was worth it.

To cap it all, we were invited to ‘Premiere’ our film at the Inverclyde Council International Women’s Day in March 2023. The Rangers were interviewed about their project in front of an audience which included the head of the Inverclyde Council, education services and Renfrewshire Police, who all praised their film and were keen to use it schools.

The film is now freely available on YouTube and could be used in units to help start a discussion or just for general interest.

https://youtu.be/sp_IBa2ldP8

Ailsa Morrison
1st Largs Rangers

MAY



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 29	 30	1	2	3	4	5
School Holiday (NA & EA) May Day 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	School Holiday (NA) 24	25	26
School Holiday (NA & EA) 27	School Holiday (EA) 28	29	30	31	 31	 1

Gold Awards



Aimee Caldwell 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Abigail McGilvray 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Abigail Skinner 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Alba Macdougall 3rd Ardrossan Rainbows
 Alex Opray 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Ali Dornan 2nd Dregghorn Guides
 Allana Henderson 1st Dregghorn Rainbows
 Amber McAllister 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Amber McCabe 2nd West Kilbride Guides
 Amelia Wallace 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Amy Elder 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Amy Ferguson 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Amy Smith 5th Kilmarnock Guides
 Anna Sempey 1st Dregghorn Rainbows
 Annie Warburton 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Ava Hunter 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Ava Penman 1st Newmilns Guides
 Ayla Nesvat 1st Dregghorn Rainbows
 Beth Snodgrass 2nd Kilwinning Guides
 Bethany Watson 5th Dregghorn Brownies
 Blithe Galbraith 5th Kilmarnock Guides
 Bonnie McKiernan 1st West Kilbride Rangers
 Carmen Hume 6th Kilmarnock Guides
 Cerys McCreadie 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Charlotte Ferrera 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Charlotte Gemmell 5th Kilmarnock Guides
 Charlotte Hamilton 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Danni Speirs 1st Newmilns Brownies
 Darcie Sullivan 1st Dregghorn Rainbows
 Eilidh Brown 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Eilidh McKie 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Eilidh Shankland 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Elise O'Donnell 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Ella Griffin 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Ellie Allison 15th Kilmarnock Guides
 Emilia Errici 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Emily Anderson 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Emily Bilham 5th Dregghorn Guides
 Emily Hyslop 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Emily Sommerville 15th Kilmarnock Guides
 Emily Wilson 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Emma Marshall 1st Pennyburn Rainbows
 Emma Millar 6th Kilmarnock Guides
 Emma Simpson 6th Kilmarnock Guides

Erika Loudon 5th Ardrossan Guides
 Eva Pill 1st Pennyburn Rainbows
 Evie Boax 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Evie Wilson 6th Kilmarnock Guides
 Ezara Hussain 1st Stewarton Brownies
 Fatima Shafique 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Florence Tyack 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Grace Jarvie 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Halle Cairnie 3rd Ardrossan Rainbows
 Hazel Paterson 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Holly Gilland 1st Newmilns Brownies
 Hope White 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Iona Breckney 2nd West Kilbride Guides
 Kate Rodger 6th Kilmarnock Guides
 Kirstie Atkinson 1st Dregghorn Rainbows
 Kirsty Mathie 2nd Kilwinning Guides
 Lacey Bremner 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Lainie Donnelly 1st Newmilns Guides
 Laurie Bailey 3rd Ardrossan Rainbows
 Lennox Wilson 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Lily Robertson 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Lucy Harkin 3rd Ardrossan Rainbows
 Lucy Timmons 1st Pennyburn Rainbows
 Martha Ledger 5th Dregghorn Guides
 Mia Coote 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Millie Brown 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Millie Maccluskey 1st Pennyburn Rainbows
 Mirren Meney 1st Dregghorn Rainbows
 Molly Evans 3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows
 Murrion Nisbet 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Nixie Donnelly 1st Newmilns Guides
 Olivia Espie 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Payton Divers 1st Newmilns Guides
 Penny McDkimming 1st Newmilns Guides
 Poppy Jupp 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Rachel Halliday 2nd West Kilbride Guides
 Rachel Stewart 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Rona Bryden 1st Darvel Guides
 Rosie Russell 1st Dregghorn Rainbows
 Rosie Slater 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Rowan Milligan 15th Kilmarnock Brownies
 Ruby Blackwood 2nd Kilmarnock Brownies
 Scarlett Gillies 5th Dregghorn Brownies
 Sophie Stevenson 5th Dregghorn Brownies

My name is Bethany and I am now a Guide at 5th Dregghorn Guides. I have previously completed my Rainbow Gold and have just completed my Brownie Gold at summer. To achieve my Brownie gold award I worked on many interest badges and loved doing everyone. Interest badges help me learn new skills whilst having fun.

I went on many adventures at Brownies including loads of sleepovers including PGL, Flipout, Tall Ship, Sealife centre, Camps at Nether Auchendrane and Blair and a few fun days as well for Thinking day and trip to science centre, panto, elf musical and transport museum. One of my favourite things about working on my Brownie gold was learning lots of new things and pushing myself to try new things and have new experiences.

I am now up for the challenge and aiming for my Guide Gold award... and then onto Rangers Gold!



Bethany
5th Dregghorn
Guides



JUNE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 27	 28	 29	 30	 31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	Schools Finish (NA & EA)	29	30



Trefoil Guild

Ayrshire North county

Our Trefoil Guild have been keeping busy over this past year!

Some of our Ayrshire North members recently joined Trefoil Guild Scotland on a trip to Adelboden in Switzerland. Members enjoyed long walks, cable car rides and some breathtaking views of the scenery!

There was also a County afternoon tea hosted at Blair to celebrate 80 years of the Trefoil Guild. The day was finished with a lovely indoor campfire singalong lead by Marian Ayre from Galston.

The Kilwinning Trefoil had been out and about this summer. They visited the Abbey Tower in June (Some made it up to the top!) and the Largs Town Treasure Trail in July. This was followed by a Fish Tea in Nardini's.

On a Trefoil Ramble near Darvel, several members from Kilwinning Trefoil were joined by members from Upper Irvine Valley, Renfrew and Hamilton. The Trefoil Guild enjoy meeting Trefoil members from other places on rambles.



Photos and notes provided by Elizabeth Howie
Trefoil Guild

JULY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				




Rainbows
 Ayrshire North county
34 Units **431** Members

County Statistics


Brownies
 Ayrshire North county
44 Units **661** Members



AUGUST

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 29	 30	 31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	Schools Return (NA)	Schools Return (EA)	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	 1

Empowering Growth: From 10 to 20... and Beyond

Are you ready for a transformation that will not only impact your life but the lives of countless young girls? Let me share my inspiring journey of expanding my Rainbow unit from 10 to 20 girls. It's a story of overcoming fear, embracing change, and realising our immense potential.

As a Rainbow leader, I found myself faced with a challenge. The waiting list for my unit was growing, and the messages from the Go! System and Louise, our Commissioner, were increasing monthly. My unit waiting list was hovering around 30 girls, all within the 4-7 age range. All ready to begin. Still, I was hesitant to take on more than my usual 10. Those ten girls had always been manageable, and I never felt the pressure of financial strain or overwhelming stress. It was a comfort zone I had grown attached to, and the thought of becoming a bigger unit was intimidating.

But life and Girlguiding have a way of pushing us towards growth and with some heartfelt conversations with Nicole and Megan, my wonderful Unit Leaders (and my sister!), we knew it was time to be bold. It was time to be confident in our abilities and expand our unit to 20 girls. We were nervous about this transition, unsure of how we would manage the larger group, but the support of our fellow leaders and volunteers gave us the courage we needed.

Our success lies in the art of planning. We meticulously mapped out our unit term from August to Christmas, utilising the school summer holidays to acquire everything we needed for badge work, craft nights, and special occasions. We even contacted our local guide unit and proposed the idea of interested girls becoming leaders. Two enthusiastic girls, Hannah and Lily, eagerly joined our mission, significantly supporting our group. Their contribution has proven invaluable, and it's a testament to the strength of our local community. Hannah and Lily have even joined Nicole and I in volunteering once a month at the Crosshouse Hospital Unit. How wonderful are our future leaders!

To keep the girls engaged and make the most of our time together, we incorporated group activities that allowed them to rotate every 30 minutes, depending on the task. This structure ensured that everyone was engaged and excited. We start each unit meeting with

a 10-minute session during which we outlined our plans for the meeting and set our goals on a notice board. This step helped keep the girls focused and gave us a clear road map for each meeting.

In a stroke of brilliance, I introduced the concept of "Rainbow of the Week." This initiative encouraged the girls to keep their Rainbow promise by being kind, helpful, and abiding by unit meeting rules while wearing their full uniform. At the end of each term, the girl with the most stars on her name (our register) would receive a special rainbow prize, fostering a sense of achievement. Such incentives may remind some of you as a school-like lesson, but we've found that it's an effective way to keep the girls motivated and achieve their goals.

If you're still hesitant about expanding your unit, remember this: it's less overwhelming than it may seem. The key is to have great leaders, leaders in training, and unit helpers who share the responsibilities and lighten the load. You don't have to bear the weight alone. So, consider contacting your nearest Guide unit and encourage girls to volunteer. It's not just great for their CV, Duke of Edinburgh, or Young Leader Qualification; the future of Girlguiding needs to continue in our local area. Perhaps even a well-deserved retirement for us someday. (Hint hint, Irene!)

Expanding from 10 to 20 girls has been an incredible journey, and it's a testament to the power of organisation, planning, and the willingness to embrace change. I wholeheartedly encourage all leaders to take that step and increase the capacity of their units.

Let's create spaces where girls can discover their potential, grow, and become the next generation of Girlguiding leaders. Together, we can inspire and empower these girls to be their best selves and positively impact the world through Girlguiding.

If you are still worried and looking to discuss in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to help with this big change.

Stephanie Sharp
1st Bourtreehill Rainbows

SEPTEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30	 1	 2	 29	 30	 31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	School Holiday (EA)	21	22
School Holiday (NA & EA)	24	25	26	27	28	29





Guides
Ayrshire North county

31 Units **321** Members

County Statistics

Rangers
Ayrshire North county

11 Units **54** Members



OCTOBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	Schools Finish (NA & EA)	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Schools Return (NA) School Holiday (EA)	Schools Return (EA)	23	24	25	26	Daylight Savings Time Ends
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Hallowe'en	 1	 2	 3



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



Find us on:   
www.girlguidingayrshirenorth.org.uk

