



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Ayrshire North County



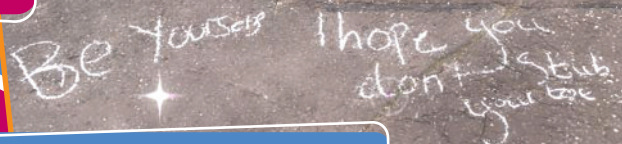
ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021

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I hope you don't stub your toe!



25th Kilmarnock Guides enjoyed being back together. One of their challenges during their Penny Hike was to write a positive, helpful message for others on the pavement. Two very different messages written but both positive and helpful.

Be yourself!

County President Report



Once again it is my privilege to write a few words about the County during the last year. Once again, girls and guiders have made me marvel at just what an amazing organisation we belong to, and, to how dedicated so many of our members are.

Although much of this year has been under lockdown rules again, it has been wonderful to see how quickly Units were able to carry out activities outside, until the relaxation of the rules to allow us inside again. I bet so many girls really enjoyed the extra outdoor activities and to appreciate how good it was to be able to run about and be free.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible for all Units to get back into their previous premises, but hopefully, things are gradually getting back to some kind of normality. There was lots of "thinking outside the box" to find alternative premises. Did I hear Golf Clubs, shops and other premises were considered? Well done.

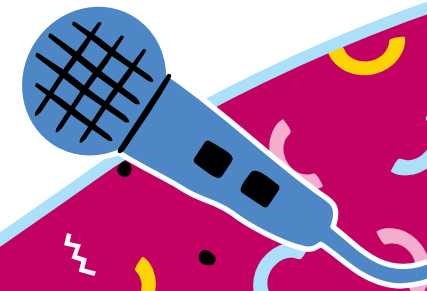
It has been wonderful to see that, in spite of all the problems, many girls are managing to attain their various levels of attainment, Bronze, Silver and Gold. How amazing is that? It is an extraordinary combination of girls and guiders working together to achieve something positive out of a difficult situation.

There are still problems with venues, for a variety of reasons, but with luck, these will be resolved as soon as possible. Also, some guiders and girls will still be finding it difficult to return to their previous levels of contact, but all I can say, is that everyone must do it in her own time and when she and her family feel comfortable. We are all different, but all precious to us. Please remember there are plenty of people within the County ready to help. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support you.

Finally, the game of Girlguiding could not happen without the constant and friendly support of all the volunteers - YOU. Also a big thank you to the County team, who unfailingly keep on top of all the problems which the County has faced.

All good wishes for this coming year, when hopefully we can lead a more normal Guiding life.

Kim Main
County President



County Commissioner Report

It's been a year since I came into the County Commissioner role, and what a year it has been. The pandemic has continued to be tough on all of us, but we are coming out the other end of it. COVID-19 is not gone, and we continue to do all we can to keep one another, and our young members safe.

October 2020, the first few weeks in the role, was spent understanding and juggling the quickly changing landscape of COVID-19 guidelines and regulations. We had Units meeting virtually, Units sending out activity packs, Units meeting indoors (briefly), Units meeting outdoors and what was allowed differed depending on whether you were sat in East or North Ayrshire.

We held our first ever virtual AGM, and it was both wonderful and strange. Strange in that we couldn't see everyone in front of us, we couldn't grab a cup of tea together, and we couldn't personally congratulate all those gaining awards. Wonderful though as we didn't let the pandemic stop us from celebrating the successes of our fellow volunteers, we had Deputy Scottish Chief Commissioner, Gail Fox, join us from the Borders, and two inspirational speakers - Fiona Lees, CEO of East Ayrshire Council at the time, and Fiona Mackenzie, founder of Centrestage. We thanked Helen Shedden and Shiona Gilmour for their service as County, and Assistant County, Commissioner for the previous 5 years and we presented 330 years' worth of long service awards, and 32 Gold Awards to our young members.

At the end of 2020 we also had a big push to get all volunteers compliant with the new Girlguiding safeguarding policy and up to the appropriate level of Safe Space training.

This was tough for all of us, so I thank you for recognising the importance of the training and completing your e-learning, or virtual training, and I continue to thank you as we keep our training up to date.

With our 2021 annual subscriptions/ membership fees on the horizon, the County put a resilience fund in place to support Units to keep girls and volunteers in Guiding. We paid out just shy of £12,000 in grants to Units across the County. It had been a tough year for Units, generally and financially, so it was the right thing to do and hopefully put Units in good stead for the coming year.

One positive that has come from the pandemic is the creativity and innovation we've found within ourselves about how to keep girls involved in Guiding. One of these innovations is our County Virtual Brownie Unit and a big thanks goes to Fiona Malcolm, Helen Shedden, Claire Liddell, Erin Malcolm, and later Vic Letham, for starting and leading the Unit. They were presented with Growing Guiding Awards on Thinking Day and Helen was even live on the Girlguiding Scotland Facebook to enthuse other areas of Scotland to try a virtual Unit!

In March 2021, Units started to venture outdoors again following lockdown. It was perfect timing with the lighter nights and better weather. Lots of us enjoyed Girlguiding Scotland's Wee Beastie Challenge, and have also now seen the benefits of outdoor Guiding - perhaps it's one to put in the calendar a few weeks every year.

We kept busy through the summer months too! At the turn of the year we received the wonderful news that Betty Wilson was being recognised with a British Empire Medal (BEM) which was presented on 20th June 2021 by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran in a small, socially distanced celebration at Blair Activity Centre - the perfect backdrop.

The Ayrshire North Roamers Challenge saw our members walk a staggering 4600 miles across the summer holidays! Well done to Emma McSourley (Rainbows), Eden Dougan-Sloan (Brownies), Hannah Broadfoot (Guides/Rangers/Young Leaders), and Helen Cooke (Leaders) for walking the most miles in your respective sections.

We also hosted Girlguiding Scotland at Blair Activity Centre to film their national volunteer recruitment campaign. I hope you got to see the adverts on TV and online throughout September. It's good fun even now, as our volunteers and young members' faces keep popping up on the Girlguiding Scotland website and social media! Thanks to all of you who took part - you're famous!

It's not all been great news though. Some of you will have lost loved ones through the pandemic, due to COVID-19 or otherwise. We also lost Rena James, one of our Vice Presidents, in 2020. In 2021, two of our Leaders, Elaine Miller and Heather Mirrlees, passed away - both of whom were taken before their time and our thoughts continue to be with their families.

As the various COVID restrictions lifted in August 2021 though, we were all working together to get our Units back in person and indoors. I can't thank you all enough for going the extra mile to do that. I know all the cleaning requirements, extra paperwork, wearing a mask etc. isn't easy but know that our young members really appreciate it. I know when I got back face to face with my Guides it brought back all the reasons and feelings as to why I do this week-in week-out, and I hope you got the same rush of enthusiasm.

In the last couple months, things have started to feel closer to what they were. We finally hosted a very belated Vice President's Afternoon Tea with our neighbours in Ayrshire South.

It was nice to see, and meet, VPs from across the two Counties. We also kick started our County events with a series of Skill Builder Days at Blair Activity Centre. Well done to the Guiding Delivery Events team for putting on a great day of activities. I've seen what's on the cards for next year and it just keeps getting better! Thanks Ashley for leading the team. The Growth & Retention team, led by Fiona Malcolm, have also done a fantastic job at welcoming in new volunteers, having held their first (of many) volunteer inductions and supporting retention between Brownies and Guides with a fun-filled day at Galston Guide Hall.

Catriona and I have also had the pleasure of presenting a couple of Growing Guiding awards recently. Beth McGuffie of 1st Darvel Brownies, and Aimee Ronald of 2nd Stewarton Rainbows were both nominated for the tremendous work they did throughout the pandemic to keep their Units going. Lorna Millar also received a Growing Guiding award while at a fun day with her Units! Well done to you all!

It's too soon to say the pandemic is over and COVID-19 will probably be with us for some time. But we are starting to recover; we're seeing the light at the end of this and getting back to the fun and friendship of Girlguiding. Girlguiding has been around for over 100 years, and with the dedication, passion, and resilience of our members, we will continue to be around for many many years to come.

I encourage you all to keep connecting and supporting one another, welcome new members with open arms - with a positive mindset, there's nothing we can't do.

Louise Crichton
County Commissioner



Rainbow News



Ayrshire North County



1st Pennyburn & 1st Kilwinning Rainbows have had a busy year with lots of zoom meetings, then outdoors and now back indoors. Girls have gained lots of skills builder badges and UMAs, as well as lots of fun badges. Several girls have also completed Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards.



Activity packs were sent out to 2nd Kilmaurs Rainbows during lockdown. Some packs were for Rainbows to work through themselves, and some were for their Zoom meetings.

The unit had very good feedback from parents about the Zoom meetings. They could see how much time and effort we put into Girlguiding.



"I loved doing the pirate badge it is so much fun. I am so happy to be back in the hall with my friends."

Emma Marshall, age 5
1st Pennyburn Rainbows

Brownies

Ayrshire North County

Brownie News



By 3rd Dregghorn Brownies

During the last year we have been completely virtual. This has been a challenge at times with having to tweak certain activities that would normally be done in a group setting and also not being able to help with tasks that were more of a challenge.

We had 6 Brownies who attended each week and they always brought 100% effort and enthusiasm which kept us as leaders going. The highlight of the session was definitely being able to hold our annual BBQ face-to-face where we had smores, burgers, outdoor games and presenting the Brownies with their badges. The Brownies have also submitted their highlights of virtual Guiding:

"I loved virtual Brownies because I could stay in touch with the other girls without the risk of getting sick or making them sick." - Hannah

"I really liked that we still got to do Brownies online, we had fun whilst keeping safe. I loved the craft packs that got delivered by leaders." - Holly

"I really enjoyed making our Hallowe'en haunted house craft - it was very challenging to build it virtually - if we were face to face in our unit we would have been able to help each other." - Molly

"My favourite craft on zoom was the Hallowe'en haunted house, but my favourite night was the Burns Night. We made tartan from weaving paper and had Scottish treats!" - Lucy

"Sometimes I found virtual sad when I wanted to hug everyone. But I was happy when the leaders decided to do virtual Brownies for me to attend online so I didn't catch the Coronavirus." - Saffron

"I loved the Hallowe'en craft where we made a cool cat and the leaders made it fun for us all by dropping packs off which was exciting to see what was inside each Tuesday." - Zoe

Guide News

Guides

Ayrshire North County

In ICE Stage 1 we looked at different countries and what their uniforms look like and what they do in their Units.

In ICE Stage 2 we looked at Africa. To do with Africa we made an African drum. We also looked at pollution in our villages then we went litter picking

In ICE Stage 3 we looked at pollution more on a pollution website and done a quiz on different animals in other countries as well as Scotland.

My favourite bit about all the ICE stages was getting to learn about different Units in other places.

Emily Bilham
5th Dreghorn Guides



1st Darvel Guides climbed Loudoun Hill and deposited painted stones as they went. As we needed to take a mountain leader with us (due to the cliffs this is a requirement) the girls also got the chance to learn map reading skills and mountain safety.

RANGERS

Ranger News

Ayrshire North County

In February we were delighted to take part in the virtual Thinking Day event hosted by Girlguiding Singapore. The Kelburn Trefoil Guild also took part showing that a Guide never stops learning new ways to communicate! And all through friendships that were made at Ayrwaves 2017.

In the summer term, like lots of other units, we met up outside and were blessed with some lovely evenings.

A couple of our members, Elsie and Lara, took part in the filming at Blair of the Girlguiding Scotland recruitment advert. Here they are setting fire to things with Gail Fox, Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Living in Largs, it's become a tradition that when we make our Promise we go for ice cream. And this hardy bunch decided a torrential downpour was not going to stop them getting their two scoops from Nardini's.

Back inside with face to face Guiding from September (hurray!) meant we were able to hone our knife skills with pumpkin carving ahead of our Hallowe'en party.

Ailsa Morrison
1st Largs Rangers

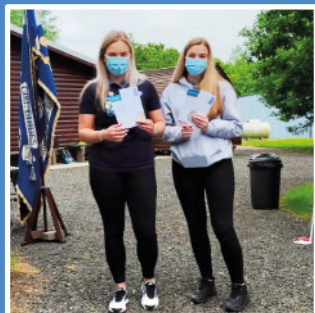


Ranger leaders Jemma and Zoe Breingan receiving Queen's Guide Award.



1st Kilwinning Rangers BBQ saying goodbye to girls leaving to go to uni.

Our Year in Photos





Due to the various restrictions put in place because of the COVID pandemic, the Trefoil Guilds within Ayrshire North have not been able to hold their usual meetings since March 2020.

Members however kept in touch by telephone, email and door step visits. Some even mastered Zoom and were able to have and take part in virtual meetings. Trefoil Guild Scotland developed ways for members to be active. A Wellbeing Day was held on Zoom with members joining in on a hand care session, Zentangle and origami, DIY face packs and foot soaks, Mindfulness and Soundbath.

A virtual Christmas Afternoon Tea was also held where the focus was the Scottish Challenge badge, learning about the Cairngorm reindeer, creating a Scottish Cocktail, Christmas songs, quiz, craft and cakes.

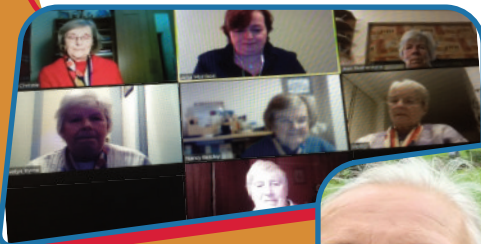
There were regular quizzes, word-searches and crosswords available from Trefoil Guild Scotland which were circulated to all Trefoil Guilds. Members also took the opportunity when the restrictions eased to meet outdoors and garden centres and cafes were popular meeting places.

In September Trefoil Guild Scotland organised a Walking Festival based in Pitlochry and there were local walks organised for those not able to go to Pitlochry. At present, there is a Trefoil Guild in Upper Irvine Valley, Kilmarnock, Irvine, Kilwinning and Kelburn.

Sadly, Beith Trefoil has not restarted but there is the opportunity for some to join the Lones Guild which is for members unable to attend meetings.

Trefoil offers a Starter Pack for any new unit and application can be made through Trefoil UK.

Margaret Hamilton
County Trefoil Chairperson



Guiding in the Summer



Our Units have been back since August, however we ran a summer school over 6 weeks of summer and the girls had so much fun and went on trips and had great opportunities and were so spoiled for the things they did.

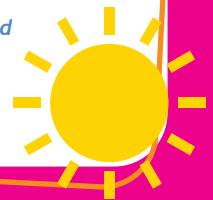
We had a fun day with a bouncy castle and a day of crafts, games and soft archery. We also had a night at arty party crafts where the girls got to make their own teddy bear and the following week we had the ice cream van come to the Unit so the girls could pick whether they wanted a slushy or ice cream. Our girls loved it so much.

The 3rd Ardrossan Rainbows have completed their stage 1 first aid and stage 1 explore and construction badges in this block.

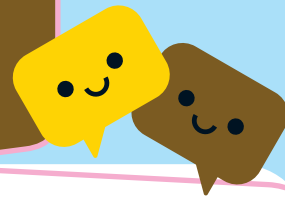
The 3rd Ardrossan Brownies have been learning about their promise.

The 3rd Ardrossan Guides has just opened and they have already completed their Mixology badge and made their own board games from the UMA cards.

Kerry Elliott
*3rd Ardrossan Rainbows,
3rd Ardrossan Brownies and
3rd Ardrossan Guides*



Virtual Guiding



The 1st Ayrshire North Virtual Brownie Unit was opened in October 2020 as a way to give girls who were on the waiting list to a Unit a chance to experience Brownies.

Through the new virtual methods we have utilised for Unit meetings during lockdown we were able to create a packed programme with challenge badges and theme awards. The Unit has its own Facebook group where girls can share their activities and we have a zoom meeting fortnightly. They also received activity packs throughout the term with craft materials and other goodies! The Unit was successful in receiving funding from the Gannochy Trust Developing Guiding Grants which helped cover subs, uniform and badge books.

Our first term had 9 Brownies join the Unit with 4 leaders to deliver the programme (Fiona Malcolm, Helen Shedden, Claire Liddell and Erin Malcolm). The girls worked on their Promise along with the Tri-Sports Challenge badge. We also had themed activities such as making a poppy wreath and fireworks sparkler snacks. All girls made their Promise on zoom at the end of term before Christmas in a special zoom meeting!

Our second term brought 6 new Brownies to the Unit and a brand new leader, Vic Letham. We now have 2 sixes which were split into the Pre-Promise Brownies and those that made their Promise through the use of breakout rooms.

This allowed the girls to work on a new challenge badge; the Window on the World, along with seasonal activities such as Easter crafts. We also had a special zoom meeting for Thinking Day where the girls met Brownies from across the UK and Canada!

Our third term the girls had begun work on their theme award, bringing in skills builders and UMAs into the programme. The theme the girls worked on this term was Express Yourself, with interest badges such as Performing, Baking or Painting. It was amazing to see all the wonderful performances and cakes baked by our Brownies in the Facebook group.

For the last night before the summer we were able to bring the Unit together for a special outdoor meeting at Eglinton Park! The girls had a great time finally meeting face to face and our new Brownies made their Promise together with the Unit at our awards ceremony where everyone received their badges and certificates.

The girls will now be moving onto their 'forever' Unit where they can continue their experiences as Brownies or move up into their new Guide Unit.

Claire Liddell
1st Ayrshire North Virtual Brownies



Guiding Outdoors



The 16th Irvine Brownies returned to outdoor meetings in late spring.

We had a few fun outdoor activities from games to shell collecting and the favourite ice cream. We also completed some lovely artwork and crafts at Eglinton Park.

We had a fantastic day at the Brownie Skill Builder Badge day at Blair. Especially the rope course. It may have been wet and cold to start... but the sun eventually shone through.

Maria Mowat
16th Irvine Brownies



3rd Howard Rainbows and 3rd A Howard Rainbows last November did a sponsored kindness walk to raise funds. 2 groups of 20 Rainbows went a walk round town centre and dropped off pictures they had made plus some sweets to local shops and businesses.

Lots of lovely feedback from the businesses!



3rd & 3rd A Howard Rainbows (Winton Place church) have been on their sponsored kindness walk tonight (19/11/20) and wanted to say 'hello' and spread a little cheer! Enjoy!

Our girls love outdoor meetings!

My Last Year of Brownies

By Mya Deans

From Christmas last year until the summer holidays my Brownie sessions were on Zoom.

I liked being on Zoom because it meant we could still have Brownies and do things but we were all safe. I still wore my Brownie uniform at each Zoom session to make it feel like I was actually at Brownies.

I had already completed my Collecting, Mindfulness, Zero Waste, Aviation and Languages interest badges before last Christmas so during the last year I did my Painting badge. I really enjoyed this badge as I love art. I did an abstract painting and a figurative painting of a unicorn because unicorns are my favourite things. I really enjoyed finger painting and rock painting because I could get really messy! I presented my artwork in frames and did a video of me talking about each picture I did because we were still doing Zoom calls.

I did the virtual World Thinking Day 2021 badge. I made a pen cup decorated with pictures of Brownies from all over the world, did dancing and wrote "I Belong" in the garden with pebbles and plants.

We also did a World Thinking Day event with 2 Units from England on Zoom. There were loads of Brownies and it was great learning how other Units do their sessions. They sang Brownie songs that we had never sang before and it was funny because I tried to sing along with them but I didn't know the words!

I did an Easter badge which involved me rolling eggs, playing pin the tail on the bunny, learned all about Easter Island and did a rabbit origami which involved me blowing it up with air to make it 3D!

The most nerve-wracking thing I did for Brownies was my Gold Challenge Award night which I had to organise and run! My theme was Summer and I had to find activities related to the theme and get my leader Ashley to buy before the session and safely handout to the other Brownies.

We decorated a biff bat in summer colours, painted a flip flop shaped keychain, attempted an ice cream origami (the younger girls found this quite difficult especially because we were on Zoom so I couldn't physically help them) and then we ended with a summer-themed scavenger hunt. Things the girls had to find included were something the colour of the sun, something the colour of the sea and sunglasses.

I was so relieved when the session ended and I felt so proud when the leaders congratulated me on successfully completing my Gold Award Challenge!

After the summer holidays we went to the Blair Activity Centre for a Brownie Fun Day! It was great fun seeing all the Brownies and especially the leaders in real life again. We did crafting, an ice cream truck came, there was a bouncy castle and we had a disco! We also did an obstacle course and inflatable jousting which I really enjoyed. The weather was perfect and I loved every minute of it!

We then went back into Unit and have started doing badgework again in the Community Centre. I am a sixer and my Gnome group are lovely.

We went to Bouncestation with the Guide Unit as well. It was the first time I had been there and I loved it! After it I was so exhausted!

For Hallowe'en we had a party in the Unit where we all dressed up and played games and then we went to a Hallowe'en Camp at the Blair Activity Centre. We slept in sleeping bags in a pod and it was scary but great fun, it was pitch black and we had to wear head torches to go to the toilet! We did a nighttime assault course and tunnelling, pumpkin carving, and other Hallowe'en crafts including making a delicious cupcake and decorating a giant marshmallow. I loved the camp and all the fun things we got to do!

I've really enjoyed my last year of being a Brownie and learning new skills and crafts.

County Statistics 2020-2021

County Total

129

Units

1382

Young Members

345

Volunteers

Rainbows

37

Units

385

Members

Brownies

50

Units

618

Members

Guides

34

Units

326

Members

Rangers

10

Units

53

Members

From October 2020 - September 2021

Awards



January - June 2021

Name	Award	Unit
Fiona Cunningham	40 years	1 st Dalry Guides
Allison Black	30 years	1 st Hurlford Rainbows
Lisa Cowan	Going Away With	1 st Newmilns Brownies
Helen Shedden	Growing Guiding	1 st Ayrshire North Virtual Brownies
Fiona Malcolm	Growing Guiding	1 st Ayrshire North Virtual Brownies
Erin Malcolm	Growing Guiding	1 st Ayrshire North Virtual Brownies
Claire Liddell	Growing Guiding	1 st Ayrshire North Virtual Brownies



Rainbows
Emma McSourley (60.5 miles)

Brownies
Eden Dougan-Sloan (172.1 miles)

Guides/Rangers/YL
Hannah Broadfoot (314.9 miles)

Leaders & Overall Total
Helen Cooke (393.9 miles)



July - December 2021

Name	Award	Unit
Ann Hume	50 years	1 st Onthank Rainbows
Margaret McGrath	50 years	6 th Kilmarnock Guides
Patricia Gray	50 years	1 st Stevenston Brownies
Lorna McGee	30 years	1 st Newmilns Brownies
Kirsty Clark	20 years	2 nd Kilmarnock Brownies
Claire Liddell	10 years	Ayrshire North County & 1 st Ayrshire North Virtual Brownies
Shirley Rankin	10 years	1 st Stewarton Guides
Mary Anne Gibson	10 years	5 th Ardrossan Guides
Joan Gorman	5 years	6 th Kilwinning Brownies
Krystle Baird	5 years	10 th Irvine Mure Church Brownies
Teresa Loudon	5 years	5 th Ardrossan Guides
Amy McGowan	5 years	1 st Kilmaurs Brownies
Zoe Breingan	5 years	3 rd Pennyburn Brownies
Laura Vipond	5 years	1 st Shiskine Rainbows
Beth McGuffie	Growing Guiding	1 st Darvel Brownies
Aimee Ronald	Growing Guiding	2 nd Stewarton Rainbows
Lorna Millar	Growing Guiding	3 rd & 3 rd A Howard Rainbows, 2 nd & 2 nd A Kilmarnock Brownies

CONGRATULATIONS!



Betty Wilson presented with her British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran.



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

Ayrshire North County



Girlguiding UK (306016)

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

President: Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex

Chief Guide: Amanda Medler

Girlguiding Scotland (SC005548)

President: Linda Urquhart

Scottish Chief Commissioner: Moira McKenna

Girlguiding Ayrshire North (SC036295)

President: Kim Main

County Commissioner: Louise Crichton

Find us on:



www.girlguidingayrshirenorth.org.uk