



Girlguiding Northumberland Annual Review 2022

2022 began the recovery of our services and provisions following the covid 19 pandemic. Our membership numbers in the county began to grow slowly and Girlguiding units embraced the return to Girlguiding as we had known it and were able to provide a wide range of activities to cover the Girlguiding programme.

In April 2022 we were able to have a Thanks and Recognition event for all our members who had reached 30, 40 and 50 years of service and those who kept their divisions and county provisions running during the pandemic. It was great to be able to meet in person once again and thank our volunteers for all their hard work and service. My congratulations also go out to those who received their 5, 10 and 20 years service awards within their division. Congratulations go to Charlotte Taylor who gained her Queens Guide Award and to Margaret Lester who was presented with the Silver Fish award.

In June 2022 we were able to come together as a county and celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Over 500 members met at Swinhoe Farm Riding Centre, Belford and were able to partake in a number of activities from inflatables, circus skills, crafts and a trail to a photo booth. In the evening we enjoyed campfire songs and making s'mores with the day culminating in the lighting of an official beacon to mark the Queens jubilee. Our day made the local news when ITV joined us at the event. We were saddened to hear of the Queens passing in September 2022. The Queen had been a girl guide herself and was the patron of Girlguiding from the time she became Queen. Two members of Girlguiding Northumberland performed one last service for the Queen, travelling to London on the day of the Queens funeral to become wayfinders for the thousands of people who had travelled to London for the event.

Units in the county were able to get out and about again in 2022 with two of our divisions travelling to Switzerland for their trips which had been postponed from 2020, they had a great time and it was an amazing opportunity for the young girls attending, some of who had never been away from home before. Other units had residential trips closer to home, enjoying the outdoors and being together as a unit.

Girlguiding Northumberland continues to provide a variety of opportunities for all its members. I'd like to thank all our volunteers for the amazing work they do and I am grateful for all the support that our volunteers receive from their family and friends in order that they can commit to their units and give the girls the amazing opportunities that they do.

We are grateful to the Sir James Knott and W A Handley Charity Trusts for their continued support to Girlguiding Northumberland.

Gillian Teasdale County Commissioner





Ashington Division.

All the units in the Ashington Division have had a busy and wonderful year. All are continuing to embrace the programme and most of the units have presented bronze, silver and gold awards. A number of the units attended both the Division and County Jubilee Events and had a fabulous time. 2nd Ashington Rainbows visited Northumberland Zoo and Airbox Bounce. 1st Woodhorn Rainbows had their Summer Party, visiting the park, doing craft activities and having a McDonalds, then Captain Raggy Beard came along to entertain, by looking for gold and walking the plank! 7th Ashington Brownies took part in the church flower festival and worked with the Coop for Mothers Day and a Poppy Display. 1st Ellington Brownies went to the beach enjoying beach Olympics, sand building competitions and a plodge in the sea! They also did surf lessons at Seaton sluice. 1st Bedlington Brownies raised £160 for Ukraine by holding a concert; they also visited the residents in Wansbeck Court sharing memories of stories and songs from childhood and attended the annual Remembrance Service and Parade. 1st Woodhorn Brownies visited Wansbeck Riverside Park and also had a Christmas meal at an Italian Restaurant.



Berwick-upon-Tweed

Spring Term

It was a great start to the year with all our units now meeting face to face once again! During the spring term individual Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units participated in a variety of experiences and completed a vast range of UMAs and Skills Builders. Crafts are always popular, and girls have enjoyed making goodies for Mother's Day and Easter

All girls in the division had the opportunity to design a poster as part of a competition informing the public about the Queens Platinum Jubilee bulb display. The bulbs were planted by Brownies and Guides in the autumn of 2021 in Flagstaff Park, Berwick. The winning posters are now displayed in Flagstaff Park, beside the Jubilee display.

The highlight of this term was the Division Queen's Platinum Jubilee event, which was due to be held in Flagstaff Park, but had to be held in the Parish Hall due to the weather! We all enjoyed craft activities, parachute games and a picnic which included a special cake.

On Thinking Day, Brownies held a special meeting and at 2pm on 22/2/22 and renewed their Brownie Guide Promise. They also had fun with 'bristle bots' and took part in a calm mindfulness activity to get them started on the Mindfulness interest badge. The Lion Patrol in Guides planned their Thinking Day event, and the girls enjoyed a great evening decorating the church, playing games, enjoying activities, and tasting food from different countries.

A Brownie Sleepover was held at Berwick Youth Hostel. It was the girls first sleepover and they had great fun enjoying; a night walk around the walls, a movie & popcorn, foraging on the beach and doing chores!

Brownies and Guides were involved in a local engineering project in conjunction with the Union Chain Bridge and tried bridge building with K'nex kits and celebrated STEM during Science Week with lava, boomerang and aeroplane making.

Brownies had a visit from the Riding of the Bounds Committee who taught them the Berwick Song and invited them to sing it on the Town Hall steps during the celebrations! They also left a wooden horse to decorate for a shop window display.

At the end of term, we said a fond farewell to Viv, leader of the Rainbows and wished her all the best for her future involvement in the Trefoil Guild.

Summer Term

Now that Rainbows could join from 4 years old, we agreed, as a division, that we would admit girls on the condition that they had already started school. The summer term was spent settling Rainbows into their new routine, getting used to new leaders and discovering how much they loved singing silly songs! They enjoyed making new friends, having adventures outdoors, den building and discovering the local area.

Brownies made cards for the Queens Platinum Jubilee which were sent to Buckingham Palace and the highlight was receiving a reply from the Queen only 2 weeks before she sadly died in the autumn term. A Brownie leader in training organised a Hobby Horse Workshop culminating in a Gymkhana and a woodland walk. Well done!

Brownies enjoyed a painting workshop delivered by a local artist, with several Brownies completing their Painting Interest Badge following this visit. At the end of half term, Rainbows and Brownies held a Joint Jubilee Jamboree and completed the challenges to receive Girlguiding NE Platinum Jubilee Challenge badge.

The highlight of the summer term was once again a focus for more Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and many of the girls in our division travelled to Belford to take part in the county event. Everyone had a wonderful day with highlights being circus skills, inflatables, crafts, and ice cream! The night ended with campfire singing and the lighting of our beacon as part of the national beacon lighting, the first being lit by the Queen, at Windsor.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides had great fun this term learning tennis skills using our 'She Rallies' equipment. Guides also made good use of their outside space and garden in the summer term and enjoyed learning to cook on colander fires; making drop scones with homemade butter, marshmallow s'mores and then cooking with and without utensils to gain the Backwoods Cooking Interest Badge.

A Young Leader with Guides completed her YL Qualification this year and asked that she celebrate her 18th birthday at Guides. She was presented with a photo book of her Guiding journey so far, shared her celebration cake, toasted her with 'fizz,' then she made her Promise as an adult. Before moving onto university, she implemented her Regional Peer Education training and completed a 'Safe the World' session with the Guides.

The last meeting of the summer term for Rainbows and Brownies was a joint beach party followed by a badge presentation. Three Brownie Silver awards and two Brownie Bronze awards were achieved this year, with the girls moving on to join Guides. Well done!

Our last division event of the summer term was taking part in the Tweedmouth Salmon Queen Parade and escorting the Salmon Queen to her crowning, on a lovely sunny July evening.

Autumn Term

Our first unit meetings of the autumn term began with a royal reflection on Queen Elizabeth II our patron of Girlguiding, who sadly passed away the week before. Brownies made condolence pictures and cards which were sent to our new king,

King Charles III. Brownies had a visit to Pets at Home, took part in Parliament Week and enjoyed bonfire & poppy crafts.

Rainbows and Brownies also worked on challenges to gain the NE Trefoil Guild Go Green Badge. They completed a variety of UMAs and Skill Builders with a green theme, including Ready, set, recycle and Recycling super hero. They enjoyed a range of activities including visiting the local green shop, learning about food miles, and had a representative from Climate Action Berwick and the Borders who spoke to the girls about climate change and encouraged them to write a postcard to the Earth! They ended the half term with a joint plastic free picnic.

Guides also aimed to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible during the year and they also completed challenges for this award. They completed activities such as making wax wraps, bee hotels, crisp packet blankets for a charity, lampshades from milk bottle tops, shoulder bags from old T shirts and recycling paper into notebooks. The Guides decided to continue the 'Go Green' theme for their Christmas Good Turn and collected old ink cartridges, used stamps, clothing and bags for the Great North Air Ambulance.

During this term the Division held a recruitment afternoon, "Girls Galore " in the grounds of a local school. Thanks to a grant from our local football team, Berwick Rangers F.C. we were able to provide a range of taster activities for girls to take part in. These included making sock puppets, edible campfires, den building, first aid and experimenting with 'magical mixtures.' Our County Commissioner attended and joined in the parachute fun! The afternoon was well attended by current members and girls who have since become new recruits for each unit.

All units took part in the local Remembrance Day Service and Parade in November with Brownies completing the UMA Stones of Remembrance to lay their creations at the War Memorial.

In the last few weeks of the year the Guides took part in a series of First Aid sessions towards the First Aid Skills Builder, this included bandaging, how to deal with burns and scalds, dealing with a First Aid emergency and carrying a casualty. The end of term was full of Christmas cards and crafts with Brownies completing challenges to gain the NEE 12 Days of Christmas Challenge Badge.'



After an incredible packed year, we celebrate our successes with; new recruits, Silver & Bronze awards, support for local and national charities and our 'Supergirls' a bunch of girls who are confident, happy, who love to learn and above all have fun doing it!



Berwick upon Tweed Division is proud to offer girls a varied programme of activities and opportunities in Girlguiding as we continue to raise our profile in the local area. This is due to the continued support and commitment of our volunteers. **Well Done and Thanks!**

Blyth Division

A better year for Blyth with units getting back to normal. We had a new Rainbow unit opened in Newsham thanks to two Leaders volunteering more of their time each week. All units have waiting lists and we could offer more spaces with more adults. We have had few more ladies volunteering to be unit helpers.

Karen and Barbara have both celebrated 40 years service this year. Congratulations to you both. We all enjoyed our Division disco in November and had a big turnout for our Remembrance Parade in Blyth too. Our Divisions Carol service was also very popular and back to precovid attendance numbers. We had a huge response to our collection for the local food bank.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers giving up all their precious time.



Cramlington

2022 has been a busy year for all the units in Cramlington. A time when a lot of us were able to get back to more 'normal' Guiding activities including trips and Division events.

A Division trip to Beamish was arranged and units attended the Division Carol service, local Remembrance Sunday events and joined with Northumberland County at the Queen's platinum jubilee event.

As part of the Jubilee celebrations many units decorated postcards of the Queen which were displayed in Manor Walks shopping centre. Some units attended the Girlguiding screenings of Matilda at the Odeon cinema in December.

All units in the division collected food for the Hope Centre food bank as a Christmas good turn.

Rainbows have been busy with food activities, becoming scientists for the night, making bird feeders, creating thank you cards for people in their local communities and travelling the world from their unit meeting places. They have visited the local library, the beach and had Royal Afternoon tea parties. Girls have been busy gaining interest badges and theme awards and several gained their Rainbow bronze awards.

Brownies have worked on various umas and skills builders in unit meetings and girls have worked on their interest badges at home. Units have awarded at least 11 Bronze, 2 Silver and 2 Gold awards over the year which is a great achievement. 3rd Cramlington Brownies celebrated their 50th birthday in April. Girls from the different units have planted flower seeds and tree saplings for the local communities, attended a street party and had visits from Rockpool School and Doodlebugs pottery painting.

Guides have managed to have their first overnight and weekend away for several years with stays at Dukeshouse Wood and Cheviot View. They have visited the beach and Plessey Woods to Geocache, had an adventure to South Shields by public transport and learnt CPR. They have celebrated

International Women's Day and Parliament week and have carried out some fundraising events. They have also spent time working on the programme and gaining skills builders and theme awards. The Rangers have completed lots of umas, skills builders and challenge badges this year. They enjoyed an outing to "Game of Throwing" at the Gate in Newcastle and there were some scarily good axe throwers amongst them! They celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with a bake off creating cakes with a Union Flag theme. The High Sheriff visited them while they were doing outdoor cooking and they enjoyed the opportunity to go foraging but not many of them enjoyed the nettle tea. All in all they have had a busy, fun-packed year.

The Trefoil Guild have enjoyed meetings involving food, worked on NEE Go Green Challenge, walked along the Riverside at Ashington, enjoyed flower arranging and had a blind tasting of different apples and juices amongst other things. They have also learnt about the history of Smalls the hardware store in Morpeth and the work of the local Community Police officers. They kindly provided refreshments for leaders after the Division Carol Service which was much appreciated by all the leaders that attended. The homemade mince pies were very tasty!

Several adults in the division have gained long service awards including Judith Howard with 40 years, Sharon Harvey with 30 years and Erin Stewart with 20 years. Others have gained 1, 3, 5 and 10 year awards.



Castle Ward

Girls have gained their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. We completed badges on the North East England Jubilee and 12 days of Christmas badges.

We all took part in the Remembrance parade. We had several parties throughout the year especially at Christmas. We also celebrated the Queens platinum Jubilee with the rainbows holding a afternoon tea, the Division held a crown competition for the community at Ponteland Party in the park and Stamfordham Brownies had a stall at their local celebrations making crowns. 2 units joined the County for the lighting of the beacon. The Rainbows had entire in the Ponteland Flower Show and several won, where Guides where incharge of refreshments with donations from the Trefoil.

We had outings to the Newcastle football to see the Newcastle united ladies play, cinema, went for Pizza at Fratelli's, ice skating at the centre for life and the Division event to Whickham Thorns. Have been learning new skills like surfing at Seaton Sluice and cricket. Parents have been teaching skills to Brownies on first aid and journalism. The Brownies also visit the local St Mary's Church to learn about the history. At Christmas the division joined the scouts for a Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church. We donated food, toys and Christmas treats to Throckley and Newburn food bank. We celebrated the achievements of Ellyn Wilsher, Laura Walker and Amiee Rainey gaining their Adult Leader Qualification. Lesley Hughes gained her 40 years and Lucinda Porter 50 years.



Morpeth

We started the year with the North East England 'Hear Me Out' challenge. For Thinking Day a unit completed an escape room, another travelled to Australia. As part of Have Adventures, girls went outside to observe the night sky, had camp donuts on the beach, took part in litter picks and attended the Division bivvy.

We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee at Swinhoe Farm with the County. Units wrote letters to Her Majesty sending her best wishes. Girls joined the Division camp either for the whole weekend or for the open day. We had the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon which was truly memorable. Later in the year we had the sad news that Queen Elizabeth II had died. Units held nights of reflection, talking about what she meant to us and her role in Girlguiding. We held two minutes of silence.

Girls have been able to march with the pipe band at the Pegswood Fair, complete a Charity walk around Druridge, have a visit to Eshott Airfield, the opportunity to watch Newcastle United Ladies Football and volunteer at the Great North Run. We had members participating at Remembrance parades in Bothal, Morpeth and Widdrington. The Division organised a disco to support Children in Need. We had a brilliant trip to the cinema to see Matilda the Movie and also had fun at the Christmas crafts day. A festive Christingle service with the rest of the Division.

We celebrated as new members made their promise and girls received a lot of skills builder, theme award and interest badges. We are lucky to have girls progressing through their bronze, silver and gold section awards. Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards being awarded. Queen's Guide presentations and leaders receiving long service awards.

Tynedale West

A small snapshot of Tynedale West from each Unit.



Haltwhistle Brownies

The Haltwhistle Film Project interviewed residents about the time they were evacuated from Tyneside to Haltwhistle at the beginning of World War II. They needed some film footage to accompany the interviews so Brownies and Rainbows dressed as evacuees and took their little suitcases to Haltwhistle station for some filming. Back at the hall we did some 'blue screen' filming also. A few months later we attended the Premiere of "It started with a train Ride"
<https://www.haltwhistlefp.co.uk/heritage>



3rd Hexham Brownies

The girls have had a busy year, and we have been working to the Be Well Theme Award and enjoyed a lot of acting to Dr ABC etc. We also had a visit from Heartstop Foundation, teaching CRP and fitted in a visit to Hexham fire station - which was thoroughly enjoyed. We watched a pantomime prior to Christmas and spent two meetings making ribbon wreaths - I was amazed at the variety of designs.



2nd Hexham Brownies

During the year we went to Fire Station, had a visit from Heart Start, and had fun water nights at Dilston. Visited the library, went to I-pots, ceramic painting and had the panto come to us. We did lots of the fun UMAs - Hole in One and Trash Fashion being the most popular along with making the lego robots and took part in Parliament week.

2nd Hexham Guides

Just a little note about 2nd Hexham Guides - We are a new Guiding unit in Hexham who started in September and we have grown into a unit of fifteen girls and three leaders. Over the last term we have been working our way through skills builders, UMA's and we have even had a few girls complete interest badges. At Christmas we took the girls to Ipots in Hexham, where they painted various pieces of pottery and we also watched a pantomime with other Guides and Brownies. The leaders have enjoyed getting to know the girls and are excited for the future! Hopefully the unit will keep going from strength to strength!

3rd Hexham Guides

Our first full year of face to face meetings since the pandemic has been a busy one. We have had a constant membership of 30 guides, all full of enthusiasm. Our programme has covered a few badges including several nights completing the level 4 first aid skill builder and many of the girls did their mixology interest badge during one evening. Other activities have included a dance workshop, a night of pancake challenges and other arts and crafts.

During the summer term we held all of our meetings outdoors at Dilston scout camp. There they did outdoor cooking on campfires, celebrated the Queen's jubilee, learned a couple of new games from the girl guiding UMA packs, played in the river and enjoyed our annual barbecue and water games evening with the brownies. This was the first time we had been able to do this since 2019 so was extra special for everyone.

In the autumn we went to Ipots, watched Matilda at the cinema enjoyed a panto performed for us by a local theatre company and joined in the town's annual Remembrance Day parade.

We held a stall during the town's celebrations of 800 years of the marketplace which helped raise the profile of girl guiding in Hexham. We also ran a stall at the West End church during their Christmas in the car park event in December. Some of the girls also helped out with the Tynedale Lions santa sleigh collections during some very cold and wet evenings.

Guides often say their most memorable times at guides are the residential trips. We had 3 of them this year!! We had a Christmas themed weekend at Cheviot View near Wooler in March (postponed from November due to storm Arwen!), a seaside adventures weekend in Seahouses in May and 12 of the girls and 2 leaders joined a group from Tynedale East on a 10 day trip to Switzerland in August. In Switzerland they did white water rafting, visited a chocolate factory and remade their promise at Our Chalet.



Tynedale East

Girls in Girlguiding Tynedale East have had a busy year with a visit to Waddow Hall's Wizardly Weekend in April, weekends at Whittunstall and Seahouses, and lots of fun closer to home. Units in Wylam designed and decorated bird and bat boxes for the Wylam to Newburn Wagonway route, and there have been visits to fire stations and from mountain rescue in Prudhoe. In Heddon, the Guide unit has reopened and is growing every term.

International

We started the year with a virtual World Thinking Day event. We joined together with the region on zoom for virtual fun to celebrate our amazing young people around the world. We all renewed our Promise, took action for climate change and gender equality. We also had our own county event to celebrate. We had a fantastic afternoon carrying out activities from the WAGGGS Thinking Day pack – planted seeds, sang songs and renewed our promises. It was also lovely to see on Facebook some of the girls wearing their uniform to school.

The events in Ukraine are deeply shocking and touch us all. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are part of a global community. We have a long history of working for peace through cultural understanding and international friendship. It's brilliant to see those who have organised collections for families, arranged fundraising events and designed badges to sell.

Units booked their place to join Poacher international jamboree on Lincolnshire showground. They took part in the Wild West sub camp, watched the medieval jousting display, climbing and abseiling, visited the waffle house, zorbing and stilt walking. All having fun and fitting in as many activities as they can.

Honey from Cramlington Division continues to meet with other Guides from the region and Scouts as they form the UK contingent Unit 40 attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023.

In August 2022, ICE (International Community Experience) took place in Edinburgh. The girls were randomly selected from all over North East England. They started the week all nervous and excited for what was to come and it was not long until the Guides were inseparable. They faced new heights on the climbing wall, tried new foods from around the world and had a go at all sorts of new activities. They visited Edinburgh Castle and the Scottish Parliament.

For their community action project, they chose their assignments in small groups – animal welfare and period poverty. They completed a presentation on what they had learnt.

We had two groups who took girls on their international travels. Morpeth Division went to Nepal and Tynedale East Division (TED) went to Switzerland.

Morpeth Division arrived in Nepal. We met up with local Scouts and stayed overnight at their campsite in the hills. We spent time learning about their culture and what they do in Scouts in Nepal. We went fishing on the way for our dinner. We took part in the community project with a local school where we taught them first aid aimed at being in an earthquake disaster (after training), the importance of climate change and dental care in how to brush your teeth. Whilst there we tried traditional dancing, making momo's to eat and relaxed with a yoga class. On our visit to Pokahara we walked across the hanging bridge, went boating on the lake and visit the peace pagoda. We also had sightseeing opportunities in Kathmandu to visit the hilltop Monkey Temple, Durbar Square which include temples, shrines and the old royal place.

After 30 hours of travelling by coach, TED were off to the adventure park and outdoor swimming pool in Adelboden. Went up the mountain in a cable car to the hill side toboggan run before walking down to Oeschinensee Lake and the beautiful Blausee Lake. They took part in the parade for the Swiss National Day celebrations. A beautiful walk to Trummer woodcarvers and then a walk up through the spectacular Choleren Gorge. A lovely afternoon was spent at Our Chalet where they took part in the pinning ceremony and two Rangers made their Promise, so special for them. The girls had the opportunity to play the horn as part of the Swiss evening. A spectacular drive to the Trummelbach falls and then explored the 10 glacial falls.



Whittonstall

We are finally able to offer Whittonstall for camps and holidays and are beginning to get a steady trickle of bookings. It is lovely to see the building come alive again.

The committee have a programme of refurbishments which will take place over the coming months bringing the property up to date. Whilst we are limited as to what we can do within the fabric of the existing building there is still plenty of scope.

We have this amazing asset in our county. If you've not been before it is well worth a visit.

Allison Graydon
Chair Buildings Committee

Training

We are finally able to offer face to face to trainings and have seen many leaders complete their First Response training.

Who would have believed two years ago we would be trained via this new phenomena called Zoom?! It is definitely here to stay and the way forward will be to offer hybrid training.

The new training platform allows you to attend training from the comfort of home but there is much to be gained from face to face to training.

Congratulations go to Marguerita Gray on completing her training licence. Well done!

Allison Graydon
Training organiser

Girlguiding Northumberland Trefoil Guild

During 2022 Guilds have certainly made up for the time lost due to lockdowns and distancing, by engaging in full and challenging programmes that have enabled members to re-establish the fellowship that they missed so much in the two previous years. Meetings have been serious on some occasions, reflective, creative and celebratory on others, but primarily full of caring, fun and friendship.

Feedback from members who attended the Annual Meeting in May was excellent. The pre-lunch plant exchange was very successful; lunch was superb and followed by a well received, informative speaker in Wendy Fail, Senior Waste Management Officer for Northumberland County Council. We were pleased to welcome Assistant County Commissioner, Kirsty De Bono Hume.

Four guilds have completed elements of the North East England Green Challenge. We were sorry to have to close Wansbeck Guild in February and members of the Executive have worked hard to produce recruitment materials to help us start increasing our membership again. I was pleased to be able to join members of Berwick and Rothbury Guilds respectively, at one of their meetings and thank them for their warm welcome. We were saddened in November by news of the death of member and former County Chair Mary Main.

Margaret Millar
County Chair

