



Annual Report 2024



Message from the outgoing County Commissioner

2024 brought another bustling year of activity in Northumberland County. In March we gathered as a county at Newcastle Cathedral for a sleepover. I'm not sure there was much sleeping but everyone had a fun evening and many units spent the following day in Newcastle exploring its many sites.



In June guides from the county headed out to Newcastle for a monopoly run. They travelled across Newcastle, headed to the coast, and even sailed across the Tyne on a ferry. They competed against each other to earn points reaching as many places as possible across Newcastle and Tyneside and completing tasks along the way. It was great to be joined by guides from Newcastle, North Tyneside and Cleveland counties.

In July 2024 members attended a Thanks and Recognition event at Newbiggin Maritime Centre. Long services awards were presented alongside County Commissioner and Girlguiding Hero awards.

In October 2024 I handed the county into the safe hands of Barbara Craigs and wish her well as she takes the county forward. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported me throughout my 5 years of tenure, too many names to mention but thank you! Thank you also to our amazing volunteers for all the opportunities you give our young members, you're all priceless.

Gillian Teasdale

Message from the incoming County Commissioner



I was honoured to take over from Gillian in October and it has been a busy 3 months. December saw the county event at Alnwick Gardens with the visit to the gardens, playing at Lilidorei and then to cap it off a magical walk through the light trail in the evening.

We dropped off some very tired but excited girls (and leaders) at the end. Who would have envisioned that our original booking of 200 would swell to over 900 with most of the county attending. Thank you to Gillian and the events team for a special end to Girlguiding in 2024.

I would like to express my thanks to Gillian for leading the county so successfully over the last 5 years and to thank you and your families for all your hard work and dedication: for donating your time to ensure Girlguiding is thriving in Northumberland.

Barbara Craigs





Message from the County President

Over the years I have written items for the annual report under many different guises. But this is the first time I've written as County President.

When the county commissioner asked me last year to take on this role, I have to admit to being a bit teary! Needless to say I was very proud.

Looking at the division reports I can see that leaders continue to offer their girls good quality guiding, giving them opportunities in a broad and varied programme.

Thanks must go to the families of all leaders, I know firsthand how vital that support behind the scenes is. The county commissioner is building up her team and with their support the county can face and overcome any challenges that may arise over the coming months.

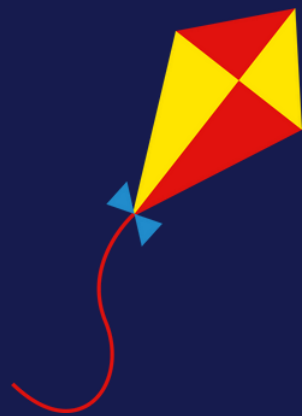
Thanks go the W A Handley Trust for their continued support of Girlguiding Northumberland.

Allison Graydon
County President.





Around the county



Alnwick Division

A litter pick in Alnwick town centre

Remembrance Day parade, helping to organise the service and laying homemade poppies

Visiting Rothbury House, entertaining and talking to the lovely residents.

Painting a mural

Writing eco-themed poetry inspired by the Coquetdale river

Beaches, woodland walks, visiting Craggside, the Farne Islands and lots of puffins

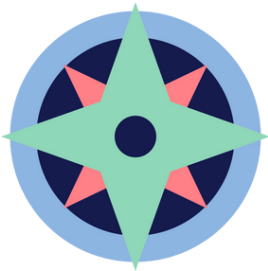
A camping weekend - A year in a weekend galloping through Easter, Halloween and Christmas.

Bouldering, surfing, sailing, kayaking, geocaching (in the rain)

Sleepover at Newcastle Cathedral



Adventure





Ashington Division

Pack holiday with fish and chips and puffins.

Air Box Bounce for Thinking Day, bonfire night, Christmas parties, cinema. Llidorei and pantomimes

Olympic games at Whittonstall

Fund raising

Cathedral sleepover

Weekend at Kingswood

Interest badges

New leaders

Fun, laughter and adventure





Fun and friendship





Berwick Division

Pantomime (oh yes they did!)

Burns night, Chinese New Year and Valentines Day

Pack holiday – food, friendship, fun and fires.

Peer education session – think resilient.

Olympic challenge, French skipping, golf, football and a sponsored walk.

A forest challenge, a visit to the lifeboat station for Mayday Mayday challenge.

Camping at Cheviot View with archery and axe throwing

Remembrance parade and Christmas parties

UMAs, skill builders and interest badges

Looking forward to a new ranger unit.





Memories





Blyth Division

Badges, badges, badges!

30th birthday and 70th birthday celebrations

Olympic games

Disco and carol service

Marble runs with lego, building bridges

Makaton

Fund raising

Monopoly run round Newcastle

Pizza making and eating!

Chippie hikes and ice cream at the beach

Stem

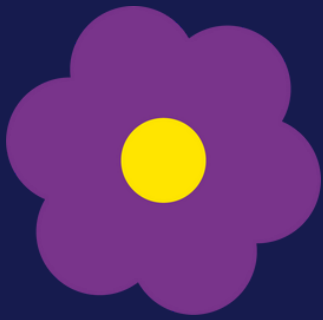
Rangers





Active





Castleward Division

Waiting lists, membership and growth

Cinema trips, sleepovers, climbing wall,
cricket with ECB Cricket Allstars.

Surfing, ice skating and local walks with
map reading and environment knowledge

DofE volunteers

Remembrance parade and service, Duck Race,
Christmas market, Flower and Craft show, Carol
service

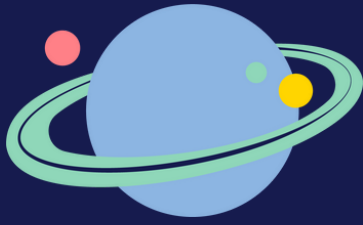
Foodbank support

Camping and overnight residentials at Whittonstall



Keeping active





Cramlington Division

Division Thinking day, Remembrance parade and Christmas events. Monopoly run and cinema visits.

Burn's night, St. Patrick's Day and Easter with craft, food and games.

Visits to Tynemouth Aquarium, the RNLI station and the park.

Units celebrated 20, 30 and 70 years.

Caring for hair and nails at a local beauty salon, a visit from the Mountain Rescue Team and a visit to the fire station.

Karate, surfing, axe throwing, weekend camp at Cheviot View and visiting Whickham Thorns activity centre.

Whittling, beach walk (with ice cream) outdoor cooking, exploring the night sky, making pumpkin pictures and bottle windchimes.

Long service awards and a Hero award.



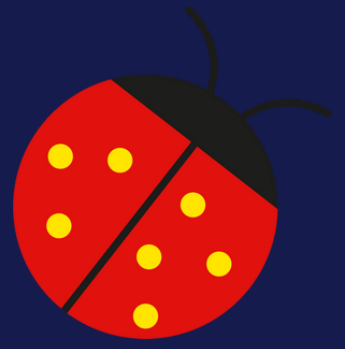


**New
experiences**





Around the county



Morpeth Division

Burn's night with haggis and Scottish dancing.
Chinese New Year and Pancake Day with lots of toppings!

Thinking day around the world with songs and uniforms.
Designing our own.

Cathedral sleepover

Easter crafts and a farm visit to see newborn lambs.

RNLI MayDay challenge

Cooking outdoors, dance challenges, local walks,
making dens, building tents, picnics and games

Rainbow sleepovers and camping at Whittonstall –
a year in a weekend

Litter picking and a visit to Clarks Bog.

Olympic games, beach parties and sandcastles

Pudsey division disco, cinema trip, church toy service and
finally the division carol service and the Christmas market.





Skills for life





Tynedale East Division

Residential trips to PGL Ford Castle, Seahouses, Whittonstall, Cheviot View and Whitby

Arts and crafts, cooking, games and the guiding programme.

Cinema visit to Maona 2. The Discovery Museum, Wickham Thorns

Litter picks, chippy hikes, remembrance parade and collecting for the food bank.

Visits from RNLI, Big Sister fitness team and a local artist to take part in creating art work

Teddy bear picnics, floristry workshops, planting pants (not a spelling mistake), Olympic games.

Clip and climb and ice cream vans

Long service awards





Community





Tynedale West Division

Pancakes and toppings. Easter chocolate nests, played board games, visited the 4 world centres. Visited by Mountain Rescue

Designed the new uniform, painted pebbles, pizza making, bubble in a bubble

Local history walk ending with chips. Water games and a wet BBQ

Weekend away to Cheviot View and a holiday licence.

Kingswood activity day with Tynedale East

Summer meetings at Dilston Scout Camp gaining backwoods cooking badge, playing in the river, water games and BBQ

First guide gold award

Parliament week, getting badges, trampoline park, helping with Santa Sleigh collections

Rainbows have looked, learned, laughed and loved





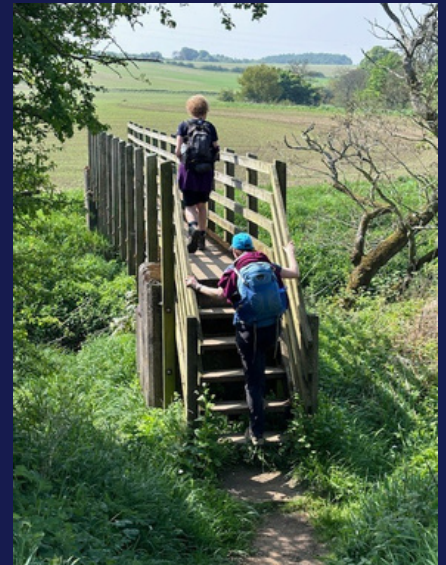
Inclusivity





Volunteers

County walk from Amble to Alnwick



Friendship





Fun for adults
too!



London Monopoly Run



Events

Thanks and Recognition



Lillidorei



Cathedral Sleepover



Awards



Queens Guide Award



Rio Groves



County Commissioner Awards



Karen Crutchley



Suzi Smith



Clare Davis

Girlguiding Hero Awards



Gemma Latimer



Judith Howard

Long service awards



Hilary Reid 30 Years



Nicola Wardle 30 Years



Angela Ternent 30 year



Long service awards

Congratulations to the following members who have received long service awards in 2024

5 years

Pauline Molloy
Rebecca Lillico
Tracy Millar
Sarah Storrar
Helen Robson
Pamela McGahon
Gemma Latimer
Sarah Campbell
Ellen Jacobs
Louise Housecroft

20 years

Jill Hodson
Sam Heslop
Helen Robertson
Marguerita Gray

10 years

Wendy Weightman
Courtney Gold
Alex Gibbons
Hilary Elder
Stephanie Hunter
Sarah Abley
Angela Anderson
Chloe Rowe
Anna Loughhead
Ruth Carr
Victoria Kinneavy
Suzi Smith
Craig Teasdale
Jade Forrester
Stephanie Collins
Amanda Jayne Ternent
Susan Fairgrieve
Sarah Naylor

Congratulations to all leaders who have received 1 & 3 year service awards in 2024



Whittonstall



Our house and campsite
continue to provide fun and adventure for all!

Visit girlguidingnorthumberland.org.uk for more
information on availability and how to book.





Thank you to all our amazing
volunteers, members and
supporters who make guiding
happen!





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