



Resilient in Renfrewshire

Girlguiding Renfrewshire
Annual Review 2021



Girlguiding

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President: HRH Countess of Wessex

Chief Guide: Amanda Medler

Scottish Chief Commissioner: Moira McKenna

Girlguiding Renfrewshire

County President: Mrs Mar Rae

County Commissioner: Mrs Sheila Young

Assistant County Commissioners: Mrs Aileen Wilson, Ms Gillian Clements,
and Mrs Moira Johnston

Girlguiding Renfrewshire Vice Presidents

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Mrs Pat Chalmers	Mrs Frances Walshaw	Mrs Sandra Jolly
Mrs Jean Bain	Mrs Margaret Gourlay	Mrs Cath Hillocks
Miss Helen Bryers	Mrs Elizabeth Sim	Mrs Isabel Gray
Miss Elspeth Smith	Mrs Isobel Wallace	Miss M. Graham
Mrs Isobel Smith	Mrs Maureen Foley	Mrs Ann Gaffney
	Mrs Mar Rae (County President)	

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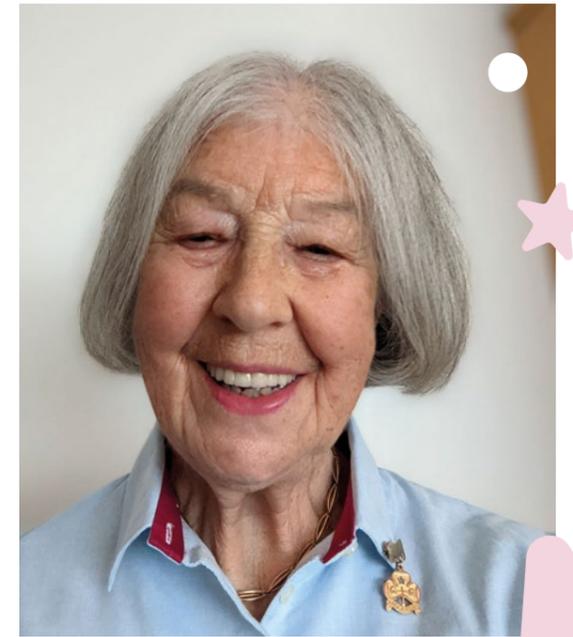
Our Promise

I promise that I will do my best:
To be true to myself and develop my beliefs,
To serve the Queen and my community
and
To keep the (Brownie) Guide Law

Rainbow Promise

I promise that I will do my best
to think about my beliefs
and to be kind and helpful

County Commissioner	cc@girlguidingrenfrewshire.org.uk
County Secretary	sec@girlguidingrenfrewshire.org.uk
South Newton	southnewton@girlguidingrenfrewshire.org.uk
Training and Development	events@girlguidingrenfrewshire.org.uk
MARCOM	marcom@girlguidingrenfrewshire.org.uk



County President Foreword

In a Trefoil collection of writing about the 2020 pandemic I found, “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass...It’s about learning to dance in the rain.”

Many of us will identify with the ingenuity needed to maintain Girlguiding when we were all restricted in many ways, not least in meeting each other face to face. Leaders not only used digital platforms but delivered materials for activities to doorsteps—a big thank you.

World Thinking Day celebrates the worldwide sisterhood of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the blue illumination of landmarks within the County and projections on walls allowed us to celebrate in a socially distanced way.

May 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of South Newton; a large-scale in-person celebration was not possible but a special edition metal badge for Leaders and a challenge badge for girls and adults were produced; a big thank you to everyone who was involved.

Gradually meeting up face to face became a reality, with all the planning and paperwork involved; I think anyone who saw the joy on girls’ faces could not doubt how much this meant to them.

As I write this, there is a campaign to recruit adult volunteers to allow more girls to experience the wonderful opportunities in Girlguiding, including dancing in the rain!

Mar Rae
County President



Girlguiding Scotland Message

Dear members of Girlguiding Renfrewshire,

I was delighted to hear some of the amazing things that you have achieved in your county over the last year. Despite the restrictions that have been in place for a good chunk of the year, you have continued to adapt, change, and engage members of all ages. From a Zoom curry cooking night for Leaders to a 'Spot the Trefoil' for all members, I heard that some were much easier to find than others!

I just loved your idea for lighting up Renfrewshire blue for World Thinking Day. This innovative idea was taken and used in many different counties across Scotland, so thank you for sharing; isn't guiding great when ideas can be shared and then they travel far and wide and have a bigger impact right across the country.

I understand that it has been challenging finding enough venues for all units to return to guiding indoors, especially with winter approaching. But again, you have thought carefully about how you can use the facilities that you have in order to support each other to allow as many units as possible to meet indoors, as always, teamwork at its very best! The impact of this is that guiding is once again growing in Renfrewshire, thank you for enabling so many more girls to join guiding to allow them to experience fun, friendship, challenge, and adventure.

Many of you will be thinking ahead to next year and considering how you can get your girls away on much loved residential experiences, be it camps or holidays. I know that South Newton has had a makeover for its 50th Birthday so, if you have not yet visited, then 2022 would be an ideal time to do so. I am looking forward to hearing some more about the adventures that you all have there.

On behalf of Moira, Carol, and all the teams at Girlguiding Scotland, I would just like to thank you; the members of Renfrewshire, for continuing to lead and inspire your teams, by working together you have overcome the difficulties that you have been faced with. You have continued to provide a guiding offer for your young members as well as support for each other. You have adapted, been flexible, and have learnt new skills. Increased visibility enforced by the lack of indoor meeting places has meant that you have been seen out and about in your communities and this has had a positive impact on the recruitment of both young and adult members. We are really looking forward to hearing about what you and your girls get up to in 2022.

Thank you for remaining true to your promise to do your best, serve in your communities, and to help other people.

Gail Fox

Deputy Scottish Chief Commissioner



"...thank you for enabling so many more girls to join guiding to allow them to experience fun, friendship, challenge, and adventure."



County Commissioner Report

When I sat down to write this for my third review as County Commissioner, I really did not have any idea of what to say. This has been a very hard year for all of us. Last year at this time we were sad to have missed our planned Lomas Pearl Celebrations, but looking forward to Girlguiding Renfrewshire's South Newton 50th Birthday event. So disappointing to have had to cancel this one too. We have had to cancel so many trips (International, National, and Local) and events (National, County, Division, District, and Unit). Yet Girlguiding is still alive in Renfrewshire.

Over the course of the pandemic, we have had to change to a blended way of guiding. Meeting on Zoom has been interesting with food coming out on top as the preferred activity, giving the girls what they want and not having the mess to clear up at the end is a positive. However, girls and volunteers missed the face to face contact and some Zoom calls became shorter and less frequent with fewer participants. Over the last year, volunteer membership decreased by 5% and young members fell by 15%. We had pockets throughout the County where this was not the case, but the overall County figure on GO was down.

The good news is that since Units have been able to get back into halls and meet face to face, girl numbers are going up week on week.

Venues have been a big challenge for Units with school lets being restricted, venue sizes restricting the number of participants, and shared facilities being closed. Units, through the resilience of our Volunteers, have adapted by sharing halls, changing venues, amalgamating Units, changing days and adapting their programme to fit with the facilities available.

South Newton played a big part in getting Units back outdoors. Joyce, Moira, and the South Newton team have worked tirelessly to open the site in a COVID safe way which has been very successful with evening and daytime Unit meetings. We are now able to offer weekends and sleepovers with a cleaning service to ensure the site is ready for the next visit.

The ladies have had a lot of help from Gayle Pollock who has done a great job with soft furnishings and external artwork. Thank you all.

You may have seen the recent Girlguiding Scotland advert on TV. Girlguiding Renfrewshire hung recruitment banners around the County. The outcome of these two campaigns has been positive and our numbers are increasing. None of this would have been possible without the work of our Division Commissioners Milly, Lesley, Heather, and Wilma, who with the help of their assistants, kept Districts and Units informed of all the grants, activities, and support that is available to Units.

Thinking Day Celebrations took on a new theme, no Church Parades with girls in uniform and flags, but instead Trefoil trails, ribbons on railings and selfie challenges. Did you get your picture with the Bridge, Bandstand, and Custom House while they were lit up in Guide Blue and Raspberry? Did you get a Friendship Knot from *Wee Annie* or see the Trefoil when it was projected on buildings in Greenock Division? Some of these will surely be part of Thinking Day in the future.

We have had a few ladies who have come to the end of their term on the County Executive. Norma Ramsay has finished as Division Commissioner for Greenock, thank you to Norma. A warm welcome to Wilma Carroll who has taken over. Lesley Hogg has finished as Division Commissioner for Renfrew Division, and another warm welcome to Katrina McGurk and Charlotte McCrone who have taken on the role of Joint Division Commissioner for Renfrew. We also say thank you to Joanne Munro Outdoor Adviser, Lynne Pinkerton Residential Adviser, Laura McMenemy International Adviser, and Aileen Gillespie Climbing Adviser who had all agreed in 2019-20 to extend their

role for a year to see us over COVID. Thank you ladies, your support has been invaluable. A warm welcome to Christine Hair who has taken on the Residential Adviser role and Lesley Hogg who has taken on the International Role.

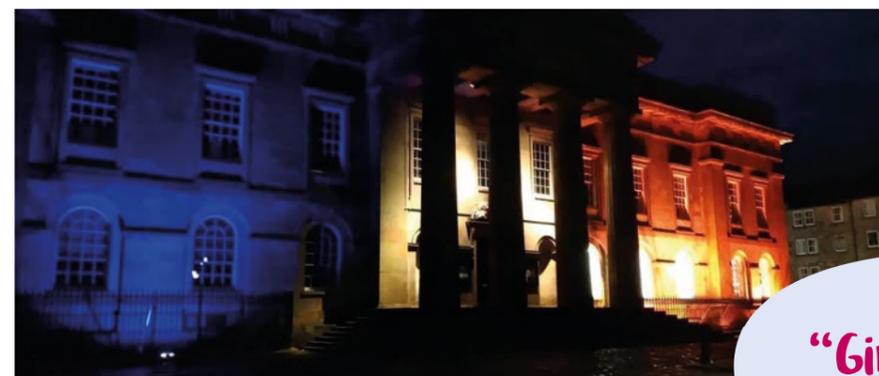
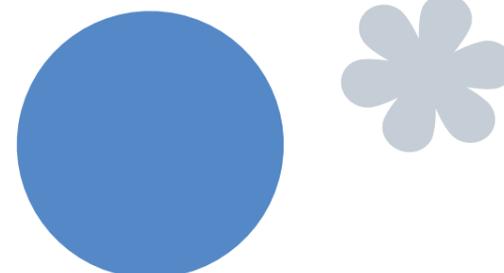
A note of thanks must also go to Elaine Wotherspoon who has taken on the Growth Coordination role. She organised the Zoom Curry Night, and the Christmas Cooking Zoom is coming your way soon. Elaine is also working with Paisley Library and some Paisley Division Rangers to ensure that the new library building has the facilities that girls and young women in Paisley want and need.

It is now more than three years since the 'A Safe Space' training became part of Girlguiding and we are getting email reminders as our renewals become due. Gillian Clements, Assistant County Commissioner, is keeping a close eye on this so that no one is removed from GO.

The new rules on First Response mean that we have to do the full training every three years which is a requirement from Health and Safety, not just Girlguiding. Thanks to Kim Cowling for keeping lists, registers and GO up to date for all of the trainings in the County, and to Evelyn Smith and Lesley Hogg for running the sessions.

To all members across Girlguiding Renfrewshire, I would like to say a personal Thank You for all you continue to do for our members.

Sheila Young
County Commissioner



"Girlguiding is still alive in Renfrewshire."





Reflective



Engaging



Warm-Hearted



Neighbourly



Resilient

Safe



Honest



Fantastic



Impactful



Resourceful



Extraordinary



Energetic



Central Division

Linwood Guide Leader, Rachel Allison was married during the summer, a beautiful day, a beautiful bride, surrounded by loved ones and her Guiding sisters. Many congratulations Rachel.

Linwood units are excited and waiting to return to guiding in new premises at Mossend Village. A delay to work has meant their restart date is in November but it looks like a lovely venue, and we wish the Units well in their new home.

Many Units took advantage of digital platforms over restricted times and conducted meetings over Zoom and Facebook. Lots of creative moments are shared over WiFi including crafts, cake baking, singing, signing, quizzes, UMA's, Skills Builders, and more. What a creative bunch Central Division Guiders are, amazing!

Our weather isn't conducive to outdoors meetings very often but they happened where they could and many uniformed girls were spotted enjoying the outdoors with their Units.

Bridge of Weir and Kilmacolm District had banners created to support volunteer recruitment as they still have a suspended Unit due to Leader shortages. The Districts in Central can expect their own local banners soon and the whole idea has been adopted by the County, so well done to all involved in this idea.

The Division has Units that have been able to remain open, against the odds, due to new volunteers and helpers. We are so grateful to them and to those who renewed their Safe Space and First Response, carried on with their ALQ's, and other training under difficult circumstances. Thank you to you all.

Kilmacolm Community Council organised a Bottle Top Art trail in April this year and families from in and around the villages took part in a socially distanced trail viewing the amazing art created by recycling bottle tops. Some of those creations can be viewed at Kilmacolm Guide Hut where they brighten up the fencing.

The Division is planning on an afternoon tea with all the trimmings for all Unit Leaders and helpers in January to celebrate each other and all we have achieved together, and all through very difficult times. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible for lots of cake!

Our Local Hero

Harriet Granger, a Leader from Johnstone and Elderslie District was nominated by her fellow Leader Jan Campbell for a Guiding Hero Award. Jan's husband was taken seriously ill earlier this year when all meetings were taking place over Zoom. Harriet took on the organising and running the Unit's Zoom meetings which allowed uninterrupted Guiding for girls and much needed time to look after her husband for Jan. Your dedication and commitment to Jan and your Unit has not gone unnoticed, many congratulations Harriet.

Heather Pearson

Central Division Commissioner



Greenock Division

When I received the phone call from our County Commissioner Sheila Young, asking if I would take over as Greenock Division Commissioner, I quickly learned that she does not take no for an answer! After having a lovely chat with Sheila, I agreed to take over from Norma Ramsay as Greenock Division Commissioner.

Firstly, the Division celebrated and thanked our outgoing executive team for their excellent work, service, and commitment to the Division. Gillian Dick, Assistant Division Commissioner, and I made surprise doorstep deliveries with gifts and afternoon tea.

It has been a challenging year in Guiding as COVID-19 hit, putting a stop to our normal Guiding activities. However, the amazing team of Leaders in Greenock Division did not let COVID-19 get in the way. Units started to meet on Zoom so that they could keep connected with their members. They held a variety of virtual activities including scavenger hunts, slime making, and planting sunflowers. Baked microwave mug cakes became one of the most popular activities, along with crafty nights and Disney bingo. Lots of Units celebrated birthday milestones as they went digital. The 23rd Greenock Brownies celebrated their 60th and the 2nd Gourock reached their 100th birthday and celebrated with a Zoom party. They played games, ate the mug cakes they had baked, and sang Happy Birthday whilst wearing homemade party hats. One of the Units even had a special birthday badge made to celebrate the occasion. Promise badges were put through letterboxes so that they could be presented once members had made their Promise on Zoom.

Leaders also went above and beyond making doorstep deliveries to filled with activity packs, craft packs, Easter eggs, and selection boxes. Thinking Day was fast approaching, and we soon realised that with restrictions still in place we would have to celebrate the day in a different way. So, Gillian and I took the Division banner on a tour of our local area, visiting some tourist attractions including Newark Castle, Lyle Hill, Cloch Lighthouse, and Inverkip War Memorial. I hope the next time we take the banner out it's a bit warmer, it was -2°C and snowing! To help get the girls and Leaders involved in World Thinking Day, activities were set out for them to go and visit with their families including selfie opportunities, ribbon tying, chance to pick up a friendship knot, painting, and social media challenges.

Gourock Statue *Wee Annie* was given her own Girlguiding tartan neckie. Our members and Inverclyde residents were encouraged to visit for selfies with her and her very own knitted campfire to share on our newly formed social media Channels. Around 500 Peace ribbons were tied to local church railings throughout the Division promoting peacebuilding within our community. Girls decorated and painted rocks in Girlguiding colours and hid them in their local area for others to discover whilst out and about. The World Thinking Day badge and the Trefoil were projected onto the sides of local churches and candles were lit and placed in windows across the Division on the evening of the 22nd February. The Beacon Arts Centre and Custom House Quay buildings in Greenock were also lit up in Girlguiding colours, to show community support for World Thinking Day 2021.

“I am really looking forward to all that Greenock Division will achieve in this coming year...”

As a Division, we love to challenge ourselves, so *Pass the Promise* was right up our street. It also inspired us to share the challenge with other Divisions and the County Exec to take on the *Easter Egg Challenge* with great success. *The Wee Beasties Out and About* and the *South Newton Challenge* were just some of the fun and interesting badges that the girls and Leaders took part in. In April, a few Leaders, and a dog (Ludo), signed up to take part in the *Sir Tom Hunter's Virtual Kiltwalk*. The challenge was to walk 500 miles in a month, which they managed to smash walking a total of 583 miles. A badge was also designed to support and celebrate the fundraising efforts. Our team, *Guiding Lights*, raised a total of £1,522.50, which included a generous 50% top-up from The Hunter Foundation. A special thanks to the generosity of our members, family, and friends for their support. During this year we were lucky to receive a grant from Inverclyde Council that allowed us to buy essential PPE and new first aid kits for all Units. This allowed Units to have the confidence to start back safely without the expense or worry of no PPE.

Many Units started back outdoors at the start of May when restrictions allowed. The Division would like to say a huge thank you to Inverclyde Council for their continued support. Restrictions started to ease, and many Units took advantage of this and started to meet face to face outdoors. Units met in church grounds, bowling greens, local parks, beaches, and South Newton for both day and evening

meetings. Outdoor cooking, making s'mores, crafting pictures out of nature, decorating logs, sports nights, and BBQs were some of the activities the girls enjoyed. A few Units even managed to visit the Alpacas and take them for a walk around Ardgowan Estate in Inverkip. A planned visit from the ice cream van brought a big smile to the girls and Leaders faces on their last night before they broke up for the summer holidays.

The Autumn brought back more planned Guiding activities, with Units continuing to meet outside, whilst light allowed. Units have gradually gone back inside with adapted activities to comply with current regulations. Greenock Division Guiders are grateful to the parents and guardians for their understanding and continued support as Units work hard to adapt to a new 'norm' of meeting together and are looking forward to continuing the fun adventures the new Guiding year ahead will bring. Greenock Division are kicking off this next year with a thank you celebration and awards presentation to all our amazing volunteers, by gathering for an Afternoon Tea in the Tontine Hotel in Greenock at the end of November. I am really looking forward to all that Greenock Division will achieve in this coming year and hopefully having the chance to collaborate and work more in partnership with the other Divisions within the County.

Wilma Carroll

Greenock Division Commissioner



Greenock Division



Paisley Division

The last year has been very interesting and we have had to adapt our Guiding in order to continue to provide the best experience we can, ensuring that girls all over the town have had the opportunity to attend a Unit either virtually or face to face.

Last year we had a virtual Halloween camp, which over 200 girls attended, with each Section following their own programme. There was a pumpkin carving competition, Halloween costumes, and cake in a mug. The girls had a great time! There was also a Halloween colouring-in competition, sponsored by the Co-op on Neilston Road, and the winning pictures were displayed in their window.

October also saw the winners of the Annual sunflower competition announced, there was a great display of sunflowers and many took part, including Leaders. Again the Co-op displayed the winners in their window.

Although no Remembrance service was held in Paisley, the Division along with the Scouts, remembered those who have served their County and laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of Girlguiding Paisley.

Many Units enjoyed the Girlguiding virtual pantomime *Sister Hood*, while others attended a wide range of different virtual productions.

Paisley held a Fairtrade bake-off/cook-off in March. Leaders and girls were invited to make a meal or cake using fairtrade ingredients, the winners were treated to a selection of Easter Fairtrade goodies. Elaine Wotherspoon, our Assistant Division Commissioner and Growing Guiding County Advisor, also ran some online Fairtrade sessions with Units. A winner was selected from every Section that entered, congratulations to all who took part!

In between lockdowns, some Units were able to meet up outside. Guides from 9th Paisley, Brownies from 33rd Paisley and Rainbows from 3rd South all met up at Lapwing Lodge, taking part in many outdoor activities until lockdown took them back to Zoom.

While on Zoom, many Units had external visitors, funded by a grant the Division was fortunate enough to receive. Very popular was a company that showed the girls how to make plasticine models and another was the artist Liz Million, who was able to get even the uncreative drawing! Several Units also had the Chef from Shiny Kitchen visit them, and there were three-course meals and lovely cakes made. The best bit about a virtual cook is no

cleaning up for the Leaders! All the Units at St Georges were invited to a cooking session online, and a three-course meal was made!

As soon as possible Units returned indoors when allowed, the first Units returning inside were the Units at St Marks, paving the way and advising the rest of the Division on good protocols. Some Units remained outside and thankfully the weather was kind. Being outside allows you to adapt the programme and there seems to have been lots of s'mores being made.

Several Units had end of term trips, Kelburn Country Park was very popular and the end of term sausage sizzle also returned, even if slightly scaled down. It was great to see Units getting away for the day.

We've also had a few Leaders receive awards and nominations. Our Division Commissioner, Milly MacKinnon received the Scottish Chief Commissioner award presented by Sheila Young, our County Commissioner at Lapwing while the Guides were having an evening there. Elaine Wotherspoon, Lesley Barclay, Lorna Ferguson, and Milly MacKinnon all received their Growing Guiding Awards. Lauren Jack has worked hard over the last few years and despite having to change plans on several occasions, successfully managed to complete her Queen's Guide Award, recently receiving it at a presentation in South Newton with the Lord Lieutenant Colonel Peter McCarthy. Elaine Wotherspoon also received a Scottish Chief Commissioners Lockdown Legend award for all her work with her Guides, Rangers, and around the Division.

Guide Leaders at 9th Paisley were nominated by a parent for a national award at Dobbies Garden Centres and they were treated to an afternoon tea along with some spending money. Congratulations to all of our wonderful Leaders.

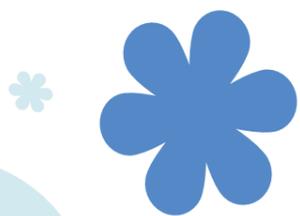


Once face to face meetings were allowed again, lots of Units met again, some outside their meeting places, some in local parks and some Units met in Lapwing. Leaders became very inventive in adapting the programme to outdoors. Girls from 9th Paisley Guides and Rangers had an amazing time on the high ropes, canoeing and archery at Lapwing. The 14th Guides went bowling at Braehead, and 9th Guides went to Gravity trampolining. The 39th A Paisley Guides enjoyed meeting outside. One of the favourite Brownies activities was *Fizzy Flyers*. Although the girls struggled with the lids on the film canisters, they loved the effect with one of the canisters flying so high, it got stuck in the tree. We have also had Units take their girls away on overnights to South Newton. and hope to see more do this in the future.

With all Units being back to running inside, we are pleased to see that numbers are increasing within the Division and Leaders are working really hard to get their Units back to pre-covid times. I personally would like to thank all the volunteers in Paisley for supporting the girls in Paisley and giving them the best guiding experience possible.

Milly MacKinnon

Paisley Division Commissioner



“We’ll never again take for granted the ability and opportunity to meet with our Guiding friends and family...”

Renfrew Division

In this, my last report as Renfrew Division Commissioner, I would like to take this opportunity to send heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteer for Girlguiding within Renfrew Division, and who, even in what has not by any means been a normal year both personally and within Guiding, have been willing to develop and continue to grow Guiding within the Division.

Unbelievable as it may seem, in some areas of the Division the numbers of those involved in Guiding increased due to the efforts of many. Despite this, unfortunately COVID has also had the not too unexpected results of the numbers of young members, Leaders, and volunteers drop. However, it must be said in the last year who would have imagined that everyone would know about Zoom and the possibilities it would bring to still hold meetings (albeit) in a new format. It has even given us the opportunity to get parents and guardians involved in the many activities at home that we offered our members. The home-baking and seeing inside everyone’s kitchen whilst waiting for the microwave mug cakes. Seeing everyone joining in the Keep Fit nights or scavenger hunts at home as well as everyone learning new IT skills all meant for fun every night whilst using Zoom.

It must be said that overall the girls seemed to be able to cope with just about anything

online and even managed to teach the older generations how to do things on Zoom. Some of the many activities done online in Erskine were a Zoom visit by The Animal Experience, and Taskmaster and Escape Room Challenges. Guides in Cardonald did an online virtual Harry Potter tour of Edinburgh where they learned a lot about where the stories were written and where to visit when they next travel through to Edinburgh, where the ideas came from for buildings and scenes in the books. Many Districts saw Promise ceremonies done online with the parents and guardians being involved in pinning the promise badges onto the girls.

Many badges continued to be gained such as *Home Sweet Home*, the *County Challenges* as well as the *Wee Beastie* badge and the South Newton challenge more recently. Many of the Units continued to be able to follow the Guiding Program with Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides gaining many Theme Awards and some girls their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards.

When we were able to meet outdoors many Units took up the challenge and I have to express my thanks to the Leaders for spending the time to write all the risk assessments and also the local Commissioners for spending the hours in checking the risk assessments and signing them off. I know how many risk assessments I was signing off so I know the work involved in all of this so it was greatly

appreciated as it gave the opportunity to meet up face to face again with their Guiding Family and Friends.

Units continued to be able to offer a very varied program to the girls. Many chose to work on badges such as *Out and About in the Dark* and the *Wee Beasties Challenge*. Many Promises were made in unusual and new locations too. Units also did activities like geocaching and kite-flying. For Thinking Day, Bishopton District arranged a very successful Thinking Day Trail around the village with Trefoils being placed all around Bishopton. Locals were encouraged to hunt for them, take photos, and share the photos of where the Trefoils had been found. It was very successful and through it they even managed to recruit a few more volunteers. We had girls and Leaders take up the challenge of getting their pictures taken at various places within the County including the Swing Bridge at Renfrew which were lit up for Girlguiding World Thinking Day. Units from the Division took up the opportunity to spend days and evenings at South Newton. Although we couldn’t do the residential events, girls were still able to have great adventures and great experiences like toasting marshmallows at a campfire although unfortunately or fortunately (depending who it was) minus the singing.

Some Units were even able to start meeting indoors again just before the summer, although most even though they could go indoors

continued to run most of their program outdoors. I don’t think any of the Renfrew Leaders will forget the look on some Rainbows faces when they were taken on the last night before the summer to get ice creams from a local shop and then all stood outside to make their Rainbow Promise, while their very proud parents watched on. All faces and hands were cleaned before parents arrived and photos were taken.

Leaders continued to be nominated for Awards, well done to all those who received these.

As more Units are now being able to meet again indoors we can only hope that things continue to improve and that many more get the chance to enjoy the joys of meeting up with friends and be able to go on residential trips. We’ll never again take for granted the ability and opportunity to meet with our Guiding friends and family and the many opportunities Guiding can offer to both the young members and all the volunteers.

As in life, things change so I wish my successors and the Division every success in the future and hope that my successors continue to have the support and backing from all within the Division and that their first year in the role is less eventful than my last year.

Lesley Hogg
Renfrew Division Commissioner

Awards



Laurel Award

The Laurel Award is given to adults in recognition of outstanding service to Girlguiding, and who better to receive the award than Sheila Young, our County Commissioner? Sheila has given years of service to her Units, District, and Division, and has inspired girls and adults with her enthusiasm. More recently as Scottish Outdoor Activities Adviser she dreamt of and put together the team to create Rise to the Challenge with badge work for all and a one day finale of epic proportions. "Yes Sheila", you thoroughly deserve your Laurel Award!



Scottish Chief Commissioner Award

Milly MacKinnon, Paisley Division Commissioner, received the Scottish Chief Commissioner's Award.

This is for adult members (aged 19+) who have made an outstanding contribution to Guiding in Scotland, for meritorious conduct or outstanding service in the face of adversity.



Queens Guide Award

The Queen's Guide Award is the highest award in Guiding that a member can work towards.

A big congratulations to Lauren Jack for achieving this award. She furthered her skills in clarinet, hosted a Disney themed virtual sleepover for her unit, and attended Poacher 2017, an International Scout & Guide Jamboree where she was Scotland's flag bearer for the closing ceremony.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an internationally recognised challenge for young members. DofE Gold gives you skills and confidence.

A massive well done to Isla Young for completing this award. While working towards this award Isla was given the opportunity to go to Our Cabana in Mexico as part of her residential, and also survived a thunderous night in a tent as part of her expedition.



Girlguiding Hero Award

This award is given to nominated members or friends of Girlguiding who have done something wonderful that has in some way helped others.

The County is delighted to congratulate Evelyn Smith and Harriet Grainger on receiving this award, each having done something special within Guiding and their local area.

Girlguiding Scotland Lockdown Legend Award

As a County, Renfrewshire are very proud to say that we have four recipients of the Girlguiding Scotland Lockdown Legend Award. Each was nominated for going the extra mile for Girlguiding during the pandemic.

Well done to Julie Johnston, Lesley Hogg, Chloe McKinley, and Elaine Wotherspoon.

Girlguiding Scotland Growing Guiding Award

Multiple members within the County have been awarded the Growing Guiding Award! This award is for Girlguiding Scotland volunteers who have helped Girlguiding Scotland achieve their access goals by making a difference in their local community. Helping more girls and adults from across Scotland to access the benefits of guiding is key to Girlguiding Scotland's strategy for 2019-2021.

Congratulations to Elaine Wotherspoon, Lesley Barclay, Lorna Ferguson, and Milly MacKinnon.

County Quaich

This year the Quaich went to a Brownie from Paisley, who when she was a Rainbow on a Zoom meeting heard about 'Blue Cross', an animal rescue and rehoming charity. Daisy of 1st East Rainbows was so concerned about these animals that she set about raising money for 'Blue Cross'. With the help of her parents, Daisy organised a scavenger hunt in Barshaw Park and invited friends and family to take part, charging them for the privilege. Everyone turned up on the day to help Daisy raise £201.80 for 'Blue Cross'.



Congratulations!



Long Service Awards

5 Year

Katy Mackay	Caitlin McCluskie	Kirsty Donnachie
Kaitlin MacNeil	Katie Hughes	Rachel Buckeridge
Ellie Tyre	Elle McAlpine	Emma Hutchison
Stephanie Baker	Heather Corrigan	Ellie Hunter
Fiona Mackie	Margaret Reid	Marion Healy
Carol Quigley	Heather Tweedle	Kimberley Cameron
Shona McLean	Lynne Smith	Alyssa Irvine

10 Year

Hilda Russell	Seonaidh Munr	Carol Deveney
Judith Blair	Carol Hendrie	Elizabeth Halliday
Kirsty Anne Martin	Lorraine Waterson	Shannon McKay
Linda Allan	Holly Tindall	Suzanne Irvine
Chelsea Pearson		

20 Year

Ashley McColl	Morag Gordon	Karen Ross
Barbara Paul	Ann Stephenson	Shona Newbigging
Kathleen Fulton	Milly MacKinnon	

30 Year

Karen Shiels	Patricia McMenemy	Tracey Corrigan
Jacqueline Campbell	Jean Andrew	Donna Skalley

50 Year

Janis Meikle

Programme Awards

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Rainbows	27	32	47
Brownies	4	17	75
Guides	8	17	42
Rangers	1		

Lord-Lieutenant Remarks

At the time of this report in 2020, preparations were well underway to return to more familiar Girlguiding activities. In the event, this proved to be something of a false dawn.

The long haul of lockdown and seemingly never-ending restrictions continued through the winter months, with many limitations on the prospects for a longed-for return to normality lasting much longer. Leading our young people in these circumstances has required a focus and resolve that few would have ever imagined necessary or possible. In the face of this challenge, it has been an inspiration to see adult leaders from youth organisations across Renfrewshire find a new energy and vigour to continue the vital work they do for our young people. Girlguiding in Renfrewshire has been nothing short of an exemplar in both the method and the manner in how this has been achieved. My heartfelt thanks!

Recently, it was a real privilege for me to be asked to present a Queen’s Guide Award and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at South Newton. This could not have served as a more timely reminder of what the young people themselves have been able to achieve in these circumstances. I was also reminded about all the hard work that continues to be done to make South Newton such a fabulous outdoor resource right here on our doorstep! It seems that slowly and cautiously we really are now beginning to return to the prospect of more normal working. It does not strike me that Girlguiding Renfrewshire is about to rest on past achievements. One can only imagine what adventures and perhaps even new lifelong friendships are just around the corner!

Colonel Peter T McCarthy

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire





1970

The Farmhouse was purchased, renovations began quickly.



1971

South Newton was officially opened by Lady Maclay and Mrs Middleton.

South Newton

Happy 50th Birthday South Newton

South Newton farm was bought in 1970 and opened by Girlguiding Renfrewshire in 1971 and has been the source of many, very happy memories since. Today our girls can continue to discover their own lifelong memories and friendships at South Newton with campfires, overnights and midnight feasts enjoyed in a special place in the peace and quiet of the countryside, away from any day to day worries.

Plans for a big champagne birthday garden party didn't happen, but we still managed to mark South Newton's 50th year as Renfrewshire's County Camp and Training Centre.

To celebrate our golden anniversary year there's a brand new challenge badge, suitable for all age groups, with retro activities that celebrate the five decades of South Newton. The challenge can be completed at home, via Zoom or in-person in your unit. There's a special gold bar to add on if you visit South Newton and complete the extra challenges hidden behind the fairy doors in the fields.

An anniversary pin was made too and sent to every Leader in the County, we hope you liked it! There are still a few spares if you didn't get yours.

South Newton Update

In October we opened for outdoor day visits and were hopeful that 2021 would bring better times, but sadly the residential bookings were scuppered for another summer as lockdown closed us down again. In May we re-opened for day visitors and many Units came to find the fairy doors or have a campfire with their friends for the first time in over a year.

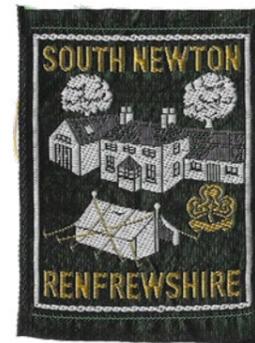
We have tried to use the enforced closure as best as possible and have given the Farmhouse a little makeover for her big birthday, with some elbow grease, new-to-us furniture from Netherurd, and a wee lick of paint. Let us know what you think of the new look.

Thanks to everyone who has helped South Newton over this very difficult year, whether you have visited for a day with your girls, or helped tidy the garden, paint a step, make some new curtains, or have donated or fundraised for us.

Special thanks go to the Arnold Clark community fund and to Inverclyde Council who have both supported South Newton over the past year.

See you all again soon!

The South Newton Team



1976

South Newton's fifth birthday. Leaders here are waiting for the cake cutting ceremony.

The fire light flame is fading
And we must say good night:
To sleep we'll soon be going
As slowly fades the light.

Beneath this roof so shattered
Our fun and friendship grew
And we will rise tomorrow
We'll work and play anew.

South Newton in the County
Our thoughts with you will stay
And as we leave we'll murmur
We will return some day.

1990

Lomas House was officially opened by County Commissioner Eileen Manson and Lord Lt Major J D M Crichton Maitland on 9th June 1990 with a party being held to celebrate the opening.



1980s

Many adventures and meetings were held at South Newton, truly a home of memories and friendship.



2000s

South Newton is still a place of fun within the county. A new climbing wall is installed and members enjoy activities such as archery and crate climbing.



2010s

South Newton began exploring different events, it has hosted B in the Park, a Science Centre takeover, and more!



2021

South Newton celebrates its golden birthday! Celebrations had to be postponed due to COVID but the County still celebrated. A badge pack was made, special pins were given to all volunteers, and a commemorative plaque installed to commemorate the occasion.



And so the adventure continues...

A Big Thank You

For a long number of years “South Newton” has been such a big part of Guiding in Renfrewshire, in fact, it is hard to remember Guiding in our County without the two houses and campsites. We are so fortunate to have South Newton with its situation in the lovely countryside near Kilmacolm and we are sure you will at some time have been there for a day, an evening or perhaps you were lucky enough to have stayed for a weekend in either of the houses or the camp fields. You are sure to have happy memories of your time there as well as remembering the skills you learnt whilst visiting.

The County has been fortunate with the people who have been our County and Assistant County Commissioners giving their commitment, enthusiasm, inspiration and encouragement to those looking after South Newton. Each and every one of them has left their mark in some ways at the Centre.

Over the last year, while celebrating the 50th Birthday of South Newton, you will have read about how the property came into being and since then, of course, we have upgraded the facilities by adding an additional house and maintaining the campsites and the ground around the Centre. This allows a great number of people to use the facilities as individual groups or perhaps for large scale events such as the County Camp or Division events.

All of this would not have been possible without the continued support of the Leaders, their husbands, fathers, or partners who have all helped maintain the high standard of accommodation available. Many Leaders have learned new skills such as painting or buying on a budget, although it has been necessary on occasion to employ tradespeople.

Funding for maintenance is always at the forefront of the South Newton Committee and way back in 1996 the then County Commissioner, Isobel Gray approached Jean Bain, the Chair of South Newton Committee and Outdoor Activities Adviser asking if she felt a “Friends of South Newton” Group would be a good idea. Members would receive a Newsletter about South Newton with all the up-to-date goings-on and the group would be able to meet once or twice a year for a catch-up with friends old and new, all for a nominal fee of £5 per annum. This offer was received enthusiastically by Leaders throughout the County and so the “Friends of South Newton” had begun. The group continues to this day and [you can join by contacting Fiona Henderson at fionahenderson1234@gmail.com](mailto:fionahenderson1234@gmail.com) who took over the role in 2019 after Jean Bain retired.

The 50/50 Draw was instigated back in 2005 by Elizabeth Sim who was Chair of the South Newton Committee and an Assistant County Commissioner at that time. Members were asked to commit to a year’s payment of £12 and you were given a lucky number. A draw was held each month with the proceeds being divided between the member with the winning number and South Newton. Last year alone this generated £909.50 for South Newton funds. It’s never too late to join, so why not [contact Corina Cameron at corina.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:corina.cameron@gmail.com) and see if you can win yourself some money while benefiting South Newton?

Do you know “Dietz’s Den”? There has been a shop at South Newton for many, many years and a lady called Eileen Dietz would come on a Sunday morning to open it so our younger members could spend their pocket money and buy pencils, rubbers, badges etc. In 2010 Eileen sadly passed away and the shop was closed for a while. When it reopened with a fresh lick of paint, the shop had been restocked by Maureen Foley who currently runs it. Nowadays you can buy lots of different items from the shop and the girls love to visit it when they are at South Newton. Any profit is also donated to South Newton funds.

Now you know where some of our funding comes from, but there is one more group we should mention. Once we came out of lockdown, some of our Trefoil Guild and Leaders got together to create a small gardening group. They have been instrumental in tidying up the front garden and have purchased new plants to replace those that have been lost to the weather over recent years. Although this group does not contribute monetary funds towards South Newton, they are performing crucial work in maintaining the property and it is very much appreciated.

As a County, we are very grateful to everyone who has contributed in some way, no matter how small, in maintaining the Centre to such a high standard. This will allow South Newton to continue being part of our Girlguiding Renfrewshire’s history for many years to come. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Sandra Jolly and Maureen Buchanan

South Newton Committee





Trefoil Guild

This has been a different year for Trefoil Guilds as for the majority of the year we were unable to meet face to face.

Two Guilds have been meeting on Zoom and the others kept in contact with everyone by newsletters, telephone, and email.

Bishopton Trefoil created some beautiful Christmas arrangements on Zoom, they had been sent out a kit list and then were led by one of their members. They also once they were able to meet outside, had walks in small groups around the new Dargarvel development in the summer of 2020 and repeated it again in 2021.

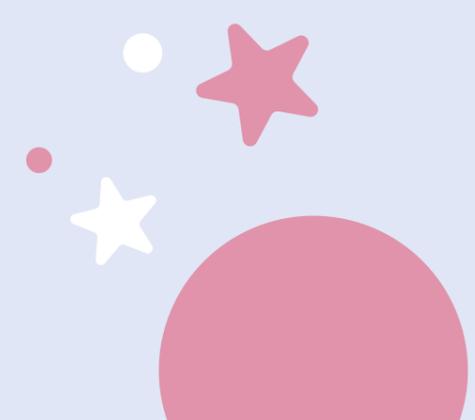
Vanduara and Bishopton had strength and balance exercises on Zoom thanks to Mar Rae.

Various members have taken part in monthly Scottish Challenges and joined in the zoom meetings to find out the results and meet up with members from all over Scotland. We also had a Scottish afternoon tea on Zoom.

Some members from our Guilds have been working on their Voyage Awards and hope that they will soon be completed and they can be presented with their awards in due course.

Carolyn Lockhart

Chair of Renfrewshire Trefoil Guild



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