

Girlguiding Durham North

Annual report 2025



County Presidents' Report

In May, our County Commissioner challenged us to have an adventure as part of her County Commissioner's Challenge, and in true guiding spirit, we rose to the challenge and what a variety of fun adventures we have had.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have met and worked with so many of you this year, whether it has been at meetings, presenting long service awards, sharing the unique taste of a meal cooked outdoors, celebrating with a Brownie pack their 65th. birthday or joining the county train ride to Edinburgh. We have seen at first hand that guiding in Durham North is very much alive and active.

As we watch the girls and young women in our care grow in confidence and blossom, know that you have played your part in their development and made a big impact in their lives. Thank you to every one of you for your continued enthusiasm and dedication.

Marilyn Dixon and Lynne Tullett.

County Commissioners Reflections 2025

When looking back over the past year, initially I thought we had had a quiet year, and then I remembered the County Commissioners Challenge, but more about that later.

January brought sadness when we heard of the passing of Annie Sanderson, a dearly loved leader and trefoil member in Sunderland North. During the year we also lost some other dear ladies, Jill Swales (who I remember as an efficient County Secretary, before we split into 2 counties). We also lost Pat McColl, from Gateshead, a much-loved lady in the Division and beyond. Jean Whittle's, from Washington and Houghton had a guard of honour and escort from the Police force at her funeral in September. We also lost 2 members from South Shields, Margaret Robertson who was a well-respected leader and Jeanette Walker who was a valued member of the Guide Shop team for over 50 years. If I have missed anyone from this report, I apologise and please let me know.

On a brighter note, I have visited several Divisions throughout the year happily being invited to the celebration 65 years as an open unit, with 9th Jarrow Brownies (and the Rainbows joined in too). A very happy evening where the children all brought a plate for their tea. When talking to one brownie, she advised me that she was making a salad. I was quite surprised at this, but was thinking well done, until I saw that her salad consisted of different types of mini bags of Haribo sweets! I also had the pleasure of joining South Shields, Sunderland North and South, at the pantomime at Customs house. I think the girls' laughter and screaming could have been heard across the River Tyne.

Camp House received a grant of £143,000 from the Youth Investment fund which allowed the conversion of the Lodge to create 2 activity rooms, one for messy crafts, with a small kitchen area and updated bathroom, and the other a room for more quieter activities. New insulation, heating and lighting making it brighter and warmer. The wooden boarding around the main building was replaced with a low maintenance cladding. Also the access ramp to the buildings was replaced with an additional covered walkway between the two buildings.

County Commissioners Reflections cont.

Towards the end of the year we received a further grant which we will use to replace all the chairs and tables, oven, hoovers and – but more of this in next year's report.

I must sincerely thank the members of the management committee for their ongoing commitment to the maintenance and ongoing upgrading of the building and it's contents.

February brought the appointment of a new Division Commissioner in Derwentside. A Division Administrator was appointed at the same time and this dual appointments is proving to be a positive action for the Division.

March brought the Annual Review hosted by Sunderland North Division, held at the Grand Hotel at Seaborn. Over 90 members enjoyed the evening and enthusiastically joined in the entertainment of a quiz. Long Service awards were presented and a lovely buffet was enjoyed by all.

At the end of March, Lynne, Marilyn and I joined fellow members from North East England. at Hopetown in Darlington to celebrate 200 years of the railway. It was also an event to launch the Girlguiding North East England Railway Challenge. All members had great fun 'exploring the Various sections of the museum, participating in STEM activities, and decorating peg dolls for a display. We had a great day too despite the cold weather.

May brought the start of my final year as your County Commissioner. I wanted to mark this somehow and the gem of an idea morphed into the development of the year-long County Commissioner Challenge which, at the end of the year, of the challenge, would culminate in a celebration for all of those who had completed the challenge. An event which will be reported on next year. I am really looking forward to this event albeit with some trepidation and worries about the weather, on the day.

North East England held three events within the region for members to have an adventure with their units, and many of our units participated, especially the Guides/Rangers event.

County Commissioners Reflections cont.

I was asked to join a 'task and finish' group at North East England who were to organise 'Brownies Do Beamish' day in June. Just short of 2,500 Brownies descended on the museum in June and had a fabulous day exploring every part of Beamish. We even had to organise 2 parades through the 1900 town, in order to accommodate all the participants. Everywhere you looked you could see groups of brown and yellow.

A Rainbow 'Day at the Farm' was held at various farm attractions in the region.

Many of our Guides and Rangers had a great day playing Monopoly at their day, whether they joined in at Newcastle or Durham. The girls had lots of fun participating in activities around the two cities.

On the 16th August we held an event at Camp House to celebrate both the official opening of the lodge, and celebrate Camp House's 60th Anniversary. Alison Cunningham, Deputy Chief Commissioner for North East England officially opened the lodge assisted by Amy Soloman, the Assistant NEE Chief Commissioner. Those who attended went upstairs to enjoy a buffet lunch and for the cutting of the celebratory cake. It was standing room only and a great time was had by all. There now is a plaque on the wall in the Shafto Lodge, as it has been named, to mark the event.

Lynne, Marilyn, and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves at Tanfield Railway as part of our involvement in the County Commissioners Challenge at the end of July. This included the taking of many photos, taken with a laminated copy of the front of the challenge book that Lynne & Marilyn had made.

What can I say about Lynne and Marilyn, our two County Presidents. They have taken on the role with guests, proving to be a massive support to me taking over the presentation of the 30+ years Long Service Award presentations to those who were unable to attend the Annual Review, as well as many more ways supporting me too numerous to mention here.

County Commissioners Reflections cont.

They have also embraced the County Commissioners Challenge after helping me with the collation of the challenge booklet. Their laminated copy of the booklet has gone everywhere with them, both at home and abroad, on cruises and even to a performance by Andre Rieu at Maastricht, in the Netherlands. They have spread the Girlguiding spirit wherever they went.

Many don't know that Lynne & Marilyn are also our County Activists. They have had a very busy building on our badge collection and also developing packs to contain activities and uniforms for each decade of Guiding. The aim of this is to be able to take the packs off to units to promote our Guiding heritage.

On the 15th November 19 Leaders and Trefoil members travelled to Edinburgh for our 'Leaders Do' event. In typical Guiding ways, Yvonne had prepared a quiz for our journey, and we had great fun completing this on our way to the capital city of Scotland. The Christmas market started that day, and all enjoyed wandering around the market and different streets of Edinburgh, some even went on the big wheel. I spent the day looking for Iron Brew cinder toffee that a friend had asked me to pick up for her, eventually finding it in one of the last shops we visited. We were all weary on the journey home, but all reported that they had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

This past year has tested the resilience of our Division Commissioners in ways we could never have anticipated, yet your dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment have been nothing short of inspiring. Through every challenge, you have shown not only strength and professionalism but also compassion and care for those you serve. Your ability to navigate uncertainty while keeping our shared vision alive has made a real difference, and it has not gone unnoticed. On behalf of everyone you've led and supported, thank you for your tireless efforts, your courage in the face of adversity, and the example you set for us all. We are deeply grateful for the heart and determination you bring to your role.

County Commissioners Reflections cont.

I am so grateful for the time, energy, and heart you, as Young Leaders, Leaders, Unit Helpers and Trefoil members pour into Girlguiding. Thanks also to our dedicated County Advisers, in particular Christine Downey for her dedication in organising relevant trainings to accommodate those mandatory trainings we all have to complete.

To all our County Members, your dedication inspires our young members to grow in confidence, kindness, and curiosity, and your patience and encouragement create a safe space where they can truly shine. From planning activities to offering a listening ear, you go above and beyond in ways that often go unseen but never go unnoticed.

Thank you for being role models, cheerleaders, and guiding lights – you make a lasting difference in every life you touch.

**Thank
you!**

Training Review

Training Report 2025

77 volunteers attended First Response trainings in the county this year. We are very grateful for the three Girlguiding trainers who travelled to us from Yorkshire, and to Maureen Dale, a Scouting trainer from Sunderland who trained for us in March. At the end of the year, Michelle Robinson, a leader from Derwentside, agreed to train for us in future. Leaders who attended external first aid courses have added their certificates to the Learning Platform to be verified by North East England, saving valuable time and the need to attend another six hour course.

Many of us were challenged to complete Safer Guiding but we persevered, finding ways of completing the learning modules. A few leaders also attended face to face trainings with Durham South or travelled to York for a regional training. Thank you for your patience in completing a time-consuming training and coping with glitches on the Learning Platform etc. Thank you too to all the unit leaders, Division Commissioners and county team who supported volunteers through the online learning.

We had an enjoyable morning of Christmas crafts in October with a small number of leaders. It was great to spend time together to chat and everyone went away with templates, crafts, materials and ideas to use with their units. A massive thank you to Marilyn Dixon for all her hard work providing over twenty craft ideas and materials. Thanks also to Lynne Tullett for making refreshments and Yvonne Corr for her crafts too.

In November, 19 of us had an adventure to Edinburgh-ticking off the adventure for the County Commissioner's Challenge and celebrating 200 years of the railways. With our discounted train tickets and good weather, we had a great day out with plenty of coffee stops and retail therapy opportunities aplenty- what else could you want with everything from the Christmas market, Princes Street and Harvey Nicholls?

Many thanks for your continued support in attending training and thank you to those of you who helped with transport, made refreshments and welcomed our volunteers to the venues to contribute to successful trainings.

Christine Downey

County Trefoil Report

It has been a very busy year for Durham North Trefoil Guild . Since the last County Review our two Joint Chairs came to the end of their terms of office and a new chair appointed. The retiring chairs will be missed but I am happy to say that they are both staying as members of their respective guilds and remain there for help and advice and we register our thanks and appreciation for their service to the County during their time in post.

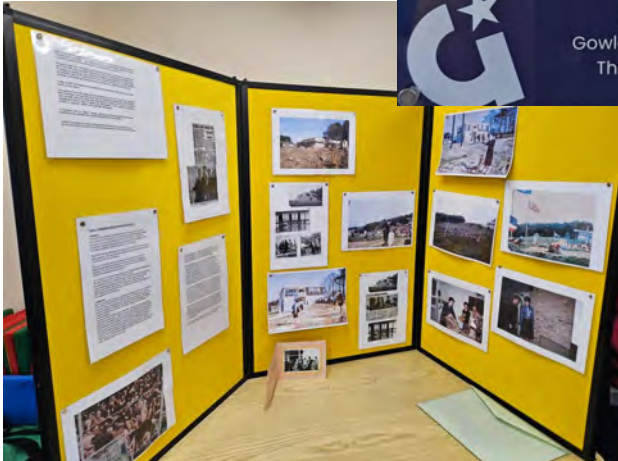
The guilds within the County continue their numerous and varied activities – these range from theatre visits, outings to a variety of museums, stately homes, the inevitable restaurants and welcoming a wide range of speakers to their meetings.

Many of our members are still active guiders and continue to help with the running of Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Units and other members help at district, division and county events and continue to pass on knowledge and experience to new generations.

Marion Russell –Chair, County Trefoil,

Camp House 60th Anniversary celebrations and opening of

the Shafto Lodge



Finance

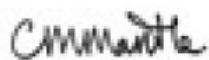
Durham North County Guides Association – Receipts and payments accounts

For the year to 30th June 2025

	2025	2024		2025	2024
	£	£		£	£
Receipts			Payments		
County Goods Sales	-	-	County Goods	-	-
Annual Review	-	-	Recruitment & Retention	-	-
Training Fees	808	915	Annual Review	1,060	1,290
Event & Test Fees	-	-	Capitation	1,580	786
Donations	-	-	Special Purposes	-	-
Grants Received	-	2,500	Donations	4,557	2,405
Craft Shop Sales	-	-	International Grants	796	2,300
Photocopy Sales	-	-	Grants	-	-
Special Purposes	-	-	Craft Shop	-	-
Capitation Fees	19,003	15,691	Stationery and Printing	110	660
Badge Sales	553	966	Postage	185	224
Bank Interest	805	537	Telephone	-	4
Sundries	-	-	Travel	195	1,034
Sub total	21,169	20,608	Publications	-	-
Asset & investment sales, etc.	-	-	Office Running Costs	5,305	4,769
			Meeting Room Hire	96	426
			Payroll	6,127	5,711
Total receipts	21,169	20,608	Badge Purchases	763	1,387
			Equipment Repairs	5	-
			Training Costs	1,337	972
			Event Costs	-	5
			Leadership Training & Expenses	49	22
			Accountancy Fees	180	540
			Website / Email Related	2,427	561
			Sundries	1,059	474
				25,830	23,568
			Asset & investment purchases, etc.	695	972
			Total payments	26,524	24,541
			Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,355	- 3,933
			Transfers between funds	-	-
			Cash funds last year end	75,370	79,303
			Cash funds this year end	70,015	75,370

Durham North County Guides Association – Statement of Assets**For the year to 30th June 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Unrestricted funds		
Current Account	15,393	22,217
Reserve Account	15,567	12,204
Training Bursary Account	0	4,100
Treasury Deposit Account (Virgin Money)	37,223	36,736
Training Current Account	12,186	10,557
Total cash funds	80,369	85,815
Fixed Assets		
Unrestricted Funds	1,523	1,927
Stocks		
Unrestricted Funds	0	0
Liabilities		
Unrestricted Funds	14,432	14,651

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Mrs C Mantle



Miss C A Craig

60 Years

Pat	Bennett	Washington and Houghton
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50 years

Susan	Charlton	Gateshead
Jill	Lambley	Sunderland South

40 years

Katharine	Cresswell	Gateshead
Lesley	Ball	South Shields
Miriam	Connor	Sunderland North

30 years

Christine	Downey	Durham North County
Christine	Lowthian	Gateshead
Sheena M	Kaupā	South Shields
Lucy	Pearson	Sunderland South
Lynda	Williams	Sunderland South

20 years

Denise M	Watson	Blaydon
Karen	Young	Blaydon
Victoria	Barnett	Derwentside
Angela	Wallace	Gateshead
Joan		
Judith	Allan	Sunderland North
Annalise	Walton	Sunderland South
Clare	Walton	Sunderland South
Sarah	Vincent	Sunderland South
Jennifer	Boynton	Whickham

10 years

Leisa	Stokel	Derwentside
Sarah	Leach	Gateshead
Kim	Long	Jarrow
Abigail	Maxwell	South Shields
Emma	Turnbull	South Shields
Megan	Toolin	Sunderland North
Alice	Stephenson-Priddle	Sunderland South
Kate	Edmonds	Sunderland South
Patricia	Rasmussen	Sunderland South
Angela	Marshall	Washington & Houghton
Charlotte	Ridley	Washington & Houghton
Rachel	Burn (Wilson)	Washington & Houghton
Emma	Nelthorpe	Whickham

5 years

Jenny	Watson	Blaydon
Beth	Cunningham	Derwentside
Michelle	Robinson	Derwentside
Philippa	Bailey	Jarrow
Emily	Elliott	South Shields
Jo	Tunnadine	South Shields
Lexi	Hudson	South Shields
Pip	Jackson	South Shields
Karen	Whittaker	Sunderland North
Kate	Morrison	Sunderland North
Tamzin	George	Sunderland South
Emma	Nelthorpe	Whickham
Helen	Butler	Whickham
Helen	Stott	Whickham
Jill	Hammerton	Whickham
Ruth	Blanchflower	Whickham

3 years

Jo	Yates	Derwentside
Linda	Fox	Derwentside
Anne	Rankin	Derwentside
Alix	Sladdin	Gateshead
Natalie	Mann	Jarrow
Iarne	Wilson	South Shields
Olivia	Lincoln	South Shields
Sophie	Embleton	South Shields
Gary	Roll	Sunderland North
Gemma	Lofts	Sunderland North
Jessica	Morley	Sunderland South
Rebecca	Hodgson	Sunderland South
Gabrielle	Niven	Sunderland South
Charlotte	Abernethy	Sunderland South
Helen	Hodgson	Sunderland South
Donna	Hart	Sunderland South
Sophie	Morrison	Sunderland South
Kayleigh	Wrightson	Washington & Houghton
Wendy	Raine	Washington & Houghton
Jess	Morrison	Whickham
Rachel	Robertson	Whickham
1 year		
Niamh	Barclay	Derwentside
Steffi	Coyle	Derwentside
Jennifer	Clark	Derwentside
Lucy	Peart	Derwentside
Sarah	Ward	Derwentside
Kate	Wood	Gateshead
Keeley	Fitzpatrick	Gateshead
Sheila	Dobson	Gateshead
Ceri	Shorton	Gateshead

1 year cont

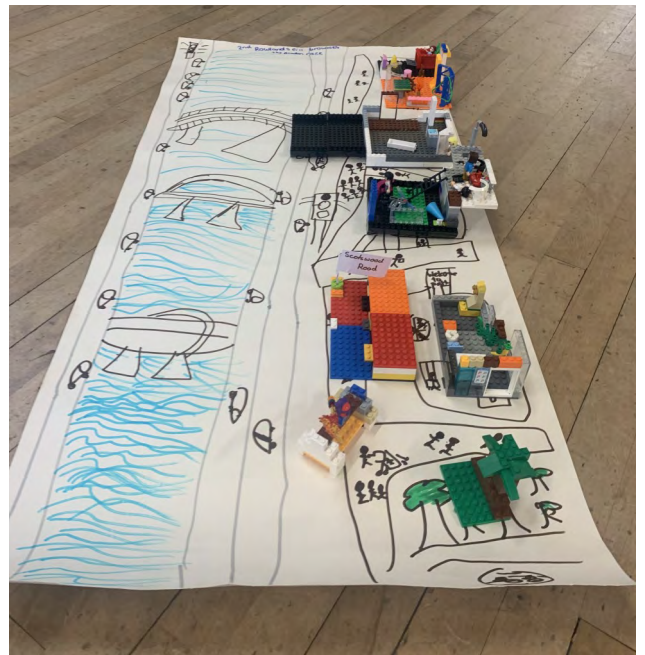
Claire	Wake	Jarrow
Charlotte	Whitfield	South Shields
Lydia	Pilmmer	Sunderland North
Phoebe	Oxman	Sunderland North
Frankie	Murphy	Sunderland North
Jessica	Currar	Sunderland North
Rose	Howard	Sunderland North
Kaya	Brown	Sunderland South
Ellie	Howey	Sunderland South
Katie	Mullen	Sunderland South
Skye	Ward	Sunderland South
Fran	Hope	Sunderland South
Sienna	Leithes	Sunderland South
Christy	Henderson	Sunderland South
Elizabeth	Clark	Sunderland South
Demi-Leigh	Gladstone	Sunderland South
Emily	Cuthbertson	Sunderland South
Charlotte	Galloway	Sunderland South
Poppy	Cooper	Sunderland South
Elliot	Ogden	Sunderland South
Amelia	Elliott	Sunderland South
Karen	Murley	Sunderland South
Hollie	Rowley	Sunderland South
Jennifer	Rodgers	Washington & Houghton
Kathryn	Turner	Washington & Houghton
Yvonne	Coulthard	Washington & Houghton
Dawn	Ord	Washington & Houghton
Natalie	Begg	Whickham

Division Reports

Blaydon Division

This year has been another exciting and rewarding one for Blaydon Division, filled with creativity, teamwork, and community spirit. Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed working towards the County Commissioners Challenge, embracing each activity with enthusiasm and determination.

Our Rainbows have had a fantastic time, particularly while working on their "Know Myself" badge. One highlight was creating their very own Time Machine, which showcased wonderful teamwork, imagination, and creativity. It was a joy to see the girls collaborate and bring their ideas to life. We are also incredibly proud of one of our Rainbows who is looking forward to celebrating achieving her Gold Award – a fantastic accomplishment!



Our Brownies have been focusing on wellbeing, working towards their Be Well badge. As part of their mindfulness activities, they created a beautiful display in our hall, helping to brighten the space and promote positive wellbeing messages for everyone who use it.



Blaydon Division cont

Winlaton Brownies and Guides have had great fun completing the County Commissioners Challenge, particularly when exploring the local history of Blaydon. The girls designed and created their own T-shirts and bags before taking their creativity even further by making hobby horses and staging their very own race! Their enthusiasm and teamwork truly brought history to life.



Our Guides have continued their fantastic tradition of supporting others through their annual charity fundraisers. A special highlight this year was welcoming Pudsey Bear to their Children in Need tea party – a wonderful event enjoyed by all.



We have also been very fortunate to welcome two new volunteers to the division. Their support has enabled two units to remain open, ensuring we can continue providing opportunities, fun, and friendship while creating many more happy memories for our members.

As we look ahead, all of our girls are excited about taking part in the CCCC this summer – something we know will be another memorable experience for everyone involved.

Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, and of course, our incredible girls who make up Blaydon Division. We look forward to another year of new challenges, adventures and achievements together.

Derwentside Division

You may be surprised to read that we have had a busy year! This year we decided to pull our socks up and run some division activities both for the girls and leaders as well as usual meeting activities.

Quiz

Our activities started with reviving our division quiz's. Separate nights were held, one for Brownies and another for Guides+ . Brownie quiz teams from 3 units were entered into maximum teams of 4 to answer questions from animals, to maths, to the 1% Club 1% questions. The winners were the 'VIB – Very Important Brownies' from 2nd Dipton (St Patrick) Brownies. The Guide+ night had members from 5th Consett Guides as well as 1st Consett Rangers with Young Leaders from 5th Consett Rainbows, 1st Delves Lane Brownies and 2nd Dipton (St Patrick) Brownies. The Guide winners were aptly named 'Epic Team Name' and a joint team of a Ranger and Young Leader called 'La Mariposa' came top of the 'Plus' section. A big thanks to Sarah, Chloe & Laura (Consett) for the marking and all units who attended.

Campfire Song Night

November saw a Division Campfire Song Night. 1st Shotley Bridge Brownies joined Consett and Delves Lane Brownies, Guides and Rangers to raise the roof with our favourite campfire songs. As per tradition, hotdogs were served half way to let girls (but mostly leaders) get their breath back. Thanks to Victoria (Shotley) and Chloe (Delves Lane) for leading the singing.

Craft & Chat

The 'Adults' also got to join in the fun as we all regressed to being Brownies. Leaders, Unit Helpers, Young Leaders and Brownie Helpers from 7 different units met up for a craft and chat session. Our fantastic County Presidents stepped up to be our 'Brown Owls' for the afternoon and brought a **ton** of crafts for us to try out. Like true Brownies most of us did end up a bit sticky (and one stabbed bleeding finger) but being wise no glitter was provided and lots of new ideas were shared as well as a catch up between leaders.

Derwentside Division cont

Unit News



Not only have girls had lots of fun in division events units have also had an exciting year.

5th Consett Rainbows, Brownies and Guides with 1st Delves Lane Brownies

The highlight of the year is always our Christmas Performance. We performed to over 100 parents at Christmas a silly play about Dotty and her dog Africa getting lost in Fairytale land and trying to get home, only a red pair of boots would do.

5th Consett and 1st Dipton Guides

Two of the guide units joined together to have holidays this year. Girls enjoyed meeting other guides who they maybe knew from school but didn't realise were also guides.

"It was a good getting to know Dipton girls, you see them in the corridors of school but didn't know they were also guides. We now say hi if we bump into each other". Consett Guide.

Derwentside Division cont

1st Leadgate Rainbows

We held a sponsored event to raise money for The Salvation Army Toy Appeal. The Rainbows visited B&M to choose their gifts and were very proud to present Marc Jackson (Salvation Army) with over £100 worth of toys for children in our local area. See photos (permission given)



2nd Dipton Brownies

Three of our young leaders attended the Your Leader Training session at the beginning of February and they really enjoyed the day, getting a lot out of it. One of the young leaders was originally volunteering for the DoFE but enjoyed Brownies so much that she has decided to stay!

1st Shotley Bridge Brownies

Karen Kennedy and Victoria Callaway 1st Shotley Bridge Brownies, both received their 30 years' service awards this year. Lynne Tullett had the pleasure of visiting their Brownie Unit twice to present them.

Gateshead Division

2025 has brought a lot of activities and adventures to our units in Gateshead including cinema visits, a trip to the panto, and working towards the County Commissioners Challenge and are all looking forward to the celebration. Here are some of the activities undertaken in Gateshead:

24th Gateshead Brownies have had adventures to Beamish Museum, taking part in North East Englands Brownies Through The Ages days and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Alongside the programme, they have had fun-filled evenings including a football themed evening where the Brownies and leaders wore football outfits and all of the activities were football themed, At Easter they took part in their local Church Easter Egg competition and had a winner! Christmas time brought out the crafts where cooking, decorating and knitting skills were used to create Christmas goodies, and the Church Minister paid a visit to share the Christmas story and the girls had great fun reenacting it.

The **25th Rainbows and Brownies** also had a successful year filled with trips to Saltwell Park where the girls took part in a scavenger hunt, had ice cream, and flew kites they had made the week before. They had fun helping to clean up the Church Garden as part of a volunteer night. A fantastic example of keeping the promise in serving the community. Previous members of the Brownie unit stopped in for a visit evening where they shared stories with the girls about what they got up to when they were in Brownies. To end the year, they took to the cinema to see Zootropolis 2, and had a fabulous Christmas party with a DJ and lights, courtesy of a volunteer parent .

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Gateshead Division CONT

8th Gateshead Brownies started the year off working toward the NEE Railway 200 challenge while the Guides worked on the Civil Engineering badge. Easter saw a joint weekend trip for the Guides and Gateshead Rangers to Dipton with the 10 year old soon-to-be Guides visiting to get a taste of the next section. All who attended had a brilliant time with the Rangers asking when they could go again! September brought in the new badge books and tasters of the Games Master badge and Safety badge in Brownies with the girls being encouraged to complete the final part at home. Remembrance saw both the Brownies and Guides decorate the windows of the meeting place with laminated tissue paper poppies which were well received by members of the Church and passersby. The Church Christmas fair took place in November with the Guides supporting the event by running the tombola. The Brownies, Guides, and Rangers rounded off the year with a visit to the cinema to see Zootropolis 2

Catherine Garrett

Jarrow Division

Jarrow Division has had a great year.

The highlight of the year being **9th Jarrow Brownies** celebrating their **65th anniversary!!!!**



They held a party for the girls, commissioners and former leaders / Girl Guides were invited. A great time was had by all and the cake was delicious.

The Rainbows, Brownies & Guides at St John's had another special visitor at Christmas - Santa came to see them!

The girls have continued with their badge work as well, with two girls achieving the Gold award, one achieving Silver and five achieving Bronze. And they have a newly qualified Leader in Becky who is also helping to mentor in the County.



St Peter's Brownies

The unit have had lots of visits including a beekeeper and the RNLI. They have had fun making a dragon for Jarrow parade, and made wands for Halloween.

Christmas lots of edible crafts.



cont

Jarrow Division cont

St Joseph's Brownies now have a full unit of 24 with a waiting list of girls. They held a fundraising night for cancer connections raising £433.

Lots of girls have gained their bronze, silver and gold badges.

A visit from Jarrow Hall to the unit helped the girls to gain their archaeology badge, and a trip to the Simonside climbing wall were amongst the highlights.



2nd Hedworth Rainbows have been successful in recruiting a new unit helper.

The girls have thoroughly enjoyed attending and engaging in activities.

Highlights included designing a new sign (messy), making pizzas (messier), and creating bird feeders (extremely messy).



Although the group remains small and funds are limited, the strong support from parents was clear at the Christmas party, where every family brought a plate – collectively enough to feed the entire

Jarrow Division.

Jarrow Division cont.

5th Hebburn (St Aloysius) Rainbows, Brownie & Guide and Hebburn District Rangers have enjoyed taking part in the County Commissioner Challenge and have had a couple of sleepovers in South Shields HQ.



For the Brownies the steam train was taken off because of a rain storm but the Brownies managed an ice cream in Minchellas Ice cream Parlour and time to explore on the beach.

Rainbows took part in a scavenger hunt to look for raw materials to build a boat.

All units have worked on and achieved two Theme Awards during the summer and autumn terms. Bronze and Silver Awards where also achieved in the units.



7th Jarrow Guides have had an exciting year.

They took part in the Monopoly Day in Newcastle and built it into their sleepover weekend at South Shields HQ for 2 nights.



They have also been to Whickham Thorns for snowtubing and have been doing lots of the County Commissioner Challenge activities throughout the year – getting out and about – visiting The Word library in South Shields, an bowling at the Dunes.

The Guides love cooking – they have made pancakes, rocky roads, stir fry's and Christmas cakes!

Jarrow Division cont.

7th Jarrow Rangers

A small unit with 5 Rangers, they have all been working towards their ranger bronze or silver award, with one of the Rangers splitting her time with the Guides to do the Young Leader Development



Programme.

They are also enjoying the commissioners' challenge and have been bowling. They have done lots of craft activities including stained glass windows and many of the Level 6 skill builders.

Amy Farrell and Yvonne Corr

South Shields Division

South Shields Division currently comprises of 18 units covering Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and 1 Ranger unit. We currently have 192 active girls and 53 volunteers including 11 leaders in training and 5 Young Leaders.

Last year we focussed on reducing our Rainbow waiting lists, although we still have a demand in South Shields, we have successfully started up another Rainbow unit and amalgamated one of our Brownie units with Rainbows. This has had a positive effect, and we will continue to look at other possibilities to keep Rainbow waiting lists down as much as we can. We have also set up a new Ranger unit, have a good supply of Young Leaders across all units and the numbers of leaders in training are starting to improve.

All our units continue to offer a wide range of opportunities and during the year two units have been on Brownie holiday, promise ceremonies have been held on local beaches, parks, and in local attractions. Units visited climbing wall, tubing, parks and outdoor cooking events have all been held. Units support local Remembrance services, they have attended South Shields Summer parade, as well as raising funds at Westoe Village Fayre and Readhead Park. Division events have also been held supporting fundraising through our Easter and Christmas Fayres as well as member events over 300 members attended Three Bears at the Customs House and one of our leaders has a lead role in Dick Whittington at the Westovian Theatre, these performances will begin in the Jan 26 where young members will be attending to support.

Cont.

South Shields Division cont

Sadly, we lost some lifelong members this year. Margaret Robertson who was a well-respected leader and Trefoil Guild member and Jeanette Walker who was a valued member of the Guide Shop team for over 50 years. Our thoughts are with their families.

Guide Headquarters continues to attract a regular balance of bookings with a lot of groups starting out at our venue then simply outgrowing it. The facilities are also being used by our Girlguiding family, through trainings, events, meetings and sleepovers, which are gaining in popularity.

Our Shop Manager Sheena Kaupa has relished the challenge of increasing sales and sharing the sale of older badges across the country. Currently sales have broken the goals we initially set, this is through the hard work and dedication from Sheena. If it's not sewn on she will sell it – all funds go back into Guiding across the Division.

A big well done and thank you to all of the leaders, girls and family members who make guiding in South Shields supportive and fun.

Wendy Pringle

Sunderland North Division

2025 was an exciting year for Sunderland North, Lyta Carr a YL from Cleadon has been chosen to attend the NEE International Camp to Malta this year (2026). 2025 also saw the reopening of Boldon District Rangers, which now has seven Rangers. Sadly, we saw a Rainbow and a Guide unit close due to lack of leaders.



Several Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have received their Gold Award. I was invited to Grace and Hannah's Guide Christmas Fancy Dress party which they had worked on as part of the award. I picked the winner of the fancy dress. I must say there were some excellent costumes, which made it very difficult to choose. One Brownie



made a cake for her unit. Beautifully decorated and tasted just as good.

Lots of UMAs and Skill Builders have been completed in the units. Edible sparklers and straw rockets to celebrate 5 November. Paper beads for Thinking Day, a trip to the beach for stone skipping, long jump and to collect pebbles to decorate. Trips to a forest school to learn how to lay and light a fire. Finishing with smores and campfire songs.

Throughout the year, units participated in many activities. A couple of the Brownie units took part in the NEE day at Beamish. Cleadon Guides and a few from Boldon enjoyed the Monopoly Run held in Durham. Three teams from our Division took part and, although they did not share first place, they did extremely well. They walked over 10 miles (or about 26832 steps) over the course of the day and Durham is hilly!



Rainbows from High Southwick and Seaburn Dene had a Jungle themed sleepover. Hanging around with sloths that they had made, painting elephants, making pizzas for tea, and watching Jungle Book.

cont

Sunderland North Division Report cont.

The Brownies had a Wicked themed sleepover. Crafts included making edible witches' hats, lanterns, and watching the original version of The Wizard of Oz.

Cleadon Guides attended a fun (and hot!) 'Fire / Water / Air / Earth' themed camp at Dilston. Boldon Brownies enjoyed a pack holiday at Camp House. Boldon Guides and Rangers had a sleepover at Beamish. A fun packed couple of days.

Other activities included decorating eggs for Easter. Visiting the climbing wall at South Shields. Learning about STEM and constructions made with jelly and structures with cocktail sticks. Visiting the Foundation of Light for a team building activity and also going to Adventure Sunderland. Completing the 'Fabulous Fairy' badge with clothes peg fair-



ies. A couple of the units held coffee evenings to fundraise for the church where they meet. Visited Super Tramp for fun on the trampolines. One Guide unit walked the Cleadon Hills ending up at Whitburn for ice cream, and a play in the park. Several Brownie units also enjoyed a trip to the cinema to see Zootopia 2. Which was enjoyed by all.

All the units have been working towards their County Commissioner

Challenge badge. With the girls enjoying colander fires, with smores and marshmallows cooked in wafer cones.

For the Commissioners Adventure some of the units have been to Hylton Castle. In the units, they have been building towers. They reviewed unit archives, laughing at seeing their leaders when they were younger, looking at the different badges you could achieve, seeing the friendship knot and Necker designs. Various crafts were completed, but the mini-Christmas gingerbread houses

will not be repeated!!



cont

Sunderland North Division Report cont.

At Christmas, several units attended Dick Whittington, which was enjoyed by all... 'Oh no it wasn't.' 'Oh yes it was.' One Rainbow unit also had fun with a fabulous Christmas party with winter themed games.

The leaders enjoyed attending the County campfire in the summer and making their own door wreaths for Christmas.



Pam Roll

Sunderland South

This was a quiet year for Sunderland South focussed on the new Safer Guiding and DBS system roll outs and ensuring compliance across units. Part of this involved an external first aid training course which was well received.

Yet again volunteers have provided a fun packed program throughout the terms.

Camp house and Beamish saw plenty of

residential and one unit ventured on a PGL trip to Newby Wiske.



The summer holidays we had an outdoor adventure day at West Hall and hope that in future there would be more units



join in what was a brilliant day. We had a bug theme adventure with lots of crafts, food bugs, some exploring of nature, an outdoor packed lunch and finished up with a singsong. Rainbows from 3 units joined us this year.

Our guide groups grow from strength to strength and are mostly full! We have seen one Brownie unit become a joint Brownie/Guide Unit to provide a small number of additional spaces on a day when no guides were available in our Division.



cont

Sunderland South cont.

1st Herrington Brownies saw a change in leadership after the summer break, many thanks to those who have stepped up to ensure this unit keeps running. We have also welcomed several new volunteers throughout the year which is exciting to hear their ideas and contributions.



We did sadly lose a dear retired Guider Trudy near the start of the year and her funeral was attended by many and reflected the great person and leader she was and how much fun she had brought to the girls. One attendee said when she spotted our uniform "Brownies and Guides saved me, it took me from being a kid not in a great place and taught me respect, discipline and showed me to be a better person.

I wouldn't be where I was today and have had such a great life without Guiding."

September saw the immediate closure of the building where the Sunderland Guide Shop is. The past 5 months we have been



making do with limited access while a future of

the building decision was made and we hope to let everyone know of our future plans by Easter.

Many units have embraced the County Commissioner Challenge and have enjoyed the variety of ideas and thinking of how to carry them out. I look forward to seeing more about the adventures they have had.

Carly Gorman

Washington and Houghton

Lots of Badge work and awards being handed out and everyone is working on their CCC 😊

We had a Division Adventure weekend at PGL

We are doing it again this year



12th Rickleton Brownies

Completing Jarrow Division's Challenge



1st Washington Rainbows a visit from Big Science had Breakfast with Santa and a trip to Washington Wetlands

11th Washington Brownies a visit from Big Science, trip to the beach and parade at Remembrance Day

1st Washington Guides murder mystery weekend under canvas a summertime ball & SFX make up



Washington and Houghton cont.

5th Donwell went to Pets at Home, bowling and the Cinema. Earned Eco Awards and Christmas foam party



1st Usworth Guides and Rangers have done, igloo build animal Yoga, cooking, African drumming and more Camp Northumbria, PGL and Mid-mad



1st and 3rd Washington Brownies had a trip to Alnwick Castle and Lillidori as well as PGL

3rd Washington Rainbows went to Adventure Valley and had breakfast with Santa



Angela Marshall

Whickham Division

Whickham Division has had a busy and successful year, continuing to grow and offer exciting opportunities for both members and volunteers. The division currently comprises 11 units: 3 Rainbows, 4 Brownies, 2 Guides, and 1 Guide and Ranger unit.

We are proud to be supported by 31 dedicated volunteers, bringing a wide range of skills and experience to the division. This year we also welcomed two new volunteers through the new recruitment tool, and a further volunteer who is currently in the process of becoming a Leader — a positive sign for the future strength of the division.

It has been especially encouraging to see the continued growth of our Young Leaders, with seven girls choosing to remain in guiding after completing Guides. This clearly reflects the positive experiences they have had within the division. In addition, several Guides have shown enthusiasm about continuing their guiding journey as Lone Guides, and we are currently supporting them to find the most suitable pathway forward.

Across the division, a wide range of fun, engaging, and educational activities has been offered. Rainbows enjoyed a visit to the RNLI, Rainbows and Brownies learned basic sign language, and Brownies attended Brownie Holidays at Whittonstall and Beamish. Two Brownie units also joined together for an unforgettable PGL residential, where girls challenged themselves through activities such as zip wire, archery, and rafting.

Following the successful awarding of several grants, Whickham Division Headquarters has benefited from a number of repairs and upgrades. These improvements will help to reduce long-term costs and ensure the headquarters remains a welcoming, safe, and sustainable space for guiding activities in the years to come.

Overall, this has been a **very positive year for Whickham Division**, made possible by the enthusiasm of our young members, the commitment of our volunteers, and the continued support of the wider guiding community.

Christine Wright

Durham North County Standard

The new County of Durham North was set up, following the division of the original 'County Durham and South Tyne' County into two new Counties, Durham North, and Durham South. These new Counties started operation on the 1st of January 1989.

To involve everyone, within the new County, in the design of our new Standard, each Division put forward suggestions for elements of the design.

Following discussions the selected elements, listed below, and the design of the standard confirmed.

- The gold trefoil on a blue background, - NB this was our Guide Promise badge until 1994.
- Durham North Guide County Badge which shows the cross of 'Saint Cuthbert' and the 'Arms of the Prince Bishops' of Durham
- The Guide motto 'Be Prepared'



- The Fly is quartered by the 'Jarrow Cross' and a Bar Wavy, representing the River Wear which flows through the County.

- The symbols in each quarter reflect the Industry, History and Legend of Durham North County.

They are:

The Lifeboat

The Miner's Lamp

Penshaw Monument and the Lambton Worm

The Sailing Ship

Once the design was finalised we were fortunate to have our design made into our new County Standard by J & M Sewing Services, Charlotte Street, Newcastle

The New Durham North County Standard was dedicated at 2pm on 24th February 1991 by the Bishop of Jarrow, Rt Revd Alan Smithson at Durham Cathedral.

