



**Girlguiding**  
Midlothian



Annual Report 2025

## MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY PRESIDENT

### Kate Devlin

Looking back at our Guiding Year of 2025, I can note that it was a year of transitions. Saying that word, reminds me of trainings I would deliver to support Leaders helping girls move on to the next section in their Guiding Journey.

In the Theme of this evening, I remember so many Campfires where the ashes were gathered up, put into little containers and kept to be sprinkled on our next Campfire...moving on to another memory in our Guiding Life.

But it is the transitions in our team I was thinking about. Jane took over her role as our County Commissioner, with her Assistant, Lana supporting her. Over the past months we have welcomed Conny as our new Treasurer – who came from her non-Guiding background – and took on the role with the enthusiasm to join and learn all about Girlguiding. Several other new faces in the County Team and indeed a few new Leaders .....so always a time of transition to our volunteering team, whom we are very grateful to. New faces around a Campfire are always inspiring to see.

Over the past few months, I have experienced a huge upset when my email account was hacked and it has made me aware of the huge implications various forms of communication can take. I thought that I had given all my contacts a note of the new email address....no, I wasn't that clever. Maybe Facebook friends who private messaged me had found out, as I knew not to make a general statement about it. Safe enough to share with WhatsApp groups perhaps. I actually still write a letter to some of my friends, so that worked. But there are still some contacts, companies I buy from, and other businesses who are unaware of the change I had to make.

All this has brought to my attention the different ways we, in Girlguiding, use to communicate. How does the news from GGUK and Scotland, reach our members? How do our own units get the County and Division news about events and opportunities? Does your unit have its own private Facebook page



or WhatsApp group? Do the parents receive a Newsletter at the beginning of each term telling them what your programme is hoping to include? Importantly to me is the question of how do our own communities learn what we do and are we reaching possible new volunteers? I can also flip these thoughts to thinking how do we as leaders learn what the girls themselves want, how do we pass on a parents concerns or offers of assistance, what do our older girls feel they need to know about moving on perhaps into a leadership role and what do our leaders want from the County team to help them run their units successfully?

During this evening, I am sure we will learn that we do a lot of this communication very well indeed, by hearing all the news from throughout the County about different events and activities.

Our Campfire is about to be lit...we are going to hear some super stories of all the news from the County, how we keep Girlguiding alive and our flame bright for all to see.

Can we make sure that our communication with each other is always a 2 way process, passing on information up and down the County ladder but the most important message I want to convey tonight is my absolute thanks to each and every one of you in Girlguiding Midlothian for the time you give to the county and importantly to your girls. You are very much appreciated so never get that message wrong!



## COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

### Jane Haley and Lana Easton

Being a newbie is rarely easy and as Lana and I stepped into the Assistant and County Commissioner roles in April last year, we did so with not a little trepidation. I'll be honest, the past year has had its moments! We have also had really lovely experiences – my favourites have been awarding Rainbows, Brownies and Guides across the County with their Gold Awards. It's a privilege to witness the Guiding flame burning bright and being the person to congratulate girls on their hard work (thanks to the planning of their leaders, of course!).

Girlguiding succeeds because, for more than 100 years, volunteers have gifted their time to give girls a space to be themselves, to challenge themselves, and to develop confidence – to ignite that spark and fan the flames. This is only achieved by constantly attracting new Guiding lights (our volunteers) and retaining existing ones. A key priority for Lana and I, from day one, was to ensure that anyone wanting to become a leader was enabled to do so, and that existing leaders weren't accidentally lost as a result of the tighter Safer Guiding compliance, which came into place just as we came into our roles.

To address this, in August, we arranged a session to train up more leadership development programme mentors, so we are now in a good position to encourage people to become leaders. We also spent time encouraging people to complete their Safer Guiding renewal training in good time, and preventing people from having their membership cancelled. Fortunately, our volunteers stepped up to the challenge, and we only lost one person in our County.

Throughout 2024, our new Midlothian badge was designed, and it was finally delivered just as Lana and I started in our roles in 2025. The new design, which you can see on the cover of this report, reflects some key features of Midlothian (the Pentland Hills – complete with snow! – and the county oak leaf), our four new divisions, and the new Trefoil with the new section icons. It arose from ideas and designs submitted by girls and volunteers across the County. These are now available to purchase from Betty for £1 each.



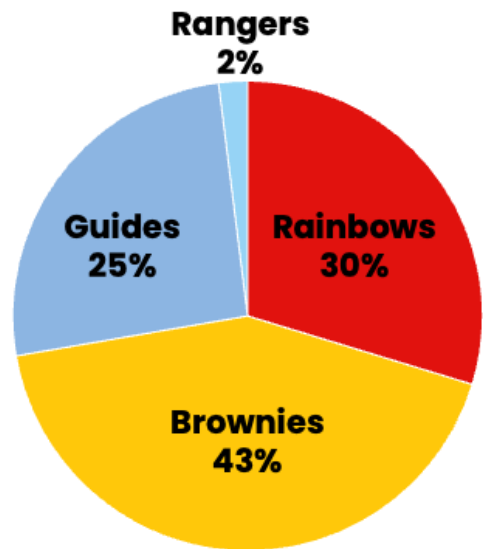
Lana and I have enjoyed our first year, and we look forward to meeting more units and leaders over the coming months and years. Please do get in contact with us if you have ideas for how we can help girls and leaders ignite that spark, generate those Girlguiding flames, and fan the embers of the future.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

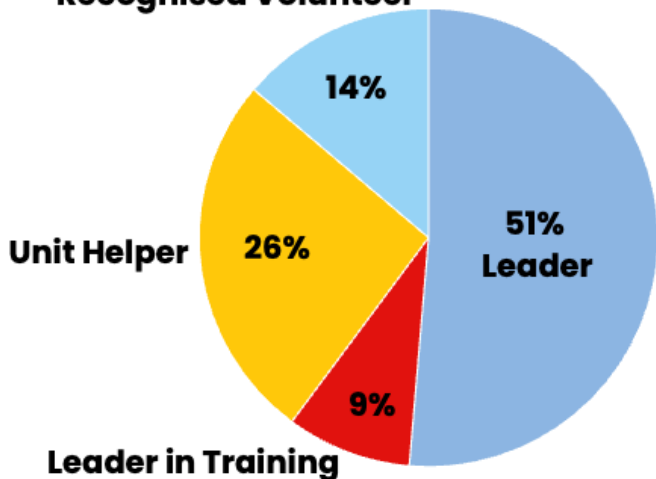
### Jane Haley

In 2025 our membership decreased slightly, and at the end of the year we had 1002 young members in Girlguiding Midlothian, spending an average of 2.7 years in guiding. For comparison, in 2024, we had 1016 young members with about the same distribution across the sections.

In contrast, in 2025, we experienced an increase in the number of adult volunteers who work with our girls, and we ended the year with 261 adult volunteers (compared to 239 in 2024). The average time in guiding for our volunteers is currently 13.7 years.



### Recognised Volunteer



Within our 261 adult volunteers, we have 134 Leaders, 23 Leaders in Training, 68 Unit Helpers and 36 Recognised Volunteers.

We are also fortunate to have 37 Young Leaders (36 in 2024) helping to deliver the guiding programme to our girls.

The increase in adult volunteers enabled preparations for the opening of a new Rainbow unit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rosslyn Rainbows (opening in January 2026), bringing the total number of active units to 58 (we temporarily paused one unit during the year).



## FROM OUR DIVISIONS

### Castlelaw

2025 was a busy year for Penicuik, full of activities and sleepovers. Our rainbow units had some lovely experiences, including doing their Book Lover badge at the library, and making recycled paper at Penicuik Papermaking Museum. **4th Penicuik Rainbows** enjoyed a walk in Penicuik Estate collecting materials to make a bug hotel, and had an end of summer party with a bouncy castle. **3rd Penicuik Rainbows** had a sleepover at Vogrie in March, which was such fun they did it again in November (Brrrrr). They also had a nice chippy walk in the New Year, after having been postponed many times due to the weather!



**6th Penicuik Rainbows** and **10th Penicuik Brownies** enjoyed a joint trip to East Links Farm where they had a lovely time feeding the animals, a train ride, and playing in the grounds, they were very tired girls that day!

Our brownie units had an adventurous year. **2nd Penicuik Brownies** enjoyed a weekend at Vogrie near the end of June, and then a fabulous week in October in Paris at Euro Disney. This was a brilliant, exhausting trip, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. **5th Penicuik Brownies** went to a sleepover at the Glasgow Science Centre, which they found really enjoyable and interesting.

All three guide units attended PGL for an active packed weekend, with both highs and lows with climbing and crawling. Even the leaders got involved. In addition, **1st Penicuik Guides** had a night of Ten Pin bowling, tried karaoke, and a walk to Penicuik Estate where they made their own Butter and gadgets. They also attended the Flamboree in Bonnyrigg. **4th Penicuik Guides** composed percussion music as part of the music badge, and love getting outdoors, learning how to navigate using the stars. **8th Penicuik Guides** went to Gladhouse Reservoir to do Bio Diversity badge.

**Penicuik Rangers** have also been busy too, having a brilliant day out at Foxlake with a BBQ for dinner, and Halloween shenanigans.

Several units took part in Penicuik on Parade, with some dressing up as Dalmatians, and others as Fairies! The Division attended Penicuik Theatre for Christmas Pantomime in December, this was well attended and enjoyed massively by the girls. We have had several Awards this year - Bronze, silver and Gold - well done girls!!



## Dalhousie

2025 has been a busy and enjoyable year across the division, with all units taking part in a wide range of activities, events and celebrations.

**1<sup>st</sup> Hopefield Rainbows** have had a fantastic year, including taking part in Roar & Explore at Blair Drummond, which was a highlight for many girls. Their favourite in unit activity was creating tie-dye t-shirts, the girls really enjoyed getting creative! We were also so proud to see three rainbows move up to Brownies, each achieving their Gold award before their move.



**5<sup>th</sup> Bonnyrigg Rainbows and Brownies** enjoyed building strong connections with neighbouring Rosewell units from Hawthornden Division. Together, they celebrated the end of the summer term with bouncy castles and ice cream, which was a great success. Joint Halloween and Christmas parties were also highlights of the year, bringing everyone together for fun and friendship.



**1<sup>st</sup> Lasswade Guides** had an exciting trip to Blackpool, where they enjoyed a memorable sleepover at Blackpool Circus. Unfortunately, due to high winds, they were unable to go up the tower, but this didn't dampen spirits and the trip was a fantastic experience for all involved.

**Bonnyrigg, Lasswade & Rosewell Rangers** made history this year by hosting their first Flamboree Jamboree, which was a virtual event to host campfires all over the UK in the month of June. We welcomed other members to join us and shared in s'mores and Hot chocolate. Their Favourite in-unit activities included pizza making, as well as fun and energetic Yoga & Just dance nights. To round off the term, the Rangers spent an evening shopping for Cash4Kids before heading out for dinner.



As a division, we came together to celebrate our annual Christingle event, which continues to be well-attended. It has been brilliant to see our division to continue to grow. Overall 2025 has been a year of fun, achievement and community spirit across all units.



## Hawthornden

2025 was filled with a rich variety of opportunities for members across the division, including travel, adventure, community engagement, and personal development. From local events to trips, the experiences provided have created lasting memories and strengthened the guiding spirit within all units.

The year began with a range of engaging activities across the division, setting a positive tone for the months ahead.

In February, **1st Rosewell Brownies & Guides** travelled to London for a memorable stay at Pax Lodge. Highlights included visiting Lord and Lady Baden-Powell's memorials at Westminster Abbey, standing inside the gates of Buckingham Palace to watch the Changing of the Guard, and attending a performance of Mrs Doubtfire in the West End.

The same month we also had our Division Thinking Day Event - There were three sessions run through the day (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) exploring activities, crafts and culture from the countries where our world centres are based

And **Loanhead Guides** took part in an indoor climbing experience at Ratho, challenging themselves and developing confidence through adventurous activity.

In May, **Roslin Guides** hosted an India-themed camp at Vogrie, featuring activities such as Bollywood dancing while **2nd Rosslyn Brownies** enjoyed a pack holiday at Canty Bay, North Berwick, where they were fortunate to have excellent weather.



Meanwhile, **Loanhead Brownie units**

attended a sleepover at Innoflate in Livingston, enjoying exclusive use of the facilities, food, a movie night, and plenty of bouncing fun. The same month,

**Loanhead Guides** visited PGL Dalguise for a weekend of adventurous outdoor activities, with the giant swing proving to be a particular favourite among the girls.



Come June, **1st Rosewell Rainbows, Brownies & Guides** came together for a summer carnival, which included a special visit from an ice cream van, creating a fun and inclusive community event.

As Autumn approached, in November, both **Loanhead Brownie units** participated in a Girlguiding sleepover at the Glasgow Science Centre. The girls had exclusive

access to the exhibits and enjoyed a planetarium show. The experience was both educational and exciting, and is highly recommended for other units.

And, finally, in December, several units across the division attended a Girlguiding screening of Zootropolis 2 at the Odeon cinema, providing a fun and social end to the year.

Hawthornden Division was excited that, in the second half of 2025, a new Unit Team was formed and worked towards opening a new Rainbow Unit, **2nd Rosslyn Rainbows**, in January 2026. Huge congratulations and appreciation of all the hard work and we look forward to next year's report when we'll hear all about their first year!

### **Ongoing Achievements & Community Impact**

**1st Rosslyn Rainbows** took part in a variety of activities, including a library visit for their Book Lover badge. As part of their Take Action theme, they completed a sponsored walk from Rosslyn Cross to the Horn at Loanhead, raising an outstanding £1,044 for the Scottish SPCA.

Bronze, Silver and Gold awards were achieved across Rainbow, Brownie and Guide Units highlighting the strong commitment of our young members to the Girlguiding programme and the dedication of their Leaders.

**Lorna Greig** received her MBE at Holyrood palace. Lorna was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her outstanding services to young people, a significant achievement for the wider guiding community.



## Melville

This has been another fantastic year for Melville Division, packed full of adventure, fun and memorable experiences for our young members and volunteers alike.

Across the Division, units have enjoyed a wide range of activities including trips, sleepovers, pack holidays and camps. These opportunities have allowed girls to build confidence, develop new skills and create lasting friendships.

Highlights included exciting visits to Disneyland Paris, which proved to be a truly magical experience, and some much-anticipated end-of-term treats with visits from the ice cream van. Units have embraced creativity and teamwork through themed activities. **1st Dalkeith Rangers** challenged themselves with a visit to an escape room, putting their problem-solving skills to the test, and also took part in a highly engaging Traitors-themed camp.



**1st Dalkeith Rainbows** held a dinosaur-themed sleepover filled with fun and imagination, and **2nd Dalkeith Brownies** hosted an "Alice in Wonderland" pack holiday.

We are also proud to celebrate individual achievements within the Division. Jennifer Culross from **1st Dalkeith Rainbows** was presented with her 3 Years Service badge. She was also

honoured to attend Girlguiding Scotland Celebrates, alongside Elaine Wilson from **4th Dalkeith Brownies**.

Our Young Leaders continue to be a huge asset to the Division. Beth, Ailsa and Gemma were nominated for the Midlothian Volunteer Awards. Although they did not win their category, it was fantastic to see their hard work and commitment recognised at this level.

A very special milestone was reached this year as **Crichton Brownies** celebrated their **100th birthday**, making them the oldest unit in Midlothian. This incredible achievement was marked with a letter of congratulations from King Charles, as well as a special mention in the Scottish Parliament—an honour that reflects the lasting impact of the unit within the community.



Overall, it has been a year full of energy, enthusiasm and achievement across Melville Division. Thank you to all our volunteers, young leaders and members for making it such a success.



## TREASURER REPORT

### Conny Boheme

In 2025, the county executive had income of £6,241 and expenditure of £6,236. No major events were held during this year, which is why subscriptions form a great proportion of our income than usual.

#### Executive income 2025 (£6,241)

38 % from membership subscriptions (county levy was £1.50)

30 % from grants and donations

20 % payment of loans made to units

6 % from interest and dividends

3 % from guiding activities and events

3 % from miscellaneous sources

#### Executive Expenditure 2025 (£6,236)

55 % on guiding activities and events for girls and leaders (include badge shop and county badge here)

29 % on executive activities (including annual subscription)

10 % Loans to units

2 % on leader training

2 % as resilience awards to units

2 % miscellaneous

We kept the county subscription levy to £1.50 again (it has remained at this rate since 2022) to try and keep the cost of subscriptions as low as possible for units. We also have a resilience fund for units who might need assistance.

In addition to the above accounts, at the end of the year were holding £23,114 on behalf of Melville Division, following the sale of the Easthouses Guide Hut. £6,500 of the sale proceeds was paid to units during the year, as per the agreement.

Vogrie Training Centre (Brownie House and campsite) brought in a combined income of £17,932 and had combined outgoings of £21,223 in 2025. The final £5,000 loan repayment for the refurbishment of the campsite toilets and showers has been repaid, but the cheque was issued in early January 2026 meaning it missed the 2025 accounts.



## GUIDING DEVELOPMENT

### FIRST RESPONSE

#### Kathryn Topham

In 2025 we were able to return to 'in-house' **First Response training** thanks to Kathryn Topham, who completed her training and is now arranging and leading all our First Response sessions. Over 90% of the volunteers in Girlguiding Midlothian rely on the Girlguiding course to cover the first aid requirements for running their units and residential activities. In Midlothian, between Jan 2025 and the start of 2026, we supported more than 30 volunteers to complete the course in hybrid mode. This was achieved with the support of trainers from counties across Girlguiding Scotland.

Recently, the 1st Response syllabus has been refreshed, as a result new resuscitation council guidelines. New elements have been introduced, including emergencies we may encounter in the outdoors. In order to cover this, there will be a change to the sessions offered, so keep an eye on the website.

*Contact email:* [first.response@girlguidingmidlothian.org.uk](mailto:first.response@girlguidingmidlothian.org.uk)

### WALKING

#### Kathryn Topham



Our units have been getting out on walking adventures. For example, in February, Guides from Dalkeith took a bothy walk in the Scottish Borders. Qualified volunteer leaders are required to support these adventures, and we would like to thank all the volunteers who support hikes and DofE expeditions. Currently, a land-activities review is ongoing across Girlguiding, including the walking scheme (WS). Please get in touch if you want to offer walking adventures to your units, we have a handful of qualified volunteers across the county, plus we can offer advice on walks that do not need a formal walking qualification. In our county, Sally Smith has been progressing through the Level

2 WS, while Ann Campbell had her Mountain Leader verified for use in Girlguiding.

Please do share your walking adventures with the walking team. We would like to encourage and support more penny-hikes, bug-hunts around a local park, hikes around Vogrie or in the Pentland Hills.



In 2025 we said 'cheerio' to Heather Lehnen, our DofE and Walking Adviser and Level 2 WS holder, due to relocation. We wish Heather and the family all the best in their new adventures and thank Heather for the support in Girlguiding Midlothian. *Contact email:* [walking.adviser@girlguidingmidlothian.org.uk](mailto:walking.adviser@girlguidingmidlothian.org.uk)

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

### Kathryn Topham

The DofE award covers volunteering, skills, physical, expedition and residential sections and is a fantastic framework for our young people to work within to develop their abilities and confidence. In 2025 six young Girlguiding Midlothian people were working on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) with Girlguiding Scotland. In Loanhead, Libby McAdam led three participants through bronze and all completed their expedition in 2025; one has since completed the bronze award (congratulations to Charlotte!). In Easthouses, Kathryn has been leading one bronze and two silver participants who are currently training for expeditions. Both these groups have been assisted by other Girlguiding volunteers providing valuable support. In July 2025, Louisa Easton attended the Holyrood Palace Gold Awards Ceremony to be presented with her Gold DofE Award. *Contact email:* [doe@girlguidingmidlothian.org.uk](mailto:doe@girlguidingmidlothian.org.uk)





## VOGRIE REPORT

Liz Jones and Lorna Grieg



At the beginning of March last year, **Vogrie Brownie House** was cleaned, as we eagerly awaited Rainbows for sleepovers and Brownies, Guides and Beavers for their residential experiences. Unfortunately, there were fewer units booked in 2025 compared to previous years.

During the year, extensive work was undertaken by Midlothian Council to repair the roof and most of the leaking was addressed. Unfortunately, there was a single instance of water leaking into the 2 bedded room at the end of the year, so work is ongoing with the Council to try and address the water ingress issues.

During August the Council painters were in and painted the corridor outside the kitchen, the kitchen and the dining room, and some of the rooms upstairs where there had been water ingress. As a result, the house is looking bright, clean and welcoming, ready for 2026! Vogrie closed for the Winter at the end of November. Thanks to everyone who helped and made the closure an easy task.



My thanks to all committee members for their hard work and dedication to Vogrie to make this a great County resource.

When Spring arrives it's also time to get **Vogrie campsite** ready for opening. The hub and fire shelter were given a coat of paint so they were looking good. All the inside equipment was washed so it was sparkling clean for first camp, and tents and new toilets and showers were checked and cleaned, so all was ready. Girls and leaders enjoyed camping over the summer

We are still waiting for promised jobs to be completed by the council and we could do so much more if we had more help to look after our campsite, so please think about volunteering to help.

The campsite was able to repay the final half of county loan of £10,000 towards the cost of refurbishing the toilets and showers (please look after them). A very big thank you to all the units who did an amazing job fundraising and giving donations towards this project It was so much appreciated

Happy camping in 2026



## TREFOIL REPORT

Linda Laidlaw



Trefoil Guild is a part of the Girlguiding family. It is for anyone 18 years and over. We have a very flexible programme with each Guild choosing and planning their own programme. We have 4 key messages which are; - get active, get involved, find friendship and give support.

Midlothian Trefoil Guild has 23 members who meet regularly once a month in the evening however we often add extra activities out with this time. We are an active guild and have joined other members from all over Scotland on a variety of trips and holidays from the Cotswolds to India.

This last year we have spent time outdoors with a BBQ, a local walk and a weekend spent with Scottish Trefoilers exploring the Kelpies, the Falkirk wheel and cruising on the Seagull Trust barge. We travelled to Belfast for The Trefoil UK AGM.



Closer to home we have had visits from Poppy Scotland and the local men's shed who helped us build some bird boxes. We have celebrated 100 years of World Thinking Day with some challenges featuring 100, and at our craft evening we made some worry worms, decorated jars and made mug hugs. Many of us learning new skills.

We are always willing to lend a hand and support Rainbow, Guides and Rangers in any way we can. As part of "giving support" some of our members joined a local Brownie pack and taught the girls some games and let them try on some old



Brownie uniforms, great fun was had by all.

More members were able to support World Thinking Day events with Melville and Castlelaw divisions.

We are a happy bunch and always looking for new members.

Linda  
Chair-Midlothian Trefoil Guild

## CONGRATULATIONS TO .....

### Lorna Grieg (again!)

Lorna Grieg has been in Girlguiding for 60 years, having started her Leader in Training qualification in 1966, which is an incredible achievement.

Lorna has been a leader with 1<sup>st</sup> Roslin Guides since 1968, a role she still holds today. She has also been a Mentor, Camp Advisor, Division Outdoor Activities Adviser, and County Outdoor Activities Adviser. She has contributed to many County committees, including the County Executive, with dedication and enthusiasm.

Lorna is a passionate advocate of the camping experience and still manages the campsite at Vogie, keeping it all shipshape and running smoothly. Many units, within Midlothian and beyond, have enjoyed many happy hours camping at Vogie, thanks to Lorna's hard work.

In 2024, Lorna was awarded the Volunteer Midlothian Dedicated Service to Volunteering Award. And, in 2025, she was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King's New Years Honours list. Lorna was presented with her MBE by HRH The Princess Royal, on 21 January 2026 at Holyrood Palace

We are incredibly proud of Lorna's achievements and send her huge congratulations on her MBE.



## **QUALIFICATIONS & AWARDS**

### **YOUNG LEADER QUALIFICATION**

Gemma Hood  
Ailsa Newton  
Lexie Waterton

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Emma Ferguson  
Jessica Whitney

### **OTHER QUALIFICATIONS**

Julie Smith – Going Away With  
Claire Manson – Gowing Away With  
Claire Manson – Gowing Away With, International  
Margot Gowrie – Going Away With, International  
Pamela Krol – Going Away With, International  
Angela Fletcher – Going Away With, International  
Ann Campbell – MTUK mountain leader Award accredited for GG

### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

Charlotte Hinton – Bronze

### **EXTERNAL AWARDS**

Volunteer Midlothian Saltire Award – Grace Hunter  
Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) – Lorna Grieg



## **LONG SERVICE AWARD – 5 YEARS**

Georgia Ford  
Aisling Free  
Ruth Higginson

Emma Jones  
Emma Nichol

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD – 10 YEARS**

Courtney Brown  
Amy Duffin  
Rebecca Ewen  
Shannon Little

Ashleigh Macfeate  
Dayna Murray  
Emma Pineau

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD – 20 YEARS**

Kayleigh Brown  
Carol Gray  
Alice Henderson  
Heather Lehner

Fiona Lofthouse  
Laura McIntosh  
Anne Rutherford

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD – 30 YEARS**

Louise Allan  
Pamela Krol

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD – 40 YEARS**

Gill Murray

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD – 50 YEARS**

Jan Thomson

## **LONG SERVICE AWARD – 60 YEARS**

Lorna Greig

## **COUNTY RECOGNITION AWARD**

Kate Devlin  
Jane Haley





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