



# Awards 2024

## Celebration booklet



**Girlguiding**  
Hertfordshire  
county

## Introduction

**We present Girlguiding awards  
to recognise and reward  
our volunteers  
for the valuable work they do  
in ensuring a positive  
guiding experience is had  
by all girls**

**Awards presented by:  
Karen Trew,  
Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire**

# Member service brooch

**Awarded to members  
on the basis of roles held  
in guiding since the age of 16**

# Member service brooch

## 60 years service

Awarded to:

Valerie Morey



Margery Gray

Maureen Kell

# Member service brooch

## 50 years service

Awarded to:



Margaret Saunders

# Member service brooch

## 40 years service

Awarded to:



# Member service brooch

**40 years service**

Awarded to:

Carol Paley

Caroline Aitkens

Julia Jeffery

Linda Boswell

Tina Brown

Patricia Angell

Angela Drew

# Member service brooch

## 30 years service

Awarded to:



# Member service brooch

**30 years service**

Awarded to:

Catherine Lawrence

Claire Starkey

Jacqueline Wilson

Jill McDonald

Margaret Breese

Suzanne Anderson

Jackie Miller

Sue Foster

Joanna Russell

Dawn Royall

# County awards

## County awards recognising achievements of our members



# County Thanks award



Awarded to volunteers  
for their service to  
Girlguiding Hertfordshire.

Nominated by their peers  
and presented by the  
county awards committee.

# County Thanks award

Awarded to:

## Chloe Bullworth



**'For ensuring camp is an all inclusive experience for members of Ware district'**

Chloe is enthusiastic in everything that she does and always puts a huge smile on people faces.

She is a role model for the guides and acts as Ware district First Aider at camp, in fact they say they could not go to camp without her..

Chloe's view is one that all guides matter and all should be given the same opportunities, ensuring that girls with complex medical needs are able to join camp and participate in the same activities as their peers.

Thank you Chloe for all you do

# County Thanks award

Awarded to:

Christine Hills



**'For always promoting a sense of adventure and love of camp through dedicated service within Hertfordshire Girlguiding '**

Aka Tigger has been a member of Hertfordshire guiding for 37 years and during that time has run at least 2 camp if not three camps a year ( well over a 100 camps) for Datchworth and Knebworth guides.

She has supported numerous girls throughout their guiding journey and all three nominations came from ladies who are now leaders but had been your Guides.

Christine has always encouraged girls to take part in adventures, including GPH, ITTH and International opportunities, including the fund raising that goes alongside these.

# County Thanks award

Awarded to:

**David Nutt**



**'For passionate support of Girlguiding  
in Hertford and dedication shown to  
West Street Guide Unit'**

David has looked after the Guide Hut in West Street for well over 20 years. He has undertaken all of the everyday repairs/renewals etc and handled outside contractors when they have had to be called in.

He has been trusted, conscientious and resourceful always finding the most economic way of keeping the Hut in good working order. He has recently organised and overseen the replacement of an electrical distribution board and is currently involved in getting the electric supply updated to Phase 3 which will cost in excess of £20,000 but is managing all this with a smile.

Thank you David for your passionate support of Girlguiding.

# County Thanks award

Awarded to:

## Rhiannon Williams



**'In recognition of willingness to help,  
support and mentor other leaders  
and young members in Puckeridge  
and Standon Girlguiding'**

Aka Snowy Owl. Both to Brownies and Rainbows as well as, Mentors young leaders.

Rhiannon has in the last year alone worked on guide rainbow and Brownie away days and trips, worked on her Gold DofE and her Queens guide, as well as completing her Going Away License.

Rhiannon is described as being "vital" in her district and a delightful member of any team. Thank you Rhiannon

# County Thanks award

Awarded to:

Toni Roles



**For dedication, service and commitment to Stevenage district**

At present Toni is a residential advisor and for a decade has been Stevenage District Badge secretary.

Toni can be relied on and she is always willing to help with stock control and stocktakes. Stevenage Shop is run on a Saturday morning during term-time and this has become a meeting place for Leaders in our Division.

Toni is always ready to help any Leader who visits the Shop and is highly regarded by her division and sort after for help and advice.

# County Youth award

**Awarded to members under the age of 18  
who have shown notable commitment  
or participation, made a notable  
difference to others, have empowered  
or influenced or demonstrated  
championing of the rights  
of young women.**



# County Youth award

Awarded to:

## Olivia Smellie



**For being an extraordinary role  
model to members of  
Hertforshire Girlguiding**

Olivia's passion for Guiding has made her stand out amongst other Young leaders and she is an invaluable part of the team at her Brownie unit. Despite going through exams her commitment has ensured that she very rarely has missed a meeting.

The Brownies love having her and give her their full attention (often much better than they do to the other leaders). She's always fair and sympathetic with the girls and can often persuade them to do an activity that they may be nervous about doing before celebrating their achievement. She is also never flustered – and managed to avoid a large scale Brownie panic during a huge power cut last year.

# County Youth award

Awarded to:

**Charlie Axtell**

**For being an extraordinary role model  
to members of Hertfordshire  
Girlguiding**

Charley, is now a leader at a Brownie unit and was nominated by young members of the unit, as she demonstrates the qualities they aspire to see in a leader.

Charlie is respectful, kind, ambitious, creative, passionate but is also someone the girls can easily go to when something is bothering them and she supports and guides them.

She is also able to lead activities and really bring a fun aspect to the activities, she regularly checking up on others and Charlie always helps where needed.

# County Youth award

Awarded to:

**Matilda Nash**

**For her personal growth within  
Girlguiding**

Matilda was nominated by her leaders who are so incredibly proud of how she has developed in her 2 years at guides.

When she joined, Matilda was quiet but joined in activities diligently but Matilda has just thrived and grown in confidence at Guides.

Matilda joins in every activity, every camp or sleepover and now has gained the confidence to lead games for the other guides.

Her leaders report that despite her difficulties with speech she is often the best listener and follows instructions before other Guides are paying attention!

She is helpful and kind to other Guides and to leaders. Matilda we are very impressed.

# County Good Guiding award



Awarded in recognition of being a role model for Girlguiding, and continually delivering exceptionally 'good guiding' experiences to members of Girlguiding Hertfordshire.

# County Good Guiding award

Awarded to:

## Anna Page



**Dedicated Volunteer:** Anna actively supports the County Centre at Cottenham, managing maintenance and cleaning tasks, and ensuring the defibrillator is always ready for use.

**Leadership and Outdoor Adventures:** Runs Guide and Ranger units in Buntingford, and as a District Commissioner, provides outstanding outdoor adventure opportunities, including the annual Peak Assault competition and County Challenge walks.

**Event Support and Training:** Assists with the County Walking Team's Mountain Experience events and the annual Introduction to the Hills, offering route planning, health and safety advice, and kitchen support, ensuring a positive experience for young participants.

**Encouraging and Supportive Presence:** Known for her calm and common-sense approach, Anna supports and encourages both leaders and young members, making her a vital asset at Guiding events and a role model for others.

# County Good Guiding award

Awarded to:

## Heather Pavlik



Heather has led two Rainbow units in different districts and became a District Commissioner (DC), demonstrating dedication and commitment despite health challenges.

**Event Organization:** Organizes various events for different sections within West Herts Division, including trips to the Zoo, train trips, and activity sessions, ensuring thorough planning and execution.

**Support and Mentorship:** Actively supports and mentors Young Leaders, organizing social and qualification support events, and assists leaders with activities, paperwork, and weekly meetings.

**Community Involvement:** Represents her district at AGMs, supports fundraising efforts, and participates in committees, continually contributing to the betterment of Guiding and the wider community as a street pastor.

# County Good Guiding award

Awarded to:

Lynne Kirby



Lynne has Extensive volunteering experience having volunteered with Girlguiding for over 40 years, holding numerous roles at local, district, division and county levels.

Lynne Organizes thrice-yearly First Aid trainings in West Division since 2005, ensuring smooth and efficient sessions, and managed numerous Division and District trips, including international trips to Sangam and Our Cabana, and trips to Euro Disney.

Property Management Skills! Managed the Gaddesden Row Guide Centre and Leverstock Green Guide Hut for decades, handling bookings, maintenance, and utility coordination, often dedicating weekends to upkeep tasks with her husband's assistance.

Commitment and Resilience: providing a rich guiding experience to countless girls and supporting many adult members

# County Good Guiding award

Awarded to:

## Mary Dobbie



Mary has been an inspiring leader for over 35 years most recently with the 29th St Albans (Abbey) Brownies, fostering a positive environment and guiding former Brownies to become capable leaders themselves. As She continually supports and mentors new leaders, helping them earn their leadership qualifications and encouraging young leaders with their DofE progress.

Mary has shown incredible dedication, going above and beyond to ensure the smooth running of weekly meetings and special events, such as the annual pack holiday weekend.

We understand that you have now been to 31 Pack Holidays!

# County Good Guiding award

Awarded to:

## Susan Weaver



Served as Treasurer for Potters Bar District for 27 years and Division Treasurer for 14 years.

Successfully managed the District HQ and the Potters Bar depot from her home since 2008.

Actively involved as District Administrator and unit helper for Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides.

Provided continuous support for unit account annual reporting and was always available for assistance.

Fostered a supportive environment through her approachable and helpful nature, making herself readily available for assistance and guidance.

# County Good Service award



Awarded to members of  
Girlguiding Hertfordshire for  
service over and above  
that expected of their guiding roles.

Nominated by their peers  
and presented by the  
county awards committee.

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

Catherine  
Lawrence



**For creating memorable experiences  
for Hertfordshire Girlguiding  
members in St Albans division**

Presented at Our Chalet in September

Catherine is everything that we want volunteers to be and more.

She has run a Brownie unit for 20+ years, giving girls a wide range of opportunities including kip on a ship, observatories and RAF sleepovers.

She is also a DC and supports her units and leaders, minimising closure of units.

Catherine organised a division brownie residential for 100 girls and 50 volunteers to Gilwell that was a huge success, in fact we hear a rumour she is going to do the same next year!

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

**Deborah Martin**

**'For unwavering loyalty and district dedication to Royston Girlguiding as their district treasurer'**

Deborah is Royston District Treasurer, a position she has held since 2017. During the time she has been our District Treasurer, we have had COVID to navigate and, as a result of that and losing two units owing to a lack of volunteers,a period of significant financial difficulty as a District.

At the end of last year, we were at risk of losing our HQ and the meeting place of nearly all our units. Deborah has worked tirelessly to help us pull things back! She has wrangled Barclays She has also battled with energy companies to help with our exorbitant energy bills. All in a bid to bring our expenditure down and help us break even. Helped Royston put in place a plan to bring them back from the brink! That is just naming a few.

The district, which is made up of villages as well as the town, is now very well connected and sociable and Jacqui's fun and enthusiasm is infectious. She is also famous, featuring on HQ's recruitment video where she made slime on Zoom!

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

Elaine Reed



**'For outstanding commitment and enthusiasm to Rainbows in St Albans'**

Elaine is a double rainbow leader in St. Albans.

She volunteered to continue the 8th to prevent it from closing, sacrificing both her Saturday morning and her regular Pilates class.

Elaine runs and organises the unit including Remembrance Sunday and the cinema trip, which the girls were very enthusiastic about.

here are 18 girls who would not be rainbows if it were not for Elaine's commitment to Girlguiding.

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

## Grace Bantin



**'For encouraging activities and developing girls skills and friendships within Bushey and Oxhey'**

Grace was nominated 3 times, once by leader and also by two parents.

Grace is held in high regard, her commitment and drive to the girls has a massive impact on the activities they partake in and the valuable skills they learn during their time with her.

Friendships are made and children share a variety of experiences.

She is inclusive, diligent, trusted and selfless in her work.

She develops young leaders to ensure sustainability for her unit and is conscientious, passionate and very

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

**Helen Harper**

**For inspirational leadership and support to others in West Hertfordshire Girlguiding**

Helen has been a Brownie leader of at least 4 different packs during her time in Guiding Hertfordshire, the list of things that she has done during her time is long, a few highlights of the amazing activities she has arranged are camps, sleepovers, activity days, church parades and national celebratory occasions.

Helen has organised trips for brownies to attend the Order of the Garter at Windsor Castle standing in the front row to see Queen Elizabeth 2nd and members of the Royal family.

Helen's willingness to support guiding locally is to be recognised and she shows her passion and commitment for the organisation in the way she cares about others.

She shares her experience, knowledge and dedication with others using the laws she promised to keep as a Guide.

She is a woman who values happiness, relationships and creates change and experiences to make the world a better place.

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

## Janice Apthorpe



**'For commitment and dedication to Stevenage division team in many roles'**

Janice has held many other roles in Girlguiding, including being a Guider for Rainbows, Division Treasurer, a role she still holds.

She was also a regular volunteer at the Stevenage Division Guide Shop.

When the Shop Manager, Treasurer and Badge Secretary all wanted to step down, Janice volunteered to be the Shop Treasurer.

That was in November 2011. She is still the Guide Shop Treasurer.

Janice is a strong member of Stevenage District Team and is well respected by all members.

Thank you Janice for your commitment and dedication.

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

**Joanna Abrams**

**'For passionate support of Girlguiding  
in Royston district'**

Joanna Abrams is a Unit Helper at the Brownie unit and also the Depot Manager and she has been a huge support at a District level too.

Joanna also helped out 1st Rainbows for 2 years when they were short on leaders – classically it was supposed to be for a few months only!

She is also a unit leader with 1st Brownies, so she can help when they need it.

She is a member of Trefoil and runs the activities for them and is the craft lead for the district!.

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

## Karen Sapsard



**'For services as Treasurer to Hemel Hempstead North East showing dedication and for always going the extra mile'**

Karen has been involved in Guiding for over 42 years, starting as a Brownie assistant leader in 1972 and serving in various units for 22 years.

Treasurer Roles: Served as District Treasurer for Hemel Hempstead East for 14 years and continued as Treasurer for the newly merged Hemel Hempstead North East district for the last 12 years.

Attention to Detail: Known for her meticulous attention to detail and care in managing accounts, Karen supports units with their finances, audits accounts for multiple units, Guide Huts, and the local Guide Shop.

Innovative Solutions: Successfully managed the centralization of district rent, ensuring a smooth transition for all units by coordinating with venues and distributing costs efficiently.

# County Good Service award

Awarded to:

## Nora Hitcham



### 'For dedication, service and commitment to Letchworth district'

**Long-Term Commitment:** Nora has been dedicated to Girlguiding for over 30 years, serving as a Guide Leader, District Commissioner, and currently as District Treasurer.

**Exemplary Service:** As District Treasurer, she manages financial responsibilities diligently, even when faced with the challenge of chasing up accounts from busy leaders.

**Shop Management:** For three decades, Nora has conscientiously managed the Girlguiding side of the Scout and Girlguiding shop in Letchworth.

**Role Model:** Nora's dedication and exemplary service inspire others within Girlguiding to achieve and contribute.

# National awards

**National awards  
recognising achievements  
of our members**

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# Queen's Guide award



The highest award you can work towards in guiding.

It involves:

- Service in guiding
- Outdoor challenge
- Personal skill development
- Community action
- Residential

# Queen's Guide award

Awarded to:



Amy Walczak-  
Hobbs

Perdita  
Squire



# National Good Service award



Awarded by the county commissioner  
to an adult member of Girlguiding  
for excellent service to guiding.

# National Good Service award

Awarded to:

Anne Johns



# National Good Service award

## Anne Johns      Citation by Jenny Maskrey

Anne has been one of my assistant county commissioners for the last five years, providing me with an amazing level of support, knowledge and experience. Alongside this, Anne has continued to be very active in her division, holding a district commissioner role and supporting their division campsite fundraising initiatives.

As an assistant county commissioner, there are so many things that Anne did and supported me and the team with. Of course, we had lockdown during our time in post and we spent many hours on zoom working out how we could keep the county going and holding meetings for all sorts of reasons, normally under the watchful eye of Anne's cat, who loved to get involved!

That said, the main reason for Anne's award today is due to her outstanding commitment and dedication a little project that we decided to embark on - the renovation of our county guide centre! Many of you will have been to the centre and will know how much it needs an overhaul. It was an old village school in Cottered, surrounded by beautiful countryside. The campsite is very well used but the centre is fast losing its appeal as it struggles to stay warm and is breaking down bit by bit. Anne has embraced the challenge of firstly keeping it operational and secondly is managing the renovation. She has had many meetings with architects, roofers, glaziers, plumbers, electricians, planning officers... the list goes on. She has become very familiar with the workings of the building and is regularly getting her hands dirty.

It was a challenge to work through the restrictions imposed due to covid, ensuring the centre was compliant and working with the spiralling costs whilst bookings weren't possible. Anne secured grants and funding to keep the centre going and continues to work on this with Marion and the team as the project progresses.

Anne lives the other side of the county to the centre but that doesn't stop her "just nipping" up to Cottered to meet another contractor or to get something sorted out. Anne has committed so much time and effort to the centre and to her role as assistant county commissioner and it gives me great pleasure to present her with this award.

# National Good Service award

Awarded to:

**Sheila Hill**



# National Good Service award

## Sheila Hill

## Citation by Jenny Maskrey

I am pleased to be able to recognise the work that Sheila has done for the county by presenting her with this award.

Just about everyone knows Sheila! She is an unfaltering support to district commissioners, division commissioners, lead volunteers and anyone who needs help with GO (our girlguiding database). During my time as county commissioner, GO was never an issue for me but that isn't because I knew how to do everything or the system worked perfectly for me, it is because Sheila was always there on what felt like a private "bat phone" to solve whatever problem or request I had. Responses were pretty much instant and due to me working full time, they were often late at night.

Sheila is a trustee for the county and is a real advocate for change, being a strong supporter of the refurbishment plans at the county guide centre. She has formed part of the refurbishment committee and supports working parties and generally gets involved in anything that needs doing.

Sheila has another hat as county archivist, a role that she is extremely passionate about. Along with Pat, she spends days upon days at HGC working through our memorabilia, cataloguing it and organizing it into storage so that relevant artifacts are preserved and others are available for units to explore and make use of. The sheer size of our archives would scare me off wanting to find more but Sheila is always on high alert to document everything we do. She is like a meerkat at the talk of a badge, ensuring copies are kept for the archives!

On top of all of this, Sheila also part of the awards committee. She supports the team with finding out the guiding history of nominees which helps us understand the bigger picture, but she is also responsible for long service awards. She works through the system on a regular basis, reporting on milestone service anniversaries, she procures the awards along with Katie, arranges for certificates to be signed and then works through detailed logistics plans to distribute the awards to commissioners across the county. Sheila really deserves this award for her dedication and passion, and I would like to thank her personally for all the support she gave me.

# National Honours

**National Honours  
recognising achievements  
of our members**

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# Coronation medal



The King Charles III Coronation Medal was awarded to people who contributed to the coronation on May 6, 2023

Awarded to:

Katie Wright



# Member of the Order of the British Empire



For achievement or service in and to the community which is outstanding in its field and has delivered sustained and real impact which stands out as an example to others.

Awarded to:

Verity  
Maclachlan  
MBE



# **Thank you**

**to the county awards committee  
for their commitment to  
recognising our volunteers**

**and**

**to all our volunteers  
for their contribution  
to Girlguiding Hertfordshire**



**Girlguiding**  
**Hertfordshire**  
**county**