

Scotland and Northern Ireland region: puppy raising update - February 2024

Welcome everyone to the first Scotland and Northern Ireland update for 2024.

It has been a very quick start to the year and our puppy development team are back on the road covering visits, recruitment and placing our new bunch of very cute puppy recruits.

Team update

January has seen us back up to a full complement of staff including myself Gillian Flynn Operations Manager, two Puppy Development Supervisors and 10 Puppy Development Advisors. It's not often we have most staff together so during a recent training day we took the opportunity for a quick photo.



In order from front left to right, we have recently recruited Lynsey Anderson-Fell (Edinburgh). Lynsey joins us this year internally from Guide Dogs and brings with her a vast knowledge of dog behaviour. Next, we have Supervisor, Lorna Barclay; and beside her, Jude Talyor.



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In the back row standing, we have Emma Steele, Puppy Development Advisor (Northern Ireland); Jade Steven (Edinburgh); Fiona Fraser, Puppy Development Supervisor; Tara Green (Glasgow); myself; and we wouldn't be complete without our two Daves; David MacKay (Aberdeen) and Dave Smith (Fife).

Unfortunately, Karyn McCarthy (Dumfries) and Joan Van-Eijk (Perth) managed to miss the moment (which they might be relieved about)!

Thank you for using Guide Line

Thanks everyone for beginning to use Guide Line (0800 781 1444 or information@guidedogs.org.uk) for any questions you might have in-between PDAs visits. This really helps free up our staff to spend more time with you, our volunteers and pups.

The science of puppy socialisation

Last year Emma, Puppy Development Advisor in Northern Ireland covered a visit with puppy raisers and pups to the award-winning Science and Discovery Centre. The centre had kindly opened its doors to our pups to build on their socialisation and interaction with novel stimuli. More visits are planned for 2024.



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From left to right, we have Anne and Sweep; Emma; Catherin and Yalena; Guide Dog Mobility Specialist, Tim and the manager of the museum.

Dates for your diary

Induction day (Forfar), 7 March

Our puppy raising induction day is aimed at volunteers who are either new to puppy raising or maybe just haven't had a chance to visit the larger site at Forfar and meet some of the training staff, please speak to your Puppy Development Advisor if you would like to book to attend.

Make Every Cuppa Count events near you



Saturday 20 April:

- 10:00am - 2:00pm, Barrhead, Bourock Parish Church, G78 1SL.
- 10:00am - 11:30am, Plains, Evangelical Church, ML6 7JQ.
- 10:00am - 12:00pm, Larkhall, Trinity Church, ML9 1EF.
- 10:00am - 1:00pm, Paisley, Central Library, PA1 2BS.

Sunday 21 April:

- 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Bishopbriggs Guide Hall, G64 2BP.

We are delighted to be hosting eight Make Every Cuppa Count events across Northern Ireland during April and May. I would love to welcome our local puppy raisers to join us and have the opportunity to meet other supporters and service users. Please get in touch with Gary Wilson for full details:



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- gary.wilson@guidedogs.org.uk

Fundraising and collection events

We also have numerous events and collections coming up:

- Aberdeen has an Asda Dyce collection, Saturday 2 March.
- Forfar have a Tesco collection in Arbroath, Saturday 30 March.
- Forfar have a quiz night in Letham Village Hall, Saturday 13 April
- Perth has Tesco Blairgowrie collection, Friday 19 April.
- [The Kiltwalk \(Glasgow\)](#), Sunday 28 April.

If you or any of your family or friends fancy getting involved, please let Gary know:

- gary.wilson@guidedogs.org.uk

Thanks for taking the time to read the Scotland and Northern Ireland regional update. Until next time, from all the team, stay safe.

And remember, if you'd like to discuss anything with me, you can always get in touch via Guide Line or by direct email:

- gillian.flynn@guidedogs.org.uk

Kind Regards,

Gillian Flynn

Canine Assisted Services, Operations Manager - Scotland and Northern Ireland

Document ends.



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