Trefoil Guild
Ross-shire

Trefoil Guild Ross-shire Annual Meeting.

27th February 2025

Chairs Report

A warm welcome to you all, to our Annual meeting, it doesn't seem a year since I took on the role as Chair for TG Ross-shire and Sylvia took on the role as secretary both for 1 year, with Margaret agreeing to stay on for a further year as Treasurer. After members paid their subs and the business was concluded, ideas were discussed for the following year's programme.

Sarah Smyth, from Natural Heritage joined us in March, her talk was very enjoyable, sharing her enthusiasm and inspiring everyone to care more about our biodiversity, geodiversity and the natural elements of our landscapes and seascapes.

April saw us meet, eat & celebrate Sheila's 90th Birthday. A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all, at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, where we relaxed and reminisced with much chat and laughter.

Our May meeting was at the North Kessock Lifeboat Station where Alison & 2 of her colleagues provided refreshments, followed by a very interesting & enlightening talk. Then she gave us an insight into what is involved in the RNLI, the procedures when there is a Shout and also the costs incurred of training, kit required etc We left with a much better awareness of the work the crew and everyone involved do.

2 members from Voyager joined us for our annual BBQ, in June which was hosted by Stella, members provided a varied selection of salads and sweets to go along with the BBQ items being prepared by Chrissie, Sylvia & Stella. We were lucky with the good weather, but after the meal it got colder so we moved indoors to have our Campfire singsong in the warmth. Members were very grateful to Stella & George for their input to make the BBQ so successful.

In August 10 members met at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer to celebrate Ross-shire Trefoil Guilds 25th Anniversary, where an afternoon of fun, food, friendship & reminiscing was enjoyed.

The joint meeting at North Kessock in September was attended by 35 members from Sutherland, Ross-shire & Moray. After welcome refreshments, members chose to make either a card or a ribbon bookmark or brave the elements & go for a local walk. After regrouping for their packed lunches along with more tea/coffee & baking, crafts and a shorter walk were completed before some members had a go at completing the 'Red Quiz'. To complete the programme we'd a fun campfire sing song, with members from each group introducing us to some songs including new action songs which had quite a few of us in tangles. It was a very enjoyable ending to our busy day. It was a successful day with members mixing & getting to know each other whilst participating in activities throughout the event & it was suggested that we should have another joint event possibly next year.

In October, John Marr, talked about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, (CWGC), he explained the work undertook by CWGC and also showed a selection of slides taken at various cemeteries and memorials in several countries of the world including Belgium, France, Singapore and Oman, and also some slides from cemeteries, more local to us. In November the

speaker was Alastair Stewart, from Criminal Justice, he shared his Police experiences working in the Metropolitan Police London & also policing in the Highlands, after which he worked in the Prison service and now with Community Payback. Members found both talks to be very interesting, enlightening and thought provoking. At both meetings many questions were asked, often leading to interactive discussion.

Also, in November members met for their Festive meal in the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Srathpeffer, where all enjoyed a delicious meal after which the 'Cookies for Santa' story was read for The Secret Santa exchange. It was a relaxed afternoon with members mingling, chatting & catching up with each other.

Our first meeting in 2025, on the 6th February began by Liz informing the members that Sylvia, Margaret & herself had met in November and agreed that, firstly, we had to establish whether the members wanted Trefoil Guild to continue and if we do what are the members thoughts on how to progress. Members were unanimously in favour of TG continuing, Sylvia, Margaret & myself have offered to continue in our roles for another year which will be confirmed at our Annual Meeting. However, members would be expected to work in their groups to help organise and implement the programme which members were happy to do.

On Saturday 22nd February, 9 members attended the Ross and Sutherland Girlguiding Thinking Day event in Muir of Ord, where Mary Machin received her 60 year Award & Liz Sutherland her 40 year award.

Liz informed members it is their responsibility to update their records on 'Key' database & issued the contact telephone number to everyone.

Members were informed of upcoming events; all information had previously been emailed to members-

- **Thinking Day**. Ross-Shire Trefoil Guild have been invited to join Girlguiding Ross and Sutherland, on the 22nd February 2025 at Muir of Ord village hall 2-4pm. Liz Sutherland and Mary Machin are to receive awards for long service at the event.
- **The proposed joint event being organised by Merlys King for Moray** and Highland & Islands Trefoil Guilds is to be at North Kessock on 7th March 2025. Merlys is contacting Guild Chairs directly, with further information. This information was only received this week. Merlys has also asked for any photos from groups for the Trefoil Scotland website
- **Zoom get togethers** (with Members of Forth Valley East and Ayr & District) were briefly discussed. Anyone interested to contact the organiser directly.

After refreshments members were interested to look through boxes of guiding memorabilia items that had belonged to Elma Fraser & Liz had been asked to collect. It was agreed that Liz would look for a venue for a group to check through the boxes more carefully and decide what should be done with them and Sylvia will contact the Archive centre in Inverness to ascertain if they could help.

Members were reminded of the next meeting date, 27th February 2025, which is the Annual Meeting (hall will be rent free as a thank you for everyone's patience, whilst renovation work was being carried out. Liz has thanked all involved, in their decision of offering a free rent let).

After the business we will discuss the Thinking Day theme and begin to plan the programme. Members were reminded to look through the resources emailed to them, to help plan this year's activities/ events

- Chocolate Challenge
- Motivate Challenge

Sylvia & Liz attended the Scottish Annual meeting in Aberdeen in April, Alison Smith Girlguiding County Commissioner, Aberdeen & Shetland warmly welcomed us to Aberdeen, she shared her roles in Girlguiding with us & thanked members of Trefoil Guild for all their support to Girlguiding units. Susan Hogg & Anne Aitken also acknowledged Trefoil Guilds support to Girlguiding in their reports. It appears the contact with Girlguiding varies from County to County or from area to area, within our County. The Guest speaker, Kate Loades, SCAA gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on air ambulances.

Liz & Sylvia also attended the afternoon tea, held in Dundee, in November for Susan Hogg at the end of her role as Scottish Trefoil Guild Chair, meeting up with members from all over Scotland to recognize and show our appreciation for everything which Susan did for Trefoil Guild Scotland.

Trefoil Guild members attended the funeral of Jack Fraser, brother of Elma who had held many roles in Girlguiding including President and was a committed member of Trefoil Guild, until she passed away in 2019.

This has been another busy year; thanks to Sylvia & Margaret for fulfilling their roles, to everyone who helped in any way to plan and organise our meetings, these have been varied with speakers giving us such interesting talks and we've also had times to sit, chat & catch up with our Trefoil friends. Unfortunately, numbers have dropped slightly this year so let's get motivated, enjoy some chocolate & share 'Our Story' to all comers in Ross-shire generating interest from possible new members, building on the foundations set over the years by Trefoil Guild Ross-shire.

Thank you

Liz

Elizabeth Sutherland
Chair
Ross-shire Trefoil Guild