







*"We are more than a football club,  
we are a football family"*

Thank you, all of this wouldn't be possible  
without the help of our funders, sponsors,  
coaches and most importantly our volunteers.



### Contact Details

**Vics in the Community**  
New Voluntary Park  
Glenmuir Place  
Ayr  
KA8 9RW

 Whitletts Vics in the Community  
 @vicsinthecommunity  
 @in\_vics  
 info@vicsinthecommunity.com

# VICS IN THE COMMUNITY 2024

## Newsletter



Charity Number: SCO48328



The year 2024 was a remarkably busy one for Vics in the Community. Our work within the community continues to go from strength to strength as we continue to work with the most vulnerable members within local society and support our families and individuals in a number of ways including with food, utility bills, mental health support and other benefits. Through our various groups and initiatives, we work with hundreds of people weekly and deal with many varying and often, pressing and personal issues.

As a charity we believe that no one should be disadvantaged because of their postcode and being based and working throughout the heart of the Ayr North area, we are always able to reach those who are most in need of our support. We continue to work in partnership with many organisations and other charities to make sure our community members have every opportunity available to them.

**Welcome William Bowler**  
The main man 'Bowler' has joined the Vics team as Facilities Coordinator. Bowler has been a volunteer coach for over 4 years and still continues to coach the 2014s alongside his new role. It's a never a dull day with Bowler about so we are delighted to welcome him to the team.

**Supporting our schools and local businesses**  
Vics offer free use of New Voluntary Park to local school football teams. By giving schools free use of NVP, we hope to increase participation in football and break down barriers to children playing sport. Across the school year Vics hosted the following school competitions (the winners of the cups are listed):  
League Cup – Troon  
Mackie Cup – Glenburn  
Craigie Cup – St Patrick's  
Girls Cup – Kingcase  
3 Pillars – Annanhill, Nether Robertland and St. Andrews  
Boys District Cup – East Ayrshire  
Girls District Cup – North Ayrshire  
In addition, Vics also hosted the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Tournament, where businesses from across Ayrshire competed for the prestigious trophy. Congratulations to Ardagh Group who won tournament.



**Welcome Claire Murphy**  
Another familiar face Claire has joined the Vics as Wellbeing and Child Protection Officer. We would be lost without all the hard work Claire has put in for us over the years as a volunteer. Claire has been a great addition to the team with the work she's recently been doing in the local community.

**Our Semi-Final Mascots**  
Some of our players were lucky enough to be selected as Mascots at Hampden for Celtic, Rangers and Scotland!  
Through Scottish Gas Scottish Cup Football Camp at NVP Harrison Bowler (2014s), Hudson Henry (2016s), Phoebe Tait (2016s) and Poppy McLuckie (Girls u10s) were selected to be mascots at the Scottish Cup Semi Final held at Hampden.



**MINDFUL MONDAYS**

Mindful Monday has been running since 2021, and the group has gone from strength to strength, this was originally an 8-week course that turned into a full-time group due to the demand of the attendees. We have around 20 members attending each week, and we tackle issues such as mental health, benefits, disability & training. We work alongside our members to set goals for themselves and promote independence.

**THE COMMUNITY CORNER**

The Community Corner is a safe warm space for all members can drop in and enjoy a hot lunch each week or can stay for after lunch activities. The group has been a great tool for individuals to meet new people from all walks of life with many friendships being made along the way, members can look forward to activities each week such as quizzes, crafts, and prize bingo. Our members have received support for a number of concerns including utilities, food, sim cards and mental health support.

**MINDFUL MONDAYS**

Mindful Monday is a mindfulness group that runs every Monday 10am - 2pm around 20 members attend each week.

**THE COMMUNITY CORNER**

The community corner runs on a Wednesday from 12pm - 2pm our members enjoy a delicious hot lunch and a safe, warm space, the group is well attended with around 30 people attending on a weekly basis.

**COMMUNITY FOOTBALL**

We run various camps throughout the year and football pop-up days that are accessible to all, no matter their sporting ability.

**90 MINUTE GYM GROUP**

90-minute gym group runs on a Thursday at FIT-BA gym, the group enjoy a 60-minute fitness session, and a 30-minute wellbeing session as mental health is just as important as physical, the group is open to all and the group leader helps the members to get fit at their own pace, setting fitness & wellbeing goals, signposting and making new friends.

**WEDNESDAY WANDERERS**

Wednesday wanderers walking group runs every Wednesday, members meet at Dalmlilling church and plan a walk route. The walk leader has completed the necessary training allowing them to support the members with their fitness goals and making sure everyone's ability is catered to. The walk leader also supports the members with a range of other concerns such as mental health, sexual health, and meal plans, this group allows members to get active, make new friends, promote body positivity and helps with a positive mindset.

**WEDNESDAY WANDERERS**

Wednesday wanderers walking group runs every Wednesday, members meet at Dalmlilling church and plan a walk route to suit everyone's fitness levels and capability.

**VICS MINI KICKERS**

Vics mini-kickers started in September 2024 & has went from strength to strength, we have a team of around 22 kids aged between 3 - 5 years old, this group teaches the children the importance of teamwork, promotes good listening skills and overall making exercise fun, each session is planned by a trained coach and adult volunteers who strive to make each session fun and engaging.

**VICS DANCE TROOP**

Our dance coach has been working alongside pupil from local primary schools and academy. Twice weekly she attends schools to coach girls & boys all interested in dance.

**WALKING FOOTBALL**

We have both a mens & ladies walking football tea, each team have a strong group of players aged 18+, It is a great way to get fit, have fun and make new friends.



Vics in the community is a registered charity based in the heart of Ayr North, they work with the most vulnerable in society and supports families & individuals with food, utilities, mental health support and benefits.



Harrison and Hudson were mascots for the men's semi-final Rangers against Hearts and Phoebe was a mascot for the men's semi-final Celtic against Aberdeen. Poppy was a mascot for the women's semi-final between Rangers and Celtic.

This was an amazing opportunity and a great reward for attending our football camps and giving it their all.

Well done kids we are all very proud of you! Memories to last a lifetime.



2011s

We hosted a summer competition in 2024 and managed as hosts, to win our first competitive trophy on day two of the festival. We plan to host the festival again this year and look forward to hosting visiting teams from across Scotland and we have already accepted entries from teams from areas such as Lanarkshire and Argyll.

The team also reached the League Cup Final in 2024 and we will look forward to another successful cup run this coming year and put some indifferent league form behind us. We are looking forward to 2025 with excitement and being part of the Whitletts family. ege and experience.



2010s

Over the last eight months Whitletts Vics 2010s have been absolutely astounded by the amount of support we have received from over 90 businesses. The majority of our sponsors are local and have contributed to the team being able to purchase new home, away and third kits as well as bags and jackets for our players.

The player's friends and families have been phenomenal with their support and with this we have managed to purchase the players jumpers and training blocks with Reece. We also have been allowed to organise team-building days which we will continue to do as they are a great way for the players to spend time away from the pitch.

Due to all of the above and the fact that our families, coaches and players continue to show up for our team despite life changing events, we wanted to show our appreciation and gratitude for this commitment.

As we all know, it is a full-time job to continue to keep the funds topped-up for a football team and we rely on this continued support from everyone.

To show our appreciation to others in the spirit of kindness, we want to continue where we can to give back to others. In 2024, we sent over shoe boxes filled with goodies for the 2scots to thank them for their service. We held a coffee morning to raise funds for Whiteleys Retreat and Andy's Man Club. We named a few horses in the Stros foundation fundraiser, where our "bosh tens won ". We also gave a donation of our winnings back to the fundraiser.

We always take part in the other Vics teams' fundraisers as we completely understand how important it is to keep all our wonderful teams supported.

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2018s

It has been a great year for the 2018s. They have recently just started playing games against teams all over Ayrshire and are doing a fantastic job. Their team spirit, effort and commitment has been a pleasure to watch. We can't wait to see them continuing to develop and flourish.



Girls

For the Girls at Vics, it's been a great first year of continued growth and development. There has been a huge increase in participation with almost 50 active players now involved across our three teams.

Our teams (Under 10s, Under 12s and Under 14s) have been competing in league and friendly fixtures and tournaments. They have proudly represented the club with their positive attitude, teamwork and resilience. We're looking forward to 2025 and can't wait to see the girls make even more progress as they move into the year's organised football in SWF league football.



2014s

Our 2014s have a had busy year playing in tournaments throughout the year in additional to their normal league fixtures.

The players were delighted to win the fair play award at the Cumnock tournament and to each receive a medal at the Vics prize giving evening.

The highlight of 2024 was playing in the Fleetwood Tournament in May where the boys all had a memorable experience being in tournament football against new opponents and sharing a weekend in each other's company and forming friendships and bonds which have continued throughout the year.

The players and coaches are looking forward to moving to 9 a side football in 2025.

The coaches would like to thank our parents and supporters who have been vital in the continued progress of the team. Their fundraising, organisation, teamwork and support often behind the scenes is more than coaches could ever ask for. Thanks everyone!



2013s

The 2013s have enjoyed moving into 9 a-side and playing lots of competitive matches in the WOSYFL. We've made lots of progress as a team and the boys have come together well and always looking to improve ahead of moving to 11 a-side.





2012s

The 2012s started 11 a side football this year very strongly only losing on penalties in the Semi-Final of the Land o’ Burns tournament. Whilst our league form has been a bit up-and-down, we are still adjusting to the 11 a side game and this is to be expected.

The players had two good results in the opening rounds of the Scottish Cup before losing 5-3 in the third round. The players are doing very well in training we always have great attendance and commitment from everyone. We now look to take our great attitude in training into every game and have the players believe in themselves a bit more.



2017s

The 2017s have been working extremely hard throughout 2024, they have continued to gel as a team, make new friends and above all have great fun!



2009s

Whitletts Victoria’s 2009s had a great summer of tournaments winning the Scotland Cup trophy at Ayr International and then attending the Land of Burns where we lost out on penalties for the Scottish Cup trophy. The boys also attended the Kilwinning Football Club tournament, in which we made the final but were sadly beaten in penalties. Their season started slowly, and we lost some players but that then allowed us to welcome some new players which has strengthened our overall dynamic and the team continues to develop. The players have shown great loyalty and determination for each another as they progress along the Whitletts Victoria player pathway.



2015s

Here are our 2015s! An amazing team, some of whom have been with Vics since the very start of the 2015s coming to being. What a year they have had! It has been one of highs and lows. Finishing 5 a side football on such a high but having a little difficulty in starting the adjustment to 7 a side, but that is to be expected.

The boys have shown true resilience, hard work and dedication. They have pulled together and given their maximum effort, and they should be truly proud of themselves for that. They are making massive progress week on week and are beginning to enjoy the successes they have been looking for.

They are absolutely flying and the future is theirs for the taking!



South Ayrshire Volunteer Awards

Well done to our volunteers who were recognised at the SAVA 2024, it was a great event recognising volunteers across South Ayrshire, 23 of our wonderful volunteers were nominated this included coaches, community volunteers and volunteers who assist at NVP, Our Volunteers are an invaluable part of our charity and we couldn’t do what we do without them and we appreciate all the time and effort they put in.



Well Done, Sarah

A massive well done to our Walk Leader & Dance Coach Sarah who was crowned the winner of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Award for her work the Wednesday Wanderers group, at the South Ayrshire Youth Awards 2024, Sarah supports the group members with their mental & physical health, helping them set realistic goals & supporting them in reaching these goals.



Kylie & Kim

Well done to our volunteers who have now completed their bar license. They can now serve you on match days.

Louis & Alan

Completed their mental health first aid. Alan is one of the main volunteers at the snack bar and around the charity. Always a friendly face.



Vics in the Community Awards Night

This year we hosted our own awards night to recognise the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, coaches and players, the event was held at Ayr Town Hall where we welcomed around five hundred people over the 3-hour ceremony. Some of the awards up for grabs were best attitude, best effort, fair play award, recognition for good attendance amongst other awards, a fantastic night was had by all who attended.



A total of 15 teams were recognised throughout the night with additional recognition awarded given in the following categories:

- Fair Play Team Award
- Male and Female Club Players of the Year
- Team of The Year Award
- Special Club Award Winners
- The Bernard Longair Club Service Award
- Club Coach of the Year
- Most Improved
- Players Player of the Year
- Player of the Year
- Best Effort
- Best Attitude

Scan the QR codes below to watch the videos included at our Awards Night.





Walking Football

The men's walking football over 50's took time to adjust to the Premiership after promotion and had a difficult first round of fixtures. Improvements came through the season and the squad rallied in the final round, avoiding the relegation spots.

The women's over 40 formed a strong, cohesive team that had a remarkable season. Conceding only 4 goals in 14 games, the team went agonisingly close to winning the league, missing out by a solitary point but still being promoted. Several players were deservedly recognised with call ups to the regional squads too.

The club also started a women's recreational team in the summer. They competed in their first tournament at Oriam, finishing 3rd and then hosted their own mini tournament at NVP, finishing 2nd behind a strong and established Stewarton side.



Fundraising

A special shoutout to Blake Murphy from our 2016 team, who made Christmas baubles and sold them to friends and family to raise money towards the Vics pavilion fund. His coaches are so proud that Blake was able to support the club in this way!

Another shoutout for their fundraising efforts goes to Vics' very own William Bowler, who started up the Vics Wheel of Fortune back in November. Since then, he has brought in over £2000 to go towards the Vics pavilion fund. Well done Bowler!



Ayr United

Scott Brown and his team trained at NVP during the Vics Summer Camps. Following their training session, they stayed to meet some of our kids. Thanks to Ayr United FC for making that day at camp so special, we had very happy kids!

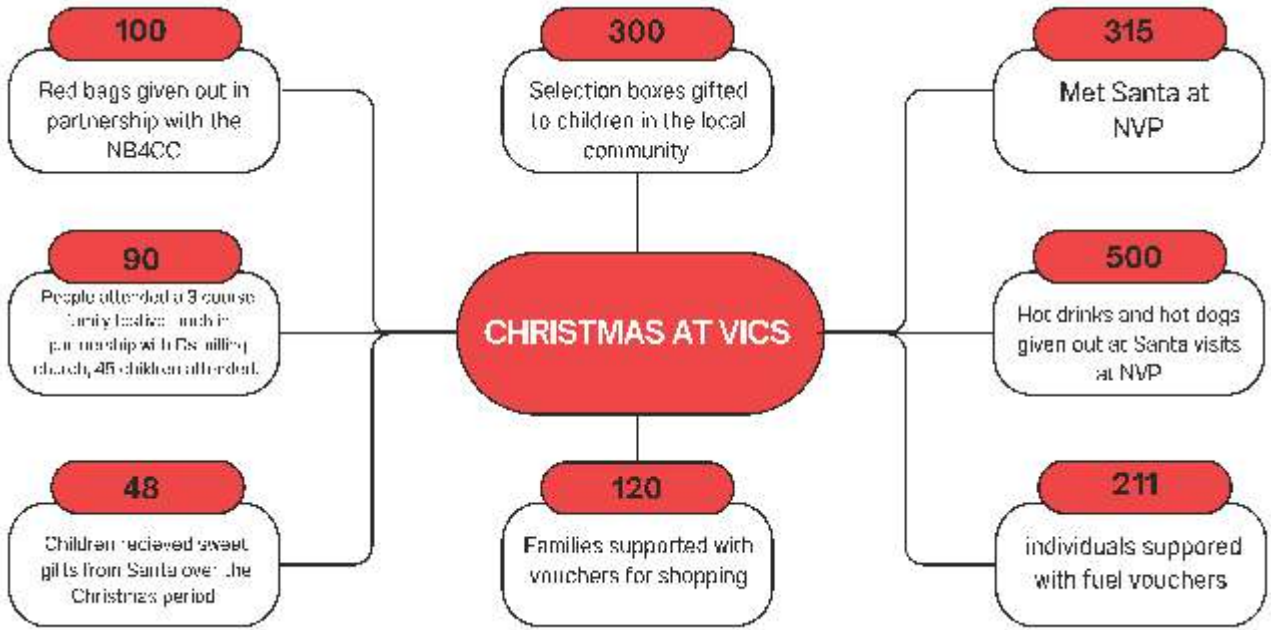
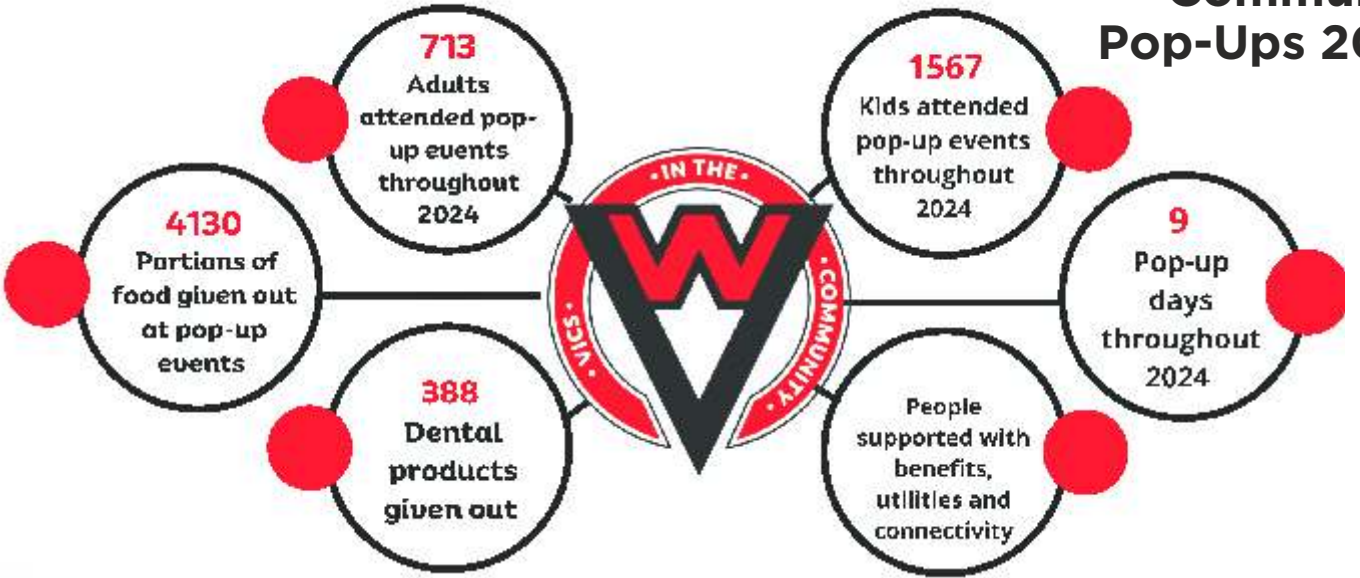


VICS IN THE COMMUNITY STATISTICS

Our groups year in numbers 2024



Community Pop-Ups 2024





## Football 2024



**4**

Football Camps  
hosted including  
Easter, Summer  
& October

**1650**

Attendances  
recorded at camps  
throughout the  
year.

**2140**

Free  
lunches  
provided at  
camps

**117**

Volunteer  
hours at  
camp

**154**

Children  
attended  
camps

**2**

New team  
formed 2019's  
& 2020's

**238**

Kids attended  
the Vics  
awards night

**122**

Kids attended  
the teams  
Halloween  
party

**4**

New young  
volunteer  
coaches

**50+**

Volunteers  
coach with  
our teams

**300+**

people pass  
through our  
gates at New  
Voluntary Park  
each week

**29**

Coaches gained  
qualifications  
including  
mental health  
first aid

**48**

Fair play awards  
won at football  
camps  
throughout the  
year

**135**

Hours of free  
football

