

## Welcome



**David Stokes**

County Commissioner  
cc@durhamscouts.org.uk

Welcome to the revamped Durham Post!

Many of you will remember the old Durham Post dropping through your letter box, but in keeping with the times we're now going to be e-mailing out the new **Durham ePost** and making it available via the County website every quarter.

This is just part of a new County communications strategy designed to ensure that our volunteers and supporters are better informed about what's happening in the County and that our young people don't miss out on any opportunities for fun and adventure.

Elsewhere in this edition you can also read about how you can sign up for our new e-mail lists, to receive topical communications from the County that are relevant to your role.

We always welcome feedback and the chance to answer any questions you may have, so please don't hold back from telling us what you think.

## County Awards



Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September is our annual County Awards day which is once again being held over 8 sessions at Durham Town Hall.

This is a great chance to say 'well done' to all our young people who have earned their top awards, plus a chance to recognise some very special Young Leaders and adult volunteers.

This year we'll be asking all the parents and supporters attending to make a commitment to help Scouting, so if you have young people with parents attending please be sure to follow up, ask them what they thought about the Awards Day and be prepared to ask them to help out with your section and group. If you need more adult help or any jobs need doing around your HQ, this is your chance.

Nominations for this year closed in July, and places are by invitation only, but please e-mail [awards@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:awards@durhamscouts.org.uk) if you have any questions or concerns about logistics.

## County Annual General Meeting

This year's County AGM is at 7pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September and will be held at Moor House Adventure Centre. We'll be presenting the new format annual report and accounts, electing members to various bodies such as the County Executive Committee and National Scout Council and telling you about our plans for the future.

There will also be a general Q+A session during which you can put questions to the County Commissioner, the County Team or members of the County Executive Committee.

Although only members of the County Scout Council will be able to vote, we'd like to extend an open invitation to all members of the Scout County to attend – this is YOUR Scout County and we're here to support YOU.

If you would like to come along please e-mail [admin@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:admin@durhamscouts.org.uk) and let us know that you're coming.

## Dates at a Glance

Here are the key dates between now and the next edition of the **Durham ePost** (Winter Edition – published on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016).

- 1** **County Awards Day:** September 17<sup>th</sup> 2016
- 1** **County Executive Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016
- 1** **DCs / County Team Operations Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016
- 1** **County AGM:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016
- 1** **Confido 2016:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- 1** **Training Advisors Meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- 1** **Sectional Programme Support Meetings:** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (formerly known as ADCs meetings)
- 1** **DCs Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- 1** **County Hill Walking Course:** 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- 1** **Operation Sanctuary:** 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- 1** **DCs / County Team Operations Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016
- 1** **Beaver Pantomime:** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- 1** **County Executive Committee Meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Please see page 13 for all **County Adult Training** dates. Also see <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/adult-training/> to book courses.

Always please remember to check the County Calendar at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/> for full details (locations, time etc) and for any late changes.

### Coming Soon

<b>Saturday, 10 September</b>	
09:30	Module 13/21 - Growing the S
13:00	Module 7 - Scouting For All
<b>Saturday, 17 September</b>	
09:00	Awards 2016
<b>Wednesday, 21 September</b>	
19:00	County Executive Meeting

## 2017 Events

On the last page of this edition of the **Durham ePost** you'll find a list of 2017 County events with dates - the full 2017 programme of County meetings and training courses is also now online.

## We are a 2016 Growth Champion!



*This special edition Lego mini-fig recognises our growth in 2015*

The 2016 census showed that in 2015, Durham Scout County increased our youth numbers by 3%, continuing a trend of growth over the last few years.

Ten of our fourteen Districts saw a growth in youth numbers, with four Districts achieving double digit growth in percentage terms.

Numbers aren't everything, but a growth in numbers does reflect a vibrant and active programme in a section that delivers first class Scouting and this is something that we should all be striving to achieve.

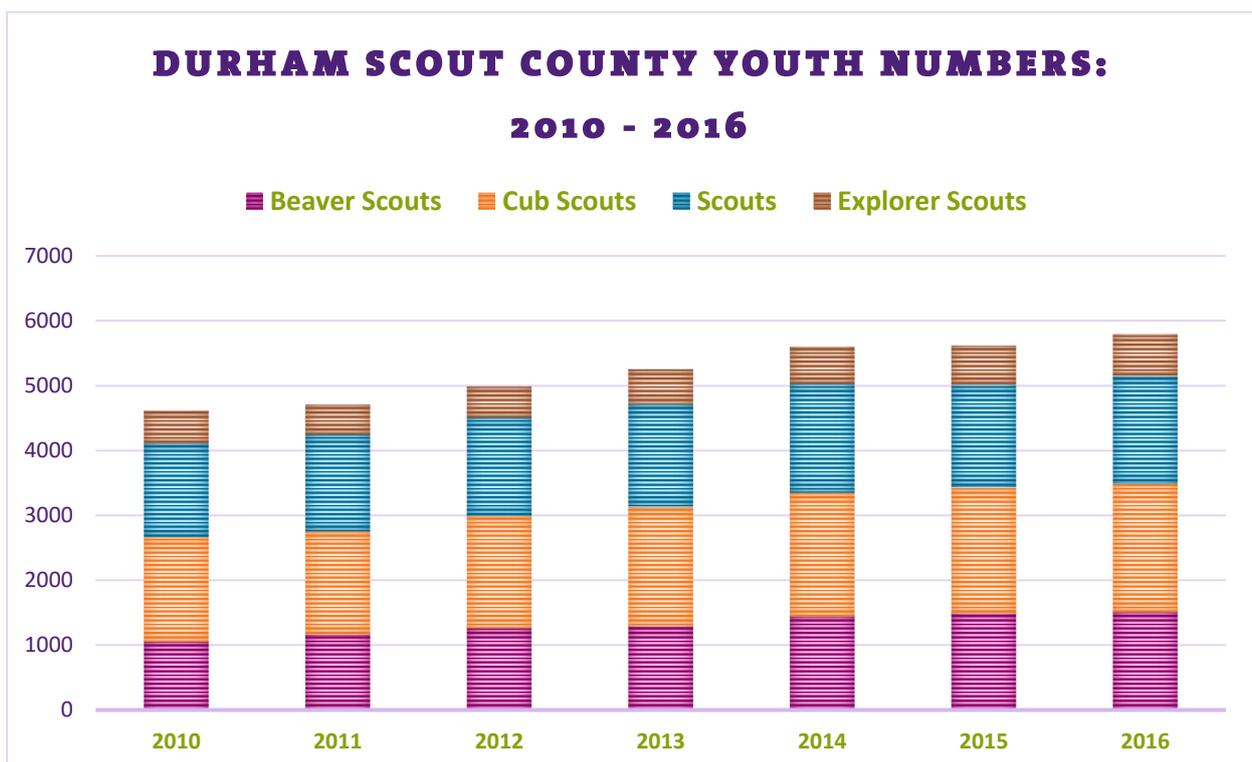
We all have opportunities to achieve growth by:

- Working with other Groups and Districts to clear our waiting lists (we have over 600 young people waiting to join Scouting in Durham Scout County...☺),
- Opening new Beaver Colonies in Groups that don't have them,
- Helping small sections to grow i.e. those with less than 12 members,
- Opening new sections and Groups,
- Recruiting more adults.

This is something that all section Leaders, GSLs, District Commissioners and Executive Committees should be thinking about and our role at County is to help you to develop and grow your section.

If you need help with development and growth, please speak to your District Team who can in turn contact the County Team. Where there are specific challenges and opportunities we'll even get the Regional Support Team (RST) involved who can help to deliver growth and development projects.

It will certainly be interesting to see what news the 2017 census brings, but as they say "the future is in your hands..."



## County Scout Active Support Units

We're currently in the process of setting up a number of County Scout Active Support Units (SASUs). These formalise a lot of the good work already being done by a number of volunteers in the County, many of whom already have other active roles.

However, establishing formal Scout Active Support Units allows us to:

- Provide 'Full' roles to volunteers who have no other Scouting roles, thereby:
  - Allowing them to be granted appropriate Adventurous Activities Permits,
  - Formally recognising service that counts towards Long Service Awards (or even Good Service Awards in a few cases).
- Provide previously informal teams with a clear sense of identity and purpose through a formal Service Agreement.

### Events SASU

For a long time we've had a team of eager and willing volunteers supporting large County Events such as Cubboree and Confido, the Geoffrey Gordon Cup, Awards Day etc.

It's always been amazing how many busy Scouters turned up to help with County Events and we're now making it easier for more people to get involved through the establishment of the Events SASU, which is managed by ACC(Events), Ian Hammond.

Membership of the Events SASU provides great opportunities for those looking to develop skills in events management (our County Events really are that good) and if you'd like to help out with County Events – even just occasionally – please contact Ian on [events@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:events@durhamscouts.org.uk)

### Adventurous Activities SASU

Similar to the County Events team, Stephen Ramsay has long been supported by a great team of people providing skills training and assessments for hill walking, climbing, water activities, archery, target shooting and so on.

The formation of an Adventurous Activities SASU will provide the team with a formal status and purpose and will hopefully allow us to get more people involved in supporting the delivery of adventurous activities within Scouting – possibly including more experts from outside the movement.

Once formally established, Stephen will undertake the role of SASU Manager and if you'd like to get more involved in supporting adventurous activities in the County please e-mail Stephen on [activities@duramscouts.org.uk](mailto:activities@duramscouts.org.uk)

### First Aid SASU

Many of you will have seen the County First Aid Team at events such as Cubboree or Confido. What you may not know is that they also provide support for County First Aid training and first aid competitions such as the Vaux Ambulance Shield.

A number of the First Aid team are not otherwise volunteers in Scouting, and forming



a County First Aid SASU will help us to recognise their valuable support for the Scout County. Kieren Stephenson (County First Aid Advisor) will take on the role of Manager for the County First Aid SASU.

If you're in to First Aid and would like to help Kieren's team, please let him know on [firstaid@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:firstaid@durhamscouts.org.uk)

## Media SASU

We've struggled to find a full time Media Manager in the County for some time, not least of which is because 'media' covers such a wide range of skills (writing press releases, photography, graphical design, managing contact with local media, social media, website design and content management etc).

Having spoken to some of our more media-savvy members in the County, the idea of a Media SASU has gone down well and we know that this works well in other Scout Counties.

We'll soon be forming a County Media SASU with the idea that members can contribute their particular skills and interests and work together to raise the media profile of Scouting in Durham.

We will be looking for a Manager for the Media SASU but the important thing is that unlike the previous County Media role, this person won't be expected to do everything themselves as they'll have a team to work with.

If you'd be interested in joining – or even managing – the County Media SASU, please drop County Commissioner David Stokes a line on [cc@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:cc@durhamscouts.org.uk)

## Beaver Scouts



**BEAVERS**  
Paul Woods  
ACC (Beaver Scouts)  
[beavers@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:beavers@durhamscouts.org.uk)

Hello! In the last three months we had the Beaver Picnic that was organised and run by Ian

Hammond and the Events SASU – an excellent space themed event that was attended by over 700 young people and adults. It was a great day full of activities with lots of young people and leaders saying that they enjoyed it.

## Beaver Pantomime

There are just a few days left to book for "Jack and the Beanstalk" - which is this year's fabulous Beaver Scout Pantomime at the Gala Theatre in Durham (1pm, 27th November 2016) and for which we have 450 seats booked.

Previous visits to the Gala have gone down very well with our Beaver Scouts and it's always a popular event, so if you want to book and haven't done so already now is the time to act.



As in previous years, parents and siblings can also attend, but there are limited spaces and **bookings close on 18th September.**

All necessary information is on the Durham Scout County website where you can also make your booking – see 'Events' -> [Beaver Panto 2016](#)

## Programme Support Meeting

I'd like to extend an invitation to all Beaver Scout Leaders to attend the next Beaver Programme Support meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Moor House – to see how County can help with your programmes.

I'm also looking for details of great days out and Beaver sleepover locations (with contact details) so I can produce lists that will be shared with all Durham Beaver Leaders.

## Cub Scouts



2016 is of course the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cub Scout section, following on from the Year of Adventure in 2015, and we're delighted to see an increase in Cub Scout numbers this year.



There are lots of photographs and videos on the Durham Scouts Facebook and Twitter pages so have a look. We hope your Groups and Districts are also enjoying the Centenary Year and would love to see your photos too - send them in to [cubs@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:cubs@durhamscouts.org.uk)

### Pete Swinney Competition

The Pete Swinney Competition (which was on 7th May) is based around a huge orienteering challenge where Cubs have to navigate their way around the grounds of Moor House using a map, identify the base that they are at and either complete a challenge or clip their card with the orienteering clipper hidden there.

We had a record number of entries this year with over 300 Cubs taking part. The joint winners of the competition were 1<sup>st</sup> Staindrop and 1<sup>st</sup> Framwellgate Moor, with 2<sup>nd</sup> Anfield Plain coming second and 19<sup>th</sup> Durham (Neville's Cross) coming in third place.

The competition was a huge success and great fun for the Cubs, so if you haven't taken part before why add this to your programme (6<sup>th</sup> May 2017) and make a note to enter next year?

### ACC (Cub Scouts)

Despite being a great year for the section, it has been a period of mixed emotions with former ACC (Cub Scouts) Ian Cooper having lost his battle with cancer just a week before the Cubboree camp at the end of May.

The Pete Swinney competition was one that was very close to Ian's heart so it is only right that we mention him now.

He was a great believer in Cubs getting outside and enjoying themselves, and was very keen to change the format of the Pete Swinney competition from its largely indoor venue for just a handful of Cubs to what it is now. He succeeded on a massive scale.

Ian was able to come along to the competition with his family this year, however his health was declining and he passed away only 2 weeks later. We are so pleased that he managed to come along and see what his competition has achieved for so many Cubs and his legacy will live on in this and in other events. Ian was a truly inspiring man and will be sorely missed.

In his honour we are planning a new competition with Ian's wife Janet and their children, Joanne and James. This is only in the planning stages at the moment but we will update you with details of "The Cooper Cup" once we have more details.

Ian's Deputy ACCs (Anne Gordon, Sarah Dodds and Lesley Robinson) continue to do a great job to ensure that the remainder of Cubs100 is a success in the County, and we expect to make an announcement regarding the appointment of a new ACC (Cub Scouts) in the coming weeks.

### Cubboree

This year's Cubboree was the biggest and best ever, taking place over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, with the camp lasting an extra day. Everyone agreed that it was the best Cubboree ever.



The new Events SASU pulled the stops out and it really was 'the wildest birthday ever' with a full programme of activities during the daytime on Saturday and Sunday and an international theme on the Monday, with Packs and Districts dressing for the occasion and bringing along some really super activities and games.



The evenings were packed with fun with wide games, arena shows, parties and some fantastic evening entertainment



You can see lots more photos on the Cubboree Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cubboree/photos>

### Promise Party

After a year which has seen local Thanks parties, Durham Cubs visiting London Zoo and Blackpool Pleasure Beach for takeover events and our own Cubboree, the final event of the Cubs100 year is the Promise Party.

As the official birthday of Cubs is widely seen as 16<sup>th</sup> December (this was the day in 1916 when the section was launched) the idea is that all Cub Scouts should remake their Promise at 19.16 (7.16pm) on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

This could be as a single Cub Scout Pack or it could be a District event – we are planning an event within the Scout County to raise the profile of the day in the local media (more about that as plans proceed), but please do make sure that you're planning your own Promise party locally. See <https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/Cubs%20100%20Promise%20Parties.pdf> for more details and ideas.

### Programme Support

Programme is something which is at the core of our weekly meetings and a successful programme is something that we all strive to achieve but we understand that life is a balance and sometimes we all need some support.

We are keen to make programme central to our role and the ADC meetings will be re-branded as **programme support meetings** from October.

They will be open to all leaders to attend, not just for ADC's, and will be an opportunity to share some of your programme ideas and good practice with others, as well as finding out more about County events.

Leaders are encouraged to bring along programme ideas, copies of past/current programmes and planning documents for a 'programme sharing' session.

We've had the new badge scheme in place for a little while now and we hope you are finding your way around, know what works for you, what the Cubs enjoy and what didn't work so well.

Have you been on an outing to a hidden gem that other Packs could try? Have you tried a new skill that you could share with others? Are you a new leader who needs some support, or even a busy leader who struggles to find time to find new ideas? We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Moor House and hearing your ideas.

## Scouts



**SCOUTS** 

**Paul Atkinson**  
ACC (Scouts)  
scouts@durhamscouts.org.uk

Following the standing down of Gill Forth due to family reasons, we're delighted to announce the appointment of a new Assistant County Commissioner for the Scout section.

Paul Atkinson is an active Scout Leader with 17<sup>th</sup> Durham Coxhoe Group in Durham City and District, running a fun and adventure filled Troop programme.

You may already have met Paul at Confido or at Cubboree this year, organising and running the survival skills activities.

As well as providing programme support for the Scout section across the County, one of Paul's other priorities is to work with the County Events SASU on redeveloping updated formats for Scout section events and competitions such as Dryburn camping completion and the Vaux Ambulance Shield.

This will mirror previous changes made to County Beaver Scout and Cub Scout events and competitions, which has seen more input to the planning from our young people, a significant increase in the number of young people taking part and more positive feedback from young people and Leaders alike.

At a recent Scout section Programme Support meeting Paul met with a number of ADCs and Scout Leaders from across the County. Plans are starting to be formulated and you can expect to hear more about plans and new formats as we move into 2017.

The next Scout section programme support meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Moor House and all ADCs and Scout leaders are invited.

## Explorer Scouts



**EXPLORERS** 

**David Stokes**  
Acting ACC (Explorer Scouts)  
explorers@durhamscouts.org.uk

Yes, it says "**Acting** ACC (Explorer Scouts)" as we're looking for someone else to take on the role now that I've taken on the role of County Commissioner. If you feel that you'd like to support the most dynamic, fun and adventurous youth section here in the Scout County please do get in touch (before our Search Team contacts you!).

Our next sectional Programme Support meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Moor House and all DESCs and Explorer Scout Leaders – or even Explorer Scouts who are actively running programme planning – are welcome.

## Outward Bound

During August I was delighted to be invited to visit Outward Bound Ullswater, where six of our members were completing their 19 day Outward Bound "Fit for Life" course, funded courtesy of The Sir John Priestman Charity Trust and the Outward Bound Trust (each course normally costs ~£1,500).



Our six members (selected back in April after a challenging 18-hour selection event including hiking, bivouacking, team and individual challenges) had spent the previous 18 days hiking, kayaking, climbing, gorge walking, camping and taking part in 2 four day expeditions as well as learning techniques and processes to improve their leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills.

While at Ullswater I had a chance to look around their recently upgraded facilities and listen to the presentations of the six teams who had completed the course – almost 70 young people from literally all corners of the world.



This really was a life changing experience for our five lucky Explorer Scouts and one Scout Network member and I'd encourage more of our Explorer Scouts to apply for selection next year, assuming that we're once again lucky enough to receive funding support.



## Young Leader Training Weekend

Given that it's now too late to book for Confido 2016 (it was fully booked by the end of August), the other thing to let you know for this year is that we're running another County Young Leader training weekend as follows.

- 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016
- Moor House Adventure Centre

The cost of the weekend is £20 to cover food and activities (Durham Scout County covers all other costs) and during the weekend we'll be delivering the following modules.

- Module A "Prepare for Take-Off!"
- Module B "Taking the Lead"
- Module C "That's The Way to Do It"
- Module D "Understanding Behaviour"
- Module F "Making Scouting Accessible"
- Module G "Programme Plans"
- Module H "Programme Plans Plus"
- Module E "Game On!"

This is ideal for new Young Leaders or for those Young Leaders who have not undertaken any training (the only modules not covered are Module I "What Did They Say" and Module K "First Aid Master Class").

There's also a 'drop in' option for Young Leaders who only want to cover Module A (the only mandatory module in the scheme) or who want to cover a module they may have missed via District based Young Leader training.

It is however important that any Young Leaders who are planning to 'drop in' must let me know ahead of time.

Booking forms have already gone out to District Explorer Scout Commissioners, Young Leader Unit Leaders and Explorer Scout Unit Leaders, but if you've missed them and would like to book places for your Young Leaders please e-mail me and I'll send copies out.

Note that the deadline for receipt of booking forms and payment is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and that places will be allocated on a first to book/pay basis.

## Scout Network

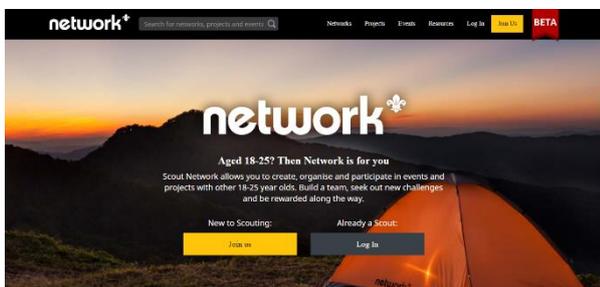


**network** 

**David Holmes**  
ACC (Scout Network)  
network@durhamscouts.org.uk

An increasing number of District Scout Networks are being established with some active programmes and we are working hard in the Scout County to ensure that all 18 to 25-year-old members know that they are automatically members of the Scout Network (this includes all 18-25 Leaders, Commissioners etc).

All Scout Network members should now have access to the Scout Network Portal - <https://www.ukscoutnetwork.org.uk/> - where you can find details of local and national events and projects in which you can get involved.



Where needed, we are also ensuring that members are put in touch with a local District Scout Network (which may be in an adjacent District) and that Scout Network members are getting the support they need to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's and Queen's Scout Award.

If you have any questions about setting up a District Scout Network, how to sign up for the new portal, joining a local Network or organising or signing up for projects or events please contact David Holmes for help.

## Events



**Ian Hammond**  
ACC (Events)  
events@durhamscouts.org.uk

### Confido 2016

We're bringing the carnival to the streets of Moor House on the 7-9<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (sorry, but bookings are now full).

Confido is a huge weekend of activities with a great atmosphere! 1,200 Scouts, Explorers and Guides will camp together for two nights, eat in our centrally catered marquee and enjoy two evenings of entertainment including bands, a disco, campfires and our own cinema. We've got our own radio station, mobile phone apps and cafe - there really is something for everyone at Confido!

We'll be welcoming over 50 activities including Europe's fastest mobile zip line, free drop inflatable, boot camp, Segway's, quad bikes, laser quest and much more.

### 2017 Events

We've now announced our busy programme of events for 2017, starting with Climb When Ready on the 4<sup>th</sup> March – take a look at the full line up in the 2017 dates on page 12. Details for Climb When Ready will be out later in the year.

### Event Managers

We're still on the lookout for people who are good at planning and working under pressure to take the lead role in putting together some of our major events. You'll be good at coming up with ideas, working through the detail and working with teams of volunteers to put together a high quality, memorable event.

For more information and details on how to apply, visit the [Events pages](#) on the County website

## International



**Dave Russell**  
ACC (International)  
international@durhamscouts.org.uk

### Jamboree on the Air / Jamboree on the Internet

Jamboree on the Air / Jamboree on the Internet will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October this year and is a great introduction to international Scouting.

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual event in which half a million Scouts and Guides from all over the world make contact with each other by means of amateur radio. Short-wave radio signals carry their voices to virtually any corner of the world.

Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) is accessible with much less equipment and connects Scouts across the world in a similar way to JOTA, but using the internet.

Volunteer organisations like Scoutlink and Scoutnet provide the necessary technical support and server capacity.

All you need is a computer and Internet connect or even a smartphone and data plan and you can get involved.

Now is the time to start planning your involvement in these activities and you can find more details on the [Scout Association website](#).



## Adventurous Activities



**Stephen Ramsay**  
ACC (Activities)  
activities@durhamscouts.org.uk

What we have to remember is that Scouting must be fun for us too. If we enjoy what we are doing the young people will enjoy it more. What I can offer with my team is practical, fun and useful training to help you provide that 50% outdoor & adventure in your programmes.

### Archery



Archery has required an Adventurous Activity Permit (AAP) since the start of 2016 and 3 Courses have already been run in the County.

They are being run over a weekend by the County Archery Assessors, with courses currently costing £25 (of which half can be claimed back from HQ after attendance on the course).

Should you wish to do Archery outside of the Scout Movement (e.g. with Guides, or working as staff at Moor House) then you will need the full Archery GB National Governing Body Award courses (Please see Moor House website for cost and availability), but note that *the Archery GB course is not needed to lead archery in Scouting*.

The next Archery AAP course has not been planned yet so if you require an Archery AAP then please email me and I will add your name

to the list and communicate with you directly as and when a place on a course becomes available.

### Feedback from a previous course

*“Cracking weekend spent with a lovely bunch of people. And to top it off, I'm now an officially qualified Scout Association Archery instructor! Is it too late to ask for my own bow and arrows for Christmas?”*

### Hillwalking

Our hill walking courses are usually heavily oversubscribed.

Course No 107 is on 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October and is currently full. Course 108 is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 which is also expected to be oversubscribed.

We have 30+ people on the waiting list for these courses. I have people's email addresses and will contact individuals when they are at the top of the list.

I mention the dates now because just a few days before the course there is invariably at least one person drops out- either because they find they are double booked, the weather forecast puts them off or they are not prepared for the course.



An email goes out to everyone left on the list and the first to be lucky enough to see the email and replies gets the spare place. It is no guarantee, but keeping the advertised date free is a good plan if you are really keen.

Over the last few months I have also run a couple of short introduction to navigating sessions; again, I have a list of people who would like to do this instead of the full hill walking course.

### Feedback from previous courses

*“Just a note of thanks to you and the team for the great, challenging weekend. So much learned and in a manner that is very memorable and will stay with me for years to come.”*

### Climbing

For outdoor climbing AAPs I am a little thin on the ground for Assessors with the Single Pitch Award (SPA) and have had a couple of sessions coming up with Cleveland County leaders.

For indoors climbing I have plenty of people for me to work with and am very ably assisted by Paul Kendall & Hannah Atkinson, with good support from Sunderland Wall.



Whenever we go climbing I invite everyone on the list to see if they can join us. Even though it's very short notice sometimes, we nevertheless get a manageable number to cope with to be trained, consolidated or assessed for permits to belay.

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award Courses

The DofE Award is really taking off in our County and in a bid to inform as many leaders as possible I have planned a weekend of Introductory, Expedition Supervisor and Expedition Assessor courses in November.

This has filled 'overnight' but there is nobody from Durham Scout County left on the waiting list, and we have half a dozen Leaders attending from other Scout Counties.

There is no plan to run another course of this magnitude, but any Leaders wanting the Introduction to the DofE Award Course may be invited to attend one which Moor House Adventure Centre are looking to run (free to Scout Leaders)

For Leaders wishing to be Expedition Supervisors or Assessors for the DofE award, funding is available from HQ (50%) and the County (50%), but you will need to look on [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) for other courses throughout the country.



There may be other opportunities through local Councils, but as their funding is running out there may be fewer options from that source.

### Course Bookings

On application to any adventurous activities course, I send out the invite with the relevant deadline for reply. This has become necessary because of the number of people who do not respond to emails, or who lose interest and do not let me know.

When a deadline is reached, nil returns are deleted and new people are invited with a new deadline. As the event gets closer, the deadline periods get shorter. This ensures that courses are full, cost effective and make the best use of my instructors' time.

So my bottom line for all adventurous activities is:

**Email me with what you want and I'll see what I can do...**

That's my job!

## Training



**Vacant**  
County Training Manager  
[training@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:training@durhamscouts.org.uk)

It's great to have the chance to pass on Training information direct to everybody across the County.

You hopefully know that we have our own pages on the County website in the 'For Members' area and this is your first port of call for booking courses and other resources including a link to the training pages on [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) where you can find the latest (January 2016) version of the Adults Personal File.

### Current Arrangements

Whilst the County is without a County Training Manager, three people are looking after the core functions. So that any one of us can deal with enquiries and issues - we all have access to [training@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:training@durhamscouts.org.uk)

Please use this email address to contact us and we can then give as quick a response as possible.

The County training programme has run as normal; with one hiccup where we have had to change the date of a module, but that just makes life interesting.



## County Delivered Modules

The front face of training in the County are the Wood Badge modules, generally run at Moor House.

The modules due to run for the rest of 2016 are:

- **Module 11 – Administration** at Moor House on 26<sup>th</sup> September from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm
- **Module 19 – International** at Moor House on 17<sup>th</sup> October from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm

The deadline for booking onto a course is strictly two weeks before, so in the case of Module 11, it is 7:00pm on Monday 12 September. If you wish to apply for that module you will need to do so quickly.

**Book Now**

## Getting Started Training

Districts are responsible for the face to face delivery of Module 1 – Essential Information and Module 3 – Tools for the role.

As there are different needs for each District, this will be delivered in different ways. For example, some will run a specific course purely for those who need to do Module 1 as a Group Executive member, some will run both modules on the same day, others over two evenings.

If you have been appointed to a role recently, please remember that there is a commitment to undertake Module 1 and validate it within five months of appointment.

For Sectional Assistants and Leaders the commitment also includes Module 3 and completion of Keeping Children Safe.

Your line manager (Group Scout Leader, Group Chairman, or District Explorer Scout Commissioner as appropriate) will be able to support you in finding this training.

All those in a Leader, Commissioner or Sectional Assistant role are required, as part of County policy, to complete Keeping Children Safe as a requisite of validating Module 1 – Essential Information.

This can be accessed via the Safeguarding area of the County website:

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/safeguarding/keeping-children-safe/>

## 2017 Training Dates

Dates for 2017 are now available to book on the County website as follows:

Date	Module
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Module 15 - <b>Promoting Positive Behaviour</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Module 12a - <b>Delivering a Quality Programme</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Module 12b - <b>Programme Planning</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Module 5 - <b>Fundamental Values of Scouting</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Module 17/23 - <b>Running Safe Activities and Safety for Managers and Supporters</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Module 9 - <b>Working with Adults</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> May	Module 8 - <b>Skills of Leadership</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Module 36 - <b>Special Needs</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Module 14 - <b>Supporting Young People</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Module 16 - <b>Introduction to Residential Experiences</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept'	Module 13/21 - <b>Growing the Section / Movement (Leaders and Managers/Supporters)</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept'	Module 7 - <b>Scouting For All</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept'	Module 11 - <b>Administration</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct'	Module 19 – <b>International</b>

When you book, this generates an immediate confirmation to the email address held on your profile with Durham Scouts. You can update your email address via the My Profile link before you book if you wish.

Joining instructions are sent by email usually the day after the deadline has passed.

## Reminder for Training Advisers and Trainers

Our next meeting, open to all Training Advisers and Trainers, is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 7:30 pm at Moor House.

## Next Time

In the next issue we'll include details of the first County modules running in 2017 and cover how validation can support you.

## Safeguarding



**Sheila Gibbons**  
Safeguarding Coordinator  
safeguarding@durhamscouts.org.uk

*(Note: please use the above e-mail address for general safeguarding queries only. Report any safeguarding issues or concerns direct to your DC, not to the above e-mail address)*

## Disclosures

Note that in future members will automatically be suspended from all Scouting activities 30 days after expiry of a valid DBS disclosure. It is therefore important that new DBS checks are started in good time to prevent this from happening.

To help members avoid this, the Compass membership system will soon be able to provide reminders at regular intervals before your DBS disclosure expires. This will enable you to take early action to obtain a new disclosure check.

It is important to keep your email address up to date on Compass so that you do not miss these alerts.

Find out more about how the process will work at <http://tinyurl.com/z6okgxv> and log in to Compass to check your details, including checking that your current email address is there.

## Mandatory Safeguarding Training

Teesdale District is hosting a mandatory safeguarding training session as follows:

- Time: 7:15-9:15pm
- Date: Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September
- Location: 1<sup>st</sup> Barnard Castle HQ, Wilson Street, Barnard Castle, DL12 8JU.

Please note that this is the training for *experienced leaders* which needs to be updated every 5 years (not new Leaders undertaking Module 1).

If you wish to attend, please let Colin Clarke (Teesdale District Secretary) know via [secretary@teesdalescouts.org.uk](mailto:secretary@teesdalescouts.org.uk)

## Thinkuknow CEOP Ambassador

### Courses 2017:

The CEOP Ambassador course is more in-depth than the Thinkuknow Introduction. It covers a wide range of areas, including:

- The nature of online offending against children
- How offenders use the online environment
- How young people use the internet and mobile technology
- Risk taking behavior of young people online, including digital footprints and sexting
- Organisational responses and policy in this area

Courses are running across the UK with current availability in Cardiff, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Liverpool, with further courses to be added later in the summer.

To book onto the course, and for more details on the Ambassador course, please click [here](#)

## Internet Safety

There have been a few queries over the summer about appropriate use of social media with Scouts.

The factsheet is available at <http://members.scouts.org.uk/factsheets/FS330086.pdf>

### Other Useful Links:

Insafe - <https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu>

UK safer internet centre -  
<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk>

Digitally Confident -  
<http://www.digitallyconfident.org>

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) <https://ceop.police.uk>

Safer Internet Day: To find out more about the impact of this year's Safer Internet Day, go to <http://tinyurl.com/z96tosy>

Safer Internet Day 2017 will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> February and the theme is "Be the change: Unite for a better internet!" Visit the Safer Internet Day website and get familiar with the campaign at <https://www.saferinternetday.org/>

## Moor House Adventure

### Centre



<http://moor-house.org.uk/>  
[info@moor-house.org.uk](mailto:info@moor-house.org.uk)

It's been a busy start of the year at Moor House, with over 4,200 customers, 1,490 campers and over 1,200 hours of activities delivered between April and June.

We've continued to do well at attracting external customers, which all helps with keeping costs low for Durham Scout members and allows us to continue to improve our facilities. You can take a look at the latest facts and figures and how we're performing against our targets on the Moor House Management Board page on the County website at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/mhmb>

The Moor House Management Board (MHMB) and the whole team at Moor House are currently working on some key projects:

- **Updating our new website** – take a look at our fresh design at [www.moor-house.org.uk](http://www.moor-house.org.uk) and look out for future changes. We're also in the process of launching an electronic booking system to make things simpler.
- **Embedding the Scout Led Adventurous Activities Framework** – don't forget you can use your AAP at Moor House and self-lead activities, just get in touch.



- **Improving our Safe Operating Procedures** – if you're self-leading activities at Moor House, you'll soon find it easier to read and understand the SOPs.
- **Defining our KPI's and Targets** - we've set some really challenging targets for the year, which we are tracking regularly.
- **Improving the estate's facilities** – we've implemented some key improvements such as new lighting, blinds and fencing and we'll be soon announcing details of our Friends of Moor House scheme and service crew.



- **Defining a development plan for the next 5 years** – we held a successful development evening and we're currently in the process

of building an ambitious development plan covering the next 5 years.

- **Gathering your feedback** – if you have visited Moor House recently, we'd love to get your feedback on your experience. It takes just a few minutes at [www.moor-house.org.uk/feedback](http://www.moor-house.org.uk/feedback).

If you haven't been to Moor House for a while, get in touch to discuss our better value packages for Durham Scouts or arrange to pop-in and let us show you around.

## Operation Sanctuary

Organised by Durham City and District, Operation Sanctuary is an escape and evasion game played across the County.

*"SANCTUARY is a serious wide game pitching Scouts and Explorers against their Leaders in a battle of cunning and stealth.*

*"Teams of Fugitives (Scouts & Explorers) will be taken by bus to a secret location. Once released they have 8 hours to navigate their way back to the finish to claim SANCTUARY.*

*"Each team has 10 lives, and an hour later the Catchers (Leaders) will be let loose, to try and catch the Fugitives before they can claim SANCTUARY..."*



*The teams are released!*

The increasingly popular event is open to all Scouts and Explorer Scouts in Durham Scout County and is a fun way to put all that navigation training to the test. For new Scout teams it's even possible to compete with a Leader or Young Leader in the team so that younger Scouts can also take part.

Full details (rules, kit lists, entry fees etc) are at <http://www.operationsanctuary.org.uk/>, where teams can now register on-line.

## New E-Mail Lists

As part of the County Communications Strategy we have created new e-mail lists which you can sign up for. These are intended to allow us to send the right information to the right people at the right time and bypass the traditional 'cascade' system where you (or our young people) rely on Commissioners and Leaders to pass information along.



You can sign up for a single list, more than one list or all of them as follows:

- Section specific lists for parents of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts (note that Explorer Scouts may also sign up for their list) and Scout Network members. These lists will let parents/young people know about County events and activities relevant to the section
- Section specific lists for Commissioners and Leaders working in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout, Scout, Explorer Scouts and Scout Network sections. These lists are designed for our adult members working in sections and will supplement information available from HQ.

- Adventurous Activities, for details of adventurous activities training dates, rule changes etc.
- Adult Training, for details on adult training news and training course dates
- News updates
- Durham ePost

All of these lists are 'opt in' (you have to sign up to receive them) and you can change your preferences or opt out at any time.

You can sign up for County e-mail lists directly from the County website ('About Us' -> '[Hear From Us](#)') or via the County Facebook Page via the '[County E-mail Signup](#)' tab

## Scout National Sailing

### Regatta

The August bank holiday weekend saw 3<sup>rd</sup> South Shields Group (South Tyneside District) host the Scout National Sailing Regatta – for the tenth time since 2000.

It was a very friendly and well organised event and the Group proved once again how welcoming the North East is to Scouts from around the country.



More than 70 Scouts and Explorer Scouts from across the country – from as far away as Liverpool, Epping Forest and Norfolk – took part in various classes and age groups over two days of sailing.

3<sup>rd</sup> South Shields did themselves proud winning a significant number of trophies available – including the Leaders trophy.



The event is open to all (not just Sea Scout Groups) and individuals as well as Troops and Units can enter the Regatta

It would be great to see more entries from Durham Scout County in 2017, so please get in touch with [activities@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:activities@durhamscouts.org.uk) if you'd like to know more.

## Meet the New County

### Commissioner

As you'll have realised from the rest of the newsletter, Durham Scout County has a new County Commissioner – David Stokes.

David was appointed in late July and Durham ePost caught up with David to ask him a few questions about himself and his new role.

#### *Durham ePost: How long have you been in Scouting?*

**Dave Stokes:** I was never a youth member and joined as a young adult back in 1982, so that's 34 years now. The first thirteen of those were in Birmingham Scout County and I moved to the North East in 1995, so most of my Scouting has been here in Durham Scout County.

When I was a young person I never even knew that there was even such a thing as Scouts and I'm committed to ensuring that more young people than ever know what we have to offer.

#### *DeP: What's the most important thing you've learned in Scouting in that time?*

**DS:** That we do make a positive difference in the lives of young people – and the more disadvantaged or troubled those young people are, the bigger the difference we can make.

I was too busy having fun as a young adult to realise that for the first ten or so years. But then there were two or three cases where I finally understood the positive and significant difference I'd made in the life of a boy (this is before girls were allowed join) or a young man or woman – and I realised that I could make a difference in the life of every young person I work with.

In 2015, on Winter Camp, Scouts in my old Troop were randomly given the name of a person in the Troop and were asked to write three things about that person on a piece of paper and inevitably some Scouts were given the names of Leaders.

One of the Scouts (I still don't know who) wrote about me "David: 1. Helped me be more confident; 2. Made me laugh; 3. Taught me a lot of things".

I still have that piece of paper and it reminds me that I may not always understand what the difference is that I make in the life of a particular young person, but I now take it on trust that I do.

We all make a difference and when Scouting gets hard, or dirty or frustrating, I remind myself of that.

**DeP:** *For those who don't know, what were you doing before you became County Commissioner?*

**DS:** Until last year I was an Assistant Scout Leader in Blaydon District. Up until July this year I was also an Explorer Scout Leader and District Explorer Scout Commissioner and Nights Away Assessor in Blaydon District

Within the Scout County I was a Training Advisor, Assistant County Commissioner for Explorer Scouts and also a member of the County Executive Committee until I had to give up those roles upon appointment as County Commissioner.

**DeP:** *That must have taken up a lot of your time?*

**DS:** Yes, but at the start of 2016 I set up my own small consulting business which gives me good flexibility and more time for Scouting.

I'm also very lucky that we're a Scouting family – I met my wife Ruth through Scouting and

both of our daughters are actively involved. They're all very understanding and their support allows me to make a lot of time for Scouting.



*David with wife Ruth and daughters Sarah and Rachael*

**DeP:** *How long is your appointment as County Commissioner for?*

**DS:** As with any appointment, the normal term is five years, but District and County Commissioners can serve for no more than ten years.

We have some great people in Durham Scout County and I'd like to think that by 2021 some of our younger Leaders/Commissioners would be thinking about taking the role on.

I see part of my role as County Commissioner over the next five years as identifying what HQ call 'Future Leaders' – young adults who have the ability to lead a youth organisation - and supporting them to take on new roles within the County.

**DeP:** *What are you looking forward to most in your role as County Commissioner?*

**DS:** I think two things. The first is helping Durham Scout County to be even more effective in supporting Scout Districts and Groups deliver great Scouting to even more young people.

It would be great if we could all work together to clear our waiting lists and meet our growth targets for 2019. The second is meeting even more of our super adults and our inspiring young people across the County.

**DeP: What do think are your strengths and qualifications for the role?**

**DS:** Hopefully I have the strengths, qualifications and experience contained in the County Commissioner role description - or at least many of them.

However, it's just as important to recognise where others have strengths and qualities that I don't, to ensure that we can build an even stronger County Team. I can't do everything but I know we have great people in Durham Scout County and with the team we have now, and will build on, we'll go from strength to strength.

I also hope to continue supporting Scouting at grass roots, working with young people in some capacity, but the County Commissioner role must of course take priority.



*David Stokes in Expedition Assessing Mode*

**DeP: Which is your favourite section, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts?**

**DS:** Being diplomatic I shouldn't answer that question, but over the years I've been lucky enough to have been an Assistant Beaver Scout Leader and an Akela and also hold Scout Troop roles.

I've also worked in Explorer Scouts and Scout Network where Districts have important roles to play in the youth programme.

They're all different, all have their strengths and are all great fun, and every section works best when they have a good programme and inspiring Leadership.

However, we should remember that every section is part of our progressive training scheme and we can and should do a better job of coordinating between sections to ensure that our young people get the best out of their time with us.

**DeP: What are your priorities in the coming months?**

**DS:** Rome wasn't built in a day, and there are tactical and strategic issues to address in the County. The tactical issues are things like filling vacant County posts and improving communications in the Scout County. Some of those are relatively quick fixes and others will take longer and I'm lucky to have the support of some great people.

The strategic issues are things like Growth, where I think the County can help Districts look at adult recruitment and retention and address waiting lists; Youth Shaped Scouting where we still need to appoint a County Youth Commissioner and set up proper County and District Youth Forums; Community Impact, where our engagement with projects such as A Millions Hands is low in some areas and finally Inclusivity, where we have small pockets in the County where girls and ethnic minorities appear to be underrepresented - we need to understand why, and what we can do about that.

I'm also committed to openness and transparency and members of the County and the general public can keep up with what I'm doing – and what our challenges are – by reading the new blog I've started in the County Website at [County Commissioner's Blog](#).

**DeP: is there anything about the role you're not looking forward to?**

**DS:** As adults, most of us are passionate about our Scouting and we don't always agree, which is fine.

However, sometimes those disagreements result in disputes or formal complaints from other adults or parents which then have a tendency to become escalated to County level and I don't think that's the most rewarding part of any Commissioners role.

I'm keen that we build the Scout Values of Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Cooperation into our County strategy.

These aren't just things that we teach our young people and my starting point for dealing with adult disputes is to expect all adults within the County to follow these values, and especially to act with integrity, to cooperate with one another and to treat each other with respect.

**DP:** *Finally, what do you think will be the hardest part of the job?*

**DS:** I think the most challenging issues will be growth and programme. We hear that we're becoming obsessed in Scouting about numbers. but numbers are a good indication of whether or not we're delivering exciting, challenging and adventurous programmes.

I will therefore be looking at numbers, but there's only one number that worries me and that is the number "minus one" (-1).

'Minus one' is the six-year-old who can't get a place in a Beaver Colony, or the nine year who longs to be a Cub Scout with all his friends, but can't join because we don't have enough Leaders.

'Minus one' is also the 13-year-old Scout who leaves because of a repetitive programme, or the Explorer Scout who leaves at 16 because her Leaders don't understand the pressures associated with being a sixteen-year-old girl.

So you're going to hear more about retention, and growth and programme, and I'm committed that we work together as a County to tackle these issues because behind every 'number' is a real, live young person - and we must always remember that we can and do make a difference in their lives.

## **New Regional Commissioner Appointed**

And finally, we are delighted to also announce the appointment of Ian Chappell as our new Regional Commissioner for North East England.

Ian has 28 years' involvement in Scouting, including experience as a GSL and DC and was also County Commissioner for Central Yorkshire. Until taking up his new role Ian was a County Scouter leading international expeditions.



*New Regional Commissioner Ian Chappell*

## Event Calendar: 2017

To help section Leaders plan your programme for next year, here are those important County event dates for next year:

❑ County Network Chill Out Weekend:	6 January 2017
❑ Hill Walking Course:	13 January 2017
❑ Sail Training Bursary – Deadline:	3 March 2017
❑ Climb When Ready:	4 March 2017
❑ Sail Training Bursary Selection Day	11 March 2017
❑ The Geoffrey Gordon Cup	24 March 2017
❑ Outward Bound Selection - Deadline	24 March 2017
❑ Windsor 2017	21 April 2017
❑ Monopoly Run	7 April 2017
❑ Outward Bound Selection Day	21 April 2017
❑ Advanced Canoe Camp	6 May 2017
❑ Pete Swinney Competition	6 May 2017
❑ FW Dunn - Submission Deadline	31 May 2017
❑ Beaver Picnic	10 June 2017
❑ Events Team SAS AGM and Social	10 June 2017
❑ Cub Adventure!	11 June 2017
❑ Vaux Ambulance Shield	25 June 2017
❑ Cub Water Day	1 July 2017
❑ Awards 2017	16 September 2017
❑ Archery Permit Course	30 September 2017
❑ Confido 2017	06 October 2017
❑ Navigation Skills Day	14 October 2017
❑ Hill Walking Course	27 October 2017
❑ Sanctuary	11 November 2017

The full 2017 programme of County meetings and training courses is also now online.

Always please remember to check the County Calendar at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/> for full details (locations, time etc.) and for any late changes.