

County Satisfaction Survey

During January, we ran a County Satisfaction Survey which told us that in many areas the Scout County (and possibly your Scout Districts) are not always delivering the support you need.

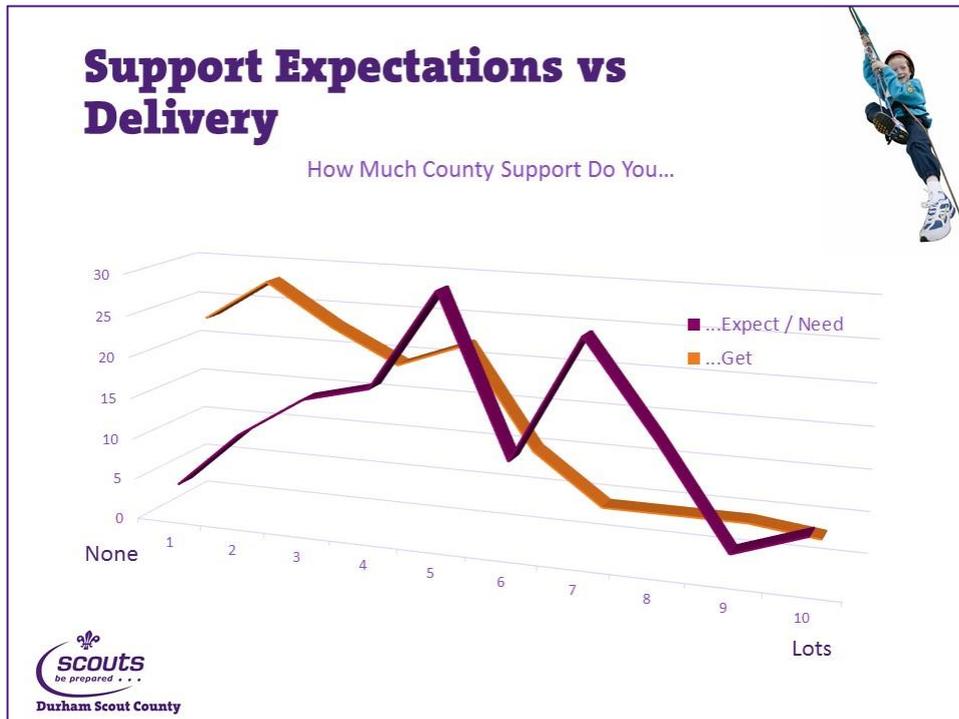
in areas such as adult training, young leader training, adventurous activity training and assessment, sectional programme support, international, safeguarding and inclusivity support.

We'll also be running a series of District 'Town Hall' meetings so that we can better

understand the needs of specific Districts and how we can all work together to provide more support.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the survey – we hope you'll help by providing more detailed input in the coming months and by attending your District 'Town Hall' meeting so that we can hear from you directly.

We're also starting to make changes based on the results of the County satisfaction survey and there will certainly be more changes in the months to come.



We still need to do more work to understand exactly what your expectations are and where we can do more to work with Districts to meet those expectations.

To help with that we're going to run some more surveys to find out what support you're looking for – and what more we need to do –

You can download a copy of the full survey results from the 'Governance' page on the County website at

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/governance/>

Are Your Young People Missing Out?

Although the number of young people taking part in recent County events is generally on the increase, we're still hearing about young people missing out because they don't get to hear about what's available. In many cases that's because news from the Scout County isn't getting passed down to section leaders and our youth members.

Would all Districts, Groups and sections please 'do their best' to ensure that news of what's going on is passed on to all members, so that no-one misses out on what's available.

Dates at a Glance

Here are the key dates between now and the next edition of the **Durham ePost** (Summer Edition – published on 10th June 2017).

- 1 **Friends of Moor House Working Party:** March 11th 2017
- 1 **Training Advisors Meeting:** March 13th 2017
- 1 **Outward Bound Application Deadline:** 24th March 2017
- 1 **Geoffrey Gordon Cup (Explorers):** 24th – 26th March 2017
- 1 **DC's Meeting:** 4th April 2017
- 1 **County Team (Operations) Meeting:** 4th April 2017
- 1 **Monopoly Run (Explorers/Network):** 7th – 9th April 2017
- 1 **Bubble Football Competition (Explorers):** 9th April 2017
- 1 **Outward Bound Selection (Explorers):** 21st – 22nd April 2017
- 1 **Windsor St Georges Day Reception / Parade** 22nd – 23rd April 2017
- 1 **Jamboree Unit Leaders Application Deadline:** 1st May 2017
- 1 **Advanced Canoe Camp:** 6th – 7th May 2017
- 1 **Pete Swinney Competition (Cubs):** 6th May 2017
- 1 **County Executive Committee Meeting:** 8th May 2017
- 1 **Sectional Programme Support Meeting:** 10th May 2017
- 1 **Jamboree Unit Leaders Interviews:** 17th May 2017
- 1 **FW Dunn Photography Competition Deadline (Cubs):** 21st May 2017
- 1 **Beaver Picnic (Beavers):** 10th June 2017
- 1 **Events Team SAS AGM:** 10th June 2017
- 1 **Cub Adventure! (Cubs):** 11th June 2017

Please see page 20 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.

To add the County Calendar to your calendar application or view in a web browser use:

ICAL (to add to a calendar app)

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/webdurhamscouts%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

HTTPS (to display in any web browser):

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=webdurhamscouts%40gmail.com&ctz=Europe/London>

Durham is a Growth County!

The Census results are just about in and the good news is that Scouting in Durham grew again last year with:

- 4.2% growth in youth membership
- 4.6% growth in adult membership



Although different sections, Groups and Districts experienced variations in growth (or even decline) this is a great result overall and means that we have 243 more young people taking part in our various programmes than this time last year (6,076 in total).

The result indicates that we have some great leaders and high quality programmes out there in the County, but sadly this also means that we currently have 621 young people waiting to join Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and even Explorer Scouts across the County.

That's why you'll be hearing more about how we'll be supporting growth and development to ensure that as many young people as possible get to experience Scouting.

Groups, Districts, the Scout County and the Regional Support Team will all be working together in the coming months to help plan and deliver development workshops, adult recruitment workshops, to help open new sections where we have sections 'missing' and to help add new capacity to Districts and Groups.

If you have a growth project you'd like help with, please contact Hayley Robertson - our new Deputy CC (Growth and Development) on growth@durhamscouts.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make last year's growth possible – let's see if we can all work together to achieve our 'Vision 2018' target of 6,502 young people Scouting in Durham County by January 2019.

New County Directory

You asked for the return of the County Directory and you've got it!

The new PDF format directory is available for members to download from a password protected page on the County Website via <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/county-directory/>

To register for a website account and password (which you also need to book County training, nominate young people for the County Awards Day etc.) visit

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/wp-login.php?action=register>

Durham Scout County	
 Durham Scout County County Directory v1.00 February 2017	
County	Page 2
Bishop Auckland	Page 3
Blaydon	Page 5
Chester-le-Street	Page 7
Crook & Weardale	Page 9
Darlington	Page 11
Derwentside	Page 13
Durham City	Page 15
Gateshead	Page 17
Houghton-Le-Spring	Page 19
Peterlee	Page 21
Seaham	Page 23
South Tyneside	Page 24
Sunderland	Page 26
Teesdale	Page 28
Please treat the contents of this document as CONFIDENTIAL . All information is as provided by Districts Where information is missing please contact the appropriate Commissioner. Please forward any updates to admin@durhamscouts.org.uk	

The new format means that the new Directory can be updated as required and we plan to make four updates a year based on updates provided by Districts.

You can request to have your own group / section details updated by e-mailing admin@durhamscouts.org.uk

If you notice that the entries for your District are missing (and some still are) please ask your District team to forward full details to admin@durhamscouts.org.uk

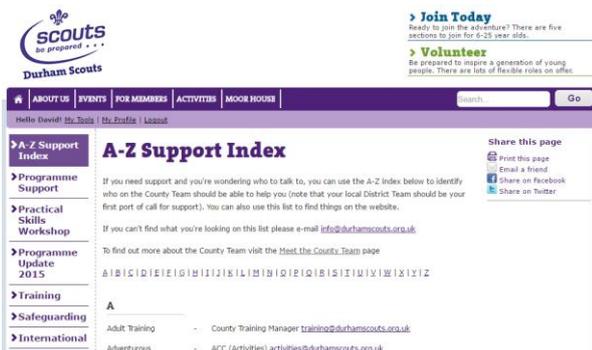
Strategy Update

At an additional County Scout Council meeting on 8th March, County Commissioner David Stokes presented the results of the County Satisfaction Survey (see page 1) and also provided an update on the County Strategy.

A copy of the slides used is available on the [Governance](#) page of the County website.

As a result of feedback via the County Satisfaction Survey, two new pages have been added to the County website:

- An [A-Z Support Index](#) of who to contact or where to go for support in the Scout County (use the link on the page to let us know if anything else needs adding).
- A [County Team](#) page, with photographs and short biographies of the County Team members.



Programme Support

We continue to focus on providing practical programme support to our members and remind everyone that our next sectional Programme Support meetings are on Wednesday 10th May, 7pm at Moor House.

All Leaders are welcome and feedback from the meetings is increasingly positive as we discuss programme and section specific issues, share programme, days out and nights away ideas and seek input to update and refine County competitions and events.

We're delighted to hear that some Districts are now planning their own section programme support meetings to follow on from the County meetings and hope that this will help all of our

section leaders to deliver first class programmes to our young people.

We're also delighted to announce more information on a couple more initiatives to help improve sectional programmes.

Practical Skills Training



You said, we did!

In response to your feedback, we are organising practical skills workshops on the 24th June at Moor House.

From fire lighting to tent pitching, we've designed a flexible day to help you gain those essential practical skills to pass them onto your young people.

About the day

During the day we will be offering five half-day zones, covering a wide variety of practical skills. You can take part in just one zone of your choice (lasting half a day in the morning or afternoon) or two zones of your choice (lasting all day).

The workshops are free to attend (but bring a packed lunch if you're staying all day). The morning zones start at 9:30am, with the afternoon zones starting at 1:30pm.

Training zones

Each of our half-day sessions will run in both the morning and the afternoon, with the following zones:

- **Backwoods Zone** - Knife & axe, fire lighting and backwoods cooking,
- **Survival Zone** - Knife & axe and survival skills,

- **Pioneering Zone** - Knots, lashings and pioneering,
- **Camping Zone** - Erecting tents and campsite layout,
- **Permit Zone** - Climbing (including crate stacking) assessment (for AAP permit) and basic navigation skills.

Each module will be adapted on the day based on participants prior learning and will not only teach the skills, but also the techniques you can use to teach your young people. All modules are suitable for all leaders, regardless of your section.

How to book

Bookings are now open and close on the 31st May, or earlier if we reach our maximum capacity of 20 participants per zone.

To find out more or to book visit

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/practical-skills-workshop/>

Volunteering to help

If you're an expert in practical skills and would like to help us run a workshop and share your experience on the day, please get in touch via events@durhamscouts.org.uk.



Programme Exchange Workshop



We can now confirm that the County Programme Exchange Workshops will go ahead on October 21st and 22nd (2 x 1 day workshops) with each of the two workshops, accommodating 60 – 70 section leaders.

The workshops will be held at East Boldon's (28th South Shields') extended and improved headquarters which has the necessary break out rooms to accommodate section specific sessions.

The workshops will also be free to attend and during the workshops we will be:

- Summarising good programme planning and programme review practices,
- Sharing programme ideas (including new/different games) and complete evening programmes for the Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout sections,
- Discussing badge and award issues, challenges and best practices,
- Sharing section specific ideas for days out and nights away.

We will also be publishing the best programme ideas and programmes on the County website in our [Programme Support](#) pages.

Full details including how to book will be circulated via the County e-mail system and will be included in the next edition of the Durham ePost.

Beaver Scouts



Beaver Picnic

Please remember that the 2017 Beaver Picnic is on Saturday 10th June and the theme will be "Pirates".

Information about bookings will be out soon.

Programme Support

At our last County programme support meeting (open to all Beaver Leaders in the County) we discussed more good programme ideas and places where you can find them.

Some attendees suggested these locations:

- The Scout Association website has items like The Global Issues Activity Badge and International Activity Badge activity packs,
- 1st Facebook Scout Group,
- 1st Facebook Beaver Colony.

Also following the meeting we will be welcoming another Beaver County event to the calendar - The Beaver Climbing Day/Competition!

The date is yet to be agreed and booked, but this will likely to be in the Autumn – October/early November time.



Also, please remember that the next Beaver Scout Programme Support Workshop is on Wednesday 10th May all Beaver leaders are welcome!

2017 Beaver Pantomime

This is an early warning for the 2017 Beaver Scout Pantomime – this year it's "**Robinson Crusoe**" and the date is booked for 3rd December 2017 @ 1pm, at The Gala Theatre in Durham.

(Editor's Note: "Oh not it isn't!")

Cub Scouts



Cubs100

As reported last time, we finished the year on a high in December with Promise Renewals across the County and special events locally and regionally, including the giant neckerchief unveilings at Flamingo Land, the Angel of the North and Penshaw Monument.



Feedback from the Cub Centenary Year has been fantastic, Cubs have been given fantastic opportunities for fun and adventure and they've had a ball!

By Christmas we leaders were about ready to hibernate but there's no rest for the wicked as there's so much to look forward to in 2017 that we couldn't rest for long!

Dodgeball 2017

This is an event that we had to miss out last year, simply due to lack of space in the calendar, but it's back this year in a new venue. Applications have unfortunately closed for 2017 but if you've missed it this time look out for it next year.



Pete Swinney Competition

Last year was the biggest and best we've seen so far and details will be sent out soon, so watch out for it and get booked in early to avoid disappointment.

FW Dunn Photography Competition

Following feedback from leaders we have re-vamped the photography competition to incorporate elements of the Cub Photography activity badge.

It seemed a shame to encourage Cubs to enter the competition without rewarding them with a badge (we all love a badge!).

Cubs will show that they can use a camera and use 5 pictures they've taken to make into a poster. Leaders can build the badgework into their programme and complete the whole

badge or Cubs can design their posters at home.

The theme of the poster is simply to promote Cub Scouting - "*What Cub Scouts Get Up To*", a theme that is deliberately wide so as to encourage entries (it's such a shame that entries have dwindled to single figures over the past few years, so let's get it going again).

Entries close on 31st May and full details can be found at

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/cubs-fw-dunn-photography-competition/>

Cub Adventure!

That leads us to June and Cub Adventure! A day of adventure and activity for Cubs. We held this in its new format in 2015 – The Year of Adventure and it was a fantastic day which we are looking forward to bringing back this year.

Durham Cubs Visit Parliament

As part of the Cub 100 celebration in Parliament, Durham City Cubs were asked to attend as our local member of Parliament had been invited as one of the North East representatives.

Noah and Lucy from two different Cub packs within Durham City District, accompanied by their leaders Sarah and Andrew, travelled down to Parliament for what was described to them as being a normal pack night, where Cubs would be showing MP'S from around the country What Cubs Scouts do.

Activities ranged from putting up a tent, walking across a slack line (at which we all had a go – joined by quite a few of the MP's) and playing a Cub safety game on iPads to name but a few.

The main speaker at the event was Steve Backshall, the Cubs 100 Ambassador, who was accompanied by his Gold medal winning wife Helen Glover.

Steve gave an excellent speech and we all got to hold one of Helen's Olympic Gold medals, which are a lot heavier than they look on the TV! Lucy and Noah also managed to get both

Steve and Helen's autographs which they are very proud of.



The event was also attended by the Granddaughter of the lady who founded Cub Scouts, Vera Barclay, who again gave a lovely speech about the ideas leading her Grandmother to run the first trial Cub pack back in 1914 and how proud she would be today. She also read us a letter received from Lord Baden-Powell.

It was then the turn of Jagz Barth, Deputy UK Youth Commissioner, to give us a talk where he told us all his own Scouting story which was very interesting and inspiring for all the Cubs and once finished asked us all to smile for a group selfie.

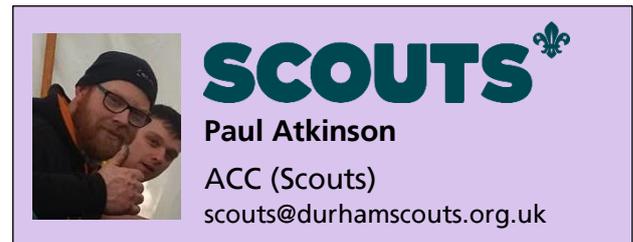
Our Cubs were interviewed by members of the press and asked what they love about Cubs Scouts with both giving some excellent answers.

After leaving Parliament we decided we couldn't leave London without a trip on The London Eye which was a great end to a lovely day.

Finally, we would encourage all leaders to come along to the programme support meetings, the next meeting is Wednesday 10th May at 7pm, so why not come along?

Leader can exchange ideas about badgework and programmes and you can have your say about County support and events.

Scouts



Hi fellow Scouters!

Scouting is thriving in the County (Scout numbers are up 4.5% in the latest census) and work is in hand to add more events and activities to make the opportunities available to you as leaders and your Scouts even better.

The Regional Scout panel are developing a plan to offer a weekend camp at Flamingo Land in September 2018, for up to 2,000 Scouts from throughout the North East region.

A planning visit to Flamingo Land is set for 10.30am on the 16th April, so if you would like to help with the team, or have a specific skillset you can offer please let me know.



We are looking at a revamped Dryburn Cup and Vaux Shield for 2018 and we need members for our review and planning teams. If you have ideas and you'd like to help make

these revamped events come to fruition in 2018 please let me know.

Brainstorming took place at the last Scout section programme support meeting to introduce new activities for 21st century scouting.

These focussed on new ideas such as petrol go-kart Grand Prix racing and street sports activity days. Feedback from #youshape sessions conducted with Scouts shows that modern activities are desired by our young people as well as traditional scouting skills, so teams will be created to help deliver these types of events for Scouts in the County.

Bookings have closed now for our international camp this summer. We had to adapt our destination due to changes from the Poacher International Camp organising team, who closed the bookings early! We are now travelling to the Kent International Jamboree the same week for a fun filled adventurous experience based on the six continents of the sub-camps.

Finally, I am available to visit districts, groups or sections upon request and have spent the last month or two getting to know the amazing volunteers in Seaham district.

Work has been conducted there to help with a development plan for Scout Troops in the district, to see more Scouts achieve their Chief Scout's Gold Awards in the future.

Please do get in touch if we can help you and your Scouts.

Explorer Scouts



This is my last piece as Acting ACC (Explorer Scouts). I'm delighted to say that we have now found and almost finished the appointment of a new ACC (Explorer Scouts) and a new ACC (Young Leaders), subject to formal approval by the County Appointments Advisory Committee.

Our new Assistant County Commissioner (Explorer Scouts) is **Scott Doughty**, who is an Explorer Scout Leader with 1st Eppleton Unit in Houghton-le-Spring District. Scott has a good understanding of the Explorer Scout age range and also brings experience of working with the 14-17 year old age range within the Army Cadets.

Our new Assistant County Commissioner (Young Leaders) is **Iain Wood**, who is also a Scout Leader with 1st Framwellgate Moor Wednesday Troop in Durham and City District. Iain was actually nominated for the role by several Young Leaders in his District.

Given the increasing importance of the Young Leader scheme within Scouting, I took the decision to split to former ACC(ES) role in order to provide effective, age-specific support to the 14-17 year old age range and to help Districts to support the Young Leader scheme locally.

I will be working with both Scott and Iain to ensure continuity to the section over the next 12 months.

Collectively we want to provide support in a number of areas:

- **Growth:** The 2017 census saw our first ever decline in Explorer Scout numbers in the County (-3.6%). While some Districts saw good growth in 2016, a number of traditionally strong Districts saw a decline in Explorer Scout numbers and we'll be offering help to understand why that has happened and what we can do about it.
- **Structures:** As previously outlined, by April 2018 all Explorer Scout Units in the County must be properly constituted as District based Units and we'll be providing support to Units and Districts where this change needs to take place.
- **Age Specific Programme Support:** Explorer Scout leaders tell us that they need section specific and age appropriate training for the Explorer Scout section and we'll be working to put that in place so that new Explorer Scout Leaders (including those who have completed Wood Badge training for other sections) fully understand the Explorer Scout age group, programme and way of working.



- Young Leader Scheme Support:** Young Leaders are increasingly important but relatively few Districts provide full Young Leader training and many struggle to support Young leaders and the adult leaders they work with. This is an area in which we're aiming to build a team to provide support across the County, using a network of Young Leader 'gurus'.



network

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

2017 will of course be a busy year for the section with Climb When Ready just done, the Geoffrey Gordon Cup just around the corner, the return of the Monopoly Run and a new bubble football competition.

We once again have six FREE places for Explorer Scouts on a three-week Outward Bound 'Skills for Life' course – worth more than £1,700 each, funded courtesy of the Sir John Priestman Charity Trust and the Outward Bound Trust.

See <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/outward-bound/> for details of how your Explorer Scouts can apply for this fantastic opportunity which is literally life changing.

We're also starting to look into a big Regional event for 2018, but more of that later.

Finally, having helped develop the original Explorer Scout programme 15 years ago, and after seven years as a DESC, ESL and ACC(ES) in Durham Scout County, I just want to say thank you to all our Explorer Scout Leaders – and especially our wonderful Explorer Scouts – for all the special memories. I have really enjoyed my time in the section and have some fantastic memories of my time 'Explorer Scouting'

Scout Network

We're aware that some Districts have struggled to get an active District Scout Network going. Although we agree that District based Networks are the way to go, we've realised that District Networks have to become established in their own time, driven by the needs of the 18-25-year-old members and building on strong, District provisioned Explorer Scout Units.

To allow time for this to happen we have therefore applied to the Regional Commissioner for a time limited exception to the rule that every Scout District must have their own District based Network. This would also see us re-establish a County Scout Network for a period.

This is to allow us to better support those Network Members who are working towards their various awards (Duke of Edinburgh's, Queen's Scout Award, Explorer Belt etc.), and to allow us to provide a framework for projects which are initiated outside of those Districts which have established an active Scout Network.

The plan is to encourage current District Scout Networks to coordinate with one another and to support Districts to establish their own District Scout Networks when the time is right.

County Commissioner's Update



David Stokes
County Commissioner
cc@durhamscouts.org.uk

New Appointments

It continues to be a busy period as we work towards providing the necessary support for all our members and since the last newsletter in December we've appointed more new people in the County including:

- A Deputy County Commissioner (Development and Growth),
- A County Youth Team (a new Youth Commissioner and two Deputy Youth Commissioners),
- A replacement Assistant County Commissioner (Explorer Scouts),
- A new Assistant County Commissioner (Young Leaders),
- Three new District Commissioners for Darlington, South Tyneside and Sunderland Districts.

For an up-to-date list of who's who in the County Team see <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

We're also finalising the search process for new District Commissioners in Bishop Auckland, Derwentside and Peterlee, as well a new ACC (Diversity and Inclusion).

That just leaves a new County Training Manager, a Deputy County Commissioner, a County Secretary and completing membership of the Finance Board on the list.

I'm aware that there's a lot of change happening and that some people are perhaps finding it difficult to keep up. However, all these appointments (and other changes in the Scout County) are so that we can provide the

support that the County satisfaction survey told us that our volunteers and young people need.

Communications

One thing that the County Satisfaction Survey clearly showed (see front page) was that there are still people in the County who don't know what's going on outside their own Groups and Districts.

As we've mentioned before, we're trying to keep everyone updated with direct e-mails, but we know that many e-mail addresses on Compass are out-of-date and that e-mails aren't being delivered or opened. If you don't know what's happening, please do check your membership record on Compass to make sure that your e-mail address is up-to-date.

Hear from us

If you would like to be kept up to date with everyone going on at Durham Scouts, please complete the form below and look out for the latest news hitting your inbox.

Subscribe to our mailing list

* indicates required

Email Address *

First Name *

Last Name *

Durham Scout Mailing Lists

- Beaver Scout Leaders / Commissioners (section news, programme, rules etc)
- Beaver Scout Parents (news of events and activities)
- Cub Scout Leaders / Commissioners (section news, programme, rules etc)
- Cub Scout Parents (news of events and activities)
- Scout Section Leaders / Commissioners (section news, programme, rules etc)
- Scout Section Parents (news of events and activities)
- Explorer Scout Leaders / Commissioners (section news, programme, rules etc)
- Explorer Scouts and Parents (news of events and activities)
- Scout Network Leaders / Commissioners (section news, programme, rules etc)
- Scout Network Members (news of events and activities)
- Adventurous Activity Updates (rule changes, training etc)
- International Updates (for international opportunities)
- Adult Training (news, course dates etc)
- News Updates (general County news)
- County Scout Shop (for news and offers)

It's also clear that the traditional 'cascade' communications channels (County to District, District to Group, Group to Leaders and Leaders to Young People) breaks down much too often and I would encourage everyone to try and communicate in a more effective and timely manner (also see front page).

Adventurous Activity Safety

One thing that I haven't enjoyed particularly over the last few months is having to act to address some safety and safeguarding issues in the County.

As Stephen Ramsay covers below, in a few cases we've had to act to assure the safety of our young people when adventurous activities have gone too far without the appropriate permit in place. While no young people have been put in harm's way, we will act to mitigate any possible risks but please be assured that this is never to 'punish' people – we act to reinstate roles and permits to allow activities to resume safely just as fast as we can (in just days/weeks) but we'd much rather not have to act in this way

Please do ensure that appropriate permits, DBSs etc. are in place. Everyone has a responsibility to do this, not just Commissioners.

Fun and Adventure

Although I'm still very busy (the CC role is currently taking 25 – 30 hours a week), as we expand the County Team I am getting a little more time for fun and adventure and have had my climbing harness AND walking boots on in the last few weeks.

If you've got something fun and/or adventurous going on (and I hope that you do



with spring well on the way), time permitting I'm always happy to come along and help and/or say hello – don't be strangers!

Those of you who read my blogs (<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/cc-blog/>) may have recently read how I've been helping the County Activities and Events teams over recent weeks in my 'spare' time.

Working with our volunteers in the Activities, Events and First Aid teams is very rewarding and I certainly appreciate the hard work of everyone who volunteers in the County Scout Active Support Units (SASUs).

We'll shortly be opening a new a Media SASU and a new Diversity/Inclusion SASU which I'm sure will be equally as rewarding and we're also looking at a SASU to support the Young Leader scheme in the County.

Acting DC

After a spell as Acting DC in Darlington I'm now Acting DC in Seaham for a few months until we can complete the search process for a new DC.

I know that we have some super young people and adults in our smallest District in the County and I look forward to working with you all over the coming weeks and months.

Adventurous Activities



Stephen Ramsay

ACC (Activities)

activities@durhamscouts.org.uk

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

As schools and clubs lose the support of local authorities I am finding an exponential increase in school children wanting to finish their DofE in Explorer Scouts. Explorer Scout Leaders shouldn't be frightened to take them on - it is really rewarding to bring these young people into Scouting. If you have any questions

or concerns about signing them up for Explorer Scouts and the DofE Award just contact us.

As the Green Forms come in to notify me of expeditions going off this season there are 20 new County Assessors willing to help you – but all needing to do a supported assessment after completing their assessment courses in November. These volunteers are a fantastic asset to the Scout County and can really help you to keep the cost of expeditions down. Let me know about your expeditions as early as possible so that we can match new assessors up with expeditions.

Do you have “Odd Bods for Expeditions”? You might have one or two young people needing to do an expedition, while another group may be a person short: I am acting as a clearing house to make it happen, so please let me know what you need and I'll try to facilitate putting people in touch.

Hillwalking

At the moment, I have more instructors than participants booked on the October course (27th – 29th October, when the hour goes back)

This is the first time in about ten years it has not been fully booked by now - but there are enough people who have shown interest to overfill it. Get your fingers out and book now, then get your boots on!

Climbing

The County climbing team gave up a full day at Whickham Thorns earlier this month to literally show two dozen folks the ropes.

It was however somewhat disappointing when a leader asked for one hours belaying help from the 137 members of the Durham Scout County Climbers Facebook group and only 4 people responded (yes, the same people as usual).



If you have a climbing permit and can help other groups please do so, because next time it may be you requesting the help.



Archery

We now seem to have got to the end of the waiting list for training and assessment in this activity.

There's plenty space on the fifth of our training/assessment courses on 30th Sept - 1st October.

We have quite a few new archery permit holders with quite a lot of consolidations to do before they can run archery with their young people.

A bit like the climbing days, we run these courses to give you the skills to pass on to our young people, but many who come for assessment don't then go any further and our young people then miss out. If you have been trained and assessed, please remember to deliver adventurous activities to our young people.

Regional Glider



The dates for the regional glider weekends are out and there are already bookings for groups in Chester-le-Street, Durham and City, Gateshead and Houghton-le-Spring.

Check the website at <http://neglider.atspace.com/> for available dates later in 2017

Creative

There is exciting news in the creative activities area as we have an Explorer Scout doing his residential with the National Scout and Guide

Symphony Orchestra (NSGSO) later in the year in Wales.

I draw attention to this because any young person with Grade 5 or above can join in - it's a one-off week of rehearsals with a professional (and very expensive) conductor. Could this be one of your young people next year?

Newcastle Gang Show is from 15th - 23rd April, with many of the technical crew, stage crew & build team from Durham Scouts - and quite a few members of the cast from Durham too.

It would be nice if you would all support it as much as the Beaver Pantomime.

Permits

A word to the wise...The County Commissioner will probably cover this in his report but please folks, make sure your permit is on Compass - and check the scope.

There are a lot of leaders who THINK they are covered for what they are doing and perhaps they are not. This is a problem throughout the County - I think every District has some issue or another so I am not picking on anyone in particular.

About 6 weeks before permits are due to expire I email people to give them reminder. Last month I emailed every holder of expired permits (including NAPs) to warn them and ask them to renew their permit if it still required.

This exercise has drawn attention to a frighteningly large number of leaders who THOUGHT their permits were still active and who may have been operating outside the rules.

Please, everyone, find out how to look on Compass for yourself to check if your permit is still there, and if it is, please click on it to ensure you know the scope and restrictions on it. It is your responsibility.

To run an activity for the first time, please check a) if you can and b) if you need a permit.

There is a fantastic resource on the Scout Association website, so go to <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=26,407,351>

It will then open up with links to:

- How to do the activity,

- Factsheets,
- Whether you need a permit or not,
- Any extra insurance requirements,
- Whether you need to tell HQ,
- Whether it's allowed or not.

If there's any permit required send me an email as above and start keeping a log.

Please remember that I am here to help and advise you. Bug me to distraction to help you with permits, because it's much easier to sort these things out before the faeces hits the rotary air-conditioning and we want to keep the adventure going...

Events



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

The first County event for 2017 - Climb When Ready – is just behind us, with a record 317 young people climbing with us.

As can be seen from the photos, it was a very long, busy but enjoyable day for not only the Events Team, but also the Activities and First Aid Teams.



The feedback on the event was very positive and here's one piece of feedback from a parent about their son's day out

"He had a fantastic time at the climbing competition, it was such a fab event - it had a really lovely atmosphere and everywhere you looked kids were having a whale of a time."





All our other County Events are already in the County Calendar for 2017 and you can find out how to sign up and add the County Calendar to your desktop or device on Page 2.

As well as the Geoffrey Gordon Cup at the end of March and the County St Georges Day Awards reception in April we have a busy weekend coming up in June.

On Saturday 10th June, we have the Beaver Picnic and on the next day (Sunday 11th June) it's the Cub Adventure!

As well as allowing us to set everything up at Moor House just once, the AGM of the Events Team Active Support Unit will also be on the evening of 10th June, giving all team members a chance to catch up and socialise.

To join the Events Team, see <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/event-s-team-active-support/>

International



Dave Russell

ACC (International)

international@durhamscouts.org.uk

International Visits 2017

Can I please remind those who are planning visits abroad this year that the paper work has changed. If you are planning an overseas visit this year and have not completed the VA form please do so now.

We have had a number of Groups/Districts submitting "Part A" - thanks for that.

"Part B" needs passing to the International Office at least 6 weeks before the start of the visited. As both the DC (or the CC if it's a District event involving the DC) and myself need to sign these off before sending them to Gilwell. Can I therefore please ask that all the paper work is submitted at least 8 weeks before the start of your visit, Thanks.

24th World Scout Jamboree

The 24th World Scout Jamboree is being held at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, USA from 22nd July to 2nd August 2019 (see the [World Scout Jamboree 2019 website](#)).

The planning for Durham Unit members is underway; you may have seen the email about registering an interest in this event which went out in January (to register for all updates see <https://goo.gl/forms/ciA4D3T3xOnd2VEq1>)

The next stage is to appoint the Unit Leaders, and the application pack has been sent out in the last week). This a role you can undertake to ensure that members of the Durham Jamboree Unit have a life changing experience.

Those looking to attend as International Service Team (IST) at the Jamboree will need to wait a bit longer as IST information will not be



available until about November, with applications opening in February 2018.

Watch this space and the Durham 2019 World Scout Jamboree webpages for updates (<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/world-scout-jamboree/>).

Other International Opportunities

The February 2017 International opportunity's is available at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/International%20Opportunities%20-FEB17.pdf>.

This lists both UK based and overseas International camps.

Safeguarding



Sheila Gibbons
Safeguarding Coordinator
safeguarding@durhamscouts.org.uk

(Note: Sheila is a star and does so much for the County, but 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)

Safeguarding Resources

Stay Safe leaflets: just a reminder that the Stay Safe leaflets are no longer available from the national Scout Shop – they can be ordered from your local Scout Shop, or from the County shop and are also downloadable from the national website – see link:

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/3588/stay-safe-leaflets-for-young-people>.

I also have a supply which I distribute at the face-to-face safeguarding training sessions.

The Better Internet for Kids (BIK) guide to online services: this guide aims to provide key information about some of the most popular apps, social networking sites and other platforms which are commonly being used by children and young people (and adults) today. The link is

<https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/web/portals/onlineservices>

Please keep looking at the safeguarding pages on the County website –

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/formembers/safeguarding/>

New items are added in between the publication of Durham ePost. Recent additions include advice on playing physical contact games; Cyberbullying – what is it; and tips to protect your data on-line.

News: Social media companies and the Police are currently looking at the feasibility of installing police icons on their sites which users can click if they feel threatened. The function would allow an officer working remotely to access the chat and offer advice to anyone feeling vulnerable.

These plans are in the early stages – more info to follow when I have it.

Adult Training



Vacant

County Training Manager

training@durhamscouts.org.uk

In the last issue, we promised to let you have some information on the changes to training for Managers and Supporters and also what happens when an adult changes their role.

Managers and Supporter Training

Following an extensive review the suite of training for Managers and Supporters has been brought up to date. The term Managers and Supporters includes:

- Commissioners (including Assistants and Deputies and Explorer/Network/Youth Commissioners),
- Group Scout Leaders (including Assistants),
- District/County Scouters (including District/County Leaders),
- Scout Active Support Unit Managers,
- County/Local Training Managers.

Those appointed prior to 2017 have the opportunity to complete validation for their Wood Badge for this role by June 2017; new appointees will complete the Wood Badge under the new scheme.

The County Training Team has been working with Districts to identify those who will be able to complete the Wood Badge for their current

role by June. These individuals will have Modules numbered 21-26 on their Personal Learning Plans.

For those who can't complete by June, there will be a need to transition to the new scheme; the detail of that can be worked through with individuals nearer the time.

The new scheme will include independent learning (to be undertaken before attending the training itself), training delivered on a Regional basis (but on the basis of being close to home) and validation by a team of specialist Training Advisers.

Each "Core Skill Area" of the Manager Training will be validated with specific validation criteria. Another difference is that there is not a course directly linked to the Core Skill Area. Instead there are three Skills Courses that cover elements of each of the Core Skills Areas. The Skills Courses are:

- Skills of Management,
- Achieving Growth,
- Managing the Challenges.

These Skills Courses will start to be delivered later in 2017. This allows resources to be given towards those working on the older modules and for more Trainers to be brought up to be appointed across the Region.



Changing roles

When an adult changes roles, there is a need to consider what training requirements may relate to the new role. For some this is obvious, a Scout Leader becoming a Group Scout Leader would clearly need to undertake some Manager Training.

However, in some cases it may not be quite as obvious. For all changes of appointment, the key questions are:

- Does the new role require a Wood Badge?
- Has the individual already got a Wood Badge in their original role?
- What additional training (or maybe just validation) is needed?

Taking these in order, most roles with the word "Leader", "Commissioner" or "Manager" in their title require a Wood Badge – the complete list is included in the Adult Training Scheme publication (pages 15 – 18).

If the individual has a Wood Badge in their original role, then they may need to revalidate some modules which they originally validated for their Wood Badge.

These are those where the validation has been undertaken specific to the original role. For example, when changing Sections (e.g. from Beavers to Explorers) the following should be revalidated:

- Tools for the Role (Section Leaders - Module 3),
- Programme Planning (Module 12B),
- Practical Skills (Module 18),
- Supporting Young People (Module 14),
- Promoting Positive Behaviour (Module 15),
- Growing the Section (Module 13).

The additional training (or validation) required will fall out of the above paragraphs. A Training Adviser will be able to talk individuals through what is needed; in cases of doubt, please contact the Training Team via training@durhamscouts.org.uk.

Modules on Offer Soon!

Module 17 Running Safe Activities and Module 23 Safety for Managers and Supporters

We will again run the training for these modules together on **Monday 3rd April**. This allows interaction between Leaders and Managers, to help understand the actions required. Whilst looking at activities that are

undertaken as part of a high quality programme we also look at the boundaries of the Adventurous Activity Scheme.

Module 9 Working with Adults

On **Wednesday 3rd May** we will be delivering this module, which offers practical help on how to communicate and work with other adults in Scouting. The session will also look at verbal and non-verbal communications and listening skills together with representing others as a two-way activity.

Module 8 Skills of Leadership

On **16th May** (a Tuesday) this module will look at systematic planning and the different types of leadership styles that can be applied by a single individual in different scenarios. Other elements of this training includes delegating responsibility to others.



Remember that we have a two-week deadline before the sessions to allow the Trainers to prepare

You can book now for one or all four modules via

Book Now

Reminder for Training Advisers and Trainers

Our next meeting, open to all Training Advisers and Trainers, is on **Monday 13th March** from 7:30 pm at Moor House.

Full 2017 Training Dates

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

Date	Module
3 rd April	Module 17/23 - Running Safe Activities and Safety for Managers and Supporters
3 rd May	Module 9 - Working with Adults
16 th May	Module 8 - Skills of Leadership
13 th June	Module 36 - Special Needs
20 th June	Module 14 - Supporting Young People
29 th June	Module 16 - Introduction to Residential Experiences
10 th Sept'	Module 13/21 - Growing the Section / Movement (Leaders and Managers/Supporters)
10 th Sept'	Module 7 - Scouting For All
26 th Sept'	Module 11 - Administration
18 th Oct'	Module 19 – International

New Publications

Gilwell have updated the Adults Personal File which provides information for those working towards the Wood Badge and other training. There are now four Adult Personal Files, one for Section Leaders, one for Managers and Supporters with separate documents for non-Wood Badge Appointments and Supplementary Modules. Training Adviser Guides have also been updated with the Manager and Support Training included in a separate Guide.

Aside from some minor clarifications, the validation for Section Leader modules has remained the same, so there should be no need to update your copy of the Adults Personal File (as long as you are using a 2016 version). The changes mentioned above regarding Manager and Supporter Training are included in these new publications.

As part of the changes, Gilwell have set out the training in a different order. Rather than being in numerical order, the modules have been put into groups to assist learners and Training Advisers to identify and prioritise learning whilst still allowing flexibility based on individual learning needs.

The online versions of these documents are at: <https://members.scouts.org.uk/training>

Next Time

We are open to suggestions for our next issue – if there is something that you would particularly like us to cover drop an email to training@durhamscouts.org.uk – please put Durham Post as the subject.

Moor House Adventure Centre



<http://moor-house.org.uk>
info@moor-house.org.uk

Friends of Moor House

The next friends of Moor House working party will be:

- **11th March, 8:30am-4pm**

Come along to Moor House to join the first working party of 2017.

We've got an exciting development plan for the Centre and we'll be starting to address some key projects around the site, from new pathways to refurbishing Charlie's Cabin.

If you enjoy working as part of a team to get things done, then you'll love these weekends. We'll provide breakfast, lunch and refreshments; you just need the energy and enthusiasm.

Also note that we have a working weekend planned for 17th – 18 June.

Sign up at www.durhamscouts.org.uk/friends