

Youth Investment Funding

We're delighted to confirm that Durham Scout County has been awarded more than £276,000 to develop and grow Scouting.

The grant, made by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport and the Big Lottery Fund, is part of a new Youth Investment Fund designed to increase the capacity of youth provision in areas of social deprivation where there is a shortage of youth activities.

The money is specifically intended for the 10 – 18-year age range in the local authority areas of Darlington and Sunderland and will therefore directly benefit the Scout and Explorer Scout sections in relevant Districts.

Only two Scout Counties were successful in being awarded such funding, with Durham being awarded twice the amount awarded to Avon Scout County for our three-year project.



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED

sections. We are also planning to open new provision in these areas with the help of a full-time Growth and Development Officer.

Although the direct funding is aimed at the Scout and Explorer Scout age range we also expect to see growth in the Beaver and Cub Scout sections in these areas.

The majority of the funding will directly support Scouting in Darlington and Sunderland, but we will also be investing in capacity at Moor House Adventure Centre to support the delivery of adventurous activities and residential experiences to Scouts and

Explorer Scouts from the target Districts.

This will see the employment of an additional Instructor to help plan and deliver programmes designed specifically for Scouts and Explorer Scouts and this will have additional benefit to other Districts who will also have access to the new programmes.



This is our first large funding application and we were delighted to be informed of our success at the end of March.

Our project is designed to support the quality of programmes and growth in existing sections, including the recruitment of new youth members and adult volunteers to existing

We will also be employing a part-time fund raiser to help find additional funding support for the target Districts and we expect that this will also help the wider Scout County to identify and access additional sources of funding which can be used by all Groups and Districts.

Dates at a Glance

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

- 1 **Kent International Jamboree Practice Camp:** 16th – 18th June 2017
- 1 **Jamboree Deputy / Assistant Unit Leader Selection:** 17th June 2017
- 1 **Moor House Working Day:** 17th June 2017
- 1 **Practical Skills Workshop:** 25th June 2017
- 1 **Cub Scout Water Activities Day:** 1st July 2017
- 1 **County Team Operations Meeting:** 3rd July 2017
- 1 **District Commissioner's Meeting:** 4th July 2017
- 1 **Executive Committee Governance Meeting:** 13th July 2017
- 1 **Kent International Jamboree:** 29th July – 5th August 2017
- 1 **County Team / District Commissioner's Meeting:** 5th September 2017

Please see page 25 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



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>

Programme Exchange Workshops



On Saturday 21st October and Sunday 22nd October we'll be running two Programme Exchange Workshops. This is your chance to meet with fellow section leaders from across the County and:

- Share evening programmes for meeting nights
- Exchange programme ideas to add some sparkle, adventure or more fun to your programmes
- Swap ideas for days out, unusual and interesting activities, sleepover venues and favourite places for nights away
- Find ideas for some fun, usual and new games
- Discuss the progressive training scheme with leaders from other sections
- Share challenges and opportunities relating to the new (2015) badge and award scheme.



You only need to give up the one day (the workshop is repeated on consecutive days), registration starts at 9.00am for a 9.30am start and we'll finish by 5pm.

The venue is the recently refurbished headquarters at 4th East Boldon/28th South Shields in East Boldon (South Tyneside) and there's plenty of parking at the venue.

Please bring hard copies of your programme, games, sleepover etc ideas (we'll scan them after the workshops and make them available on the County website).

You should wear Scout casual (non-uniformed event) and please bring a packed lunch (drinks and snacks available throughout the day).

You can book a place using the link below (select your preferred date and section to start), and once you've found a place you'll be taken to the event booking page to enter your details.

Please note that places are limited to 20 leaders per workshop for Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders and 10 leaders per workshop for Explorer Scout Leaders (please let us know if you miss out on a place, and if there is demand we'll run these workshops again).

You can book via the County website at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/programme-support/programme-exchange-workshops/>

Long Service Awards

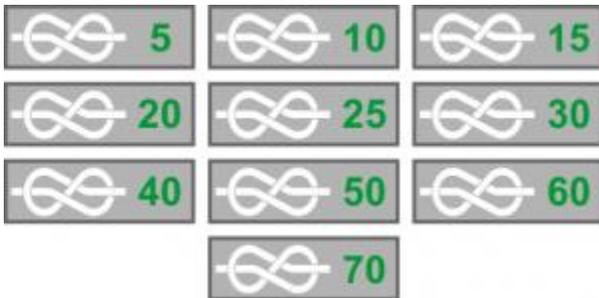
A number of you have asked about overdue long service awards.

Back in October 2016, the Scout Association stopped sending out long service awards which had been processed using the old Membership Management System (MMS), which was becoming increasing out-of-date and difficult to maintain and which was increasing issuing long service awards which were incorrect.

Later in the summer of 2017, the plan is to switch to issuing long service awards based on records managed within the Compass membership system.

Before this can proceed other issues with duplicate membership records need to be resolved. There will be a backlog of something like 20,000 long service awards to be issued and all members are encouraged to check their own records on Compass to ensure that it accurately reflects your own service.

District Secretaries, Administrators etc are all asked to support members with updating any Compass records to add missing roles, or to request the Info Centre to help fix any incorrect dates.



Advice for Large Events

Following recent terrorist incidents in other parts of the country, we have received advice from HQ and have sought out additional advice with respect to large Scouting events in the County.

Please reassure any concerned parents that we have been advised that there are no known, specific threats in the North East of England and that Scouting is not considered to be a target. **Scouting activities and events should therefore continue as usual.**

It is recommended to tell the police about any District events with large numbers of people. If there are specific concerns about an event, local authorities can assist with risk assessments and you may find the following guidance useful http://www.ukcma.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Major_Events_Review_d.pdf

With respect to large County Events (at Moor House and elsewhere) we have updated our risk assessments to take these risks into account, but will be making no perceptible changes to these events.

Our young people should be hearing about the 'Run, Hide, Tell' strategy through other sources (see graphic and more information at <http://www.npcc.police.uk/NPCCBusinessAreas/WeaponAttacksStaySafe.aspx>, and download

the 'Run, Hide, Tell' leaflet from http://www.npcc.police.uk/StaySafeAssets/NPCC_CT_A5%202pp.pdf).

All Leaders and Occasional Helpers should be aware of this strategy and in the event of any incident should advise their young people to 'Run, Hide, Tell'

We would however stress that the likelihood of these issues affecting our Scouting is very low.

If your young people show any concerns over these issues, please review the resources and material at <http://scouts.org.uk/news/2017/03/scoutings-response-to-the-suspected-terrorist-incident-in-central-london/>, and be prepared to respond to any questions or concerns that our youth members may have.

RUN



Run to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go, then...

HIDE



It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Then finally and only when it is safe to do so...

TELL



Tell the police by calling 999.

Post Vision 2018 Strategy

Summit17

Back at the start of April, a small group from the Scout County attended Summit17 at the University of Warwick. The idea was for County, District and Youth Commissioners (plus County Chairs) from across the country to get together and help plan the post 'Vision 2018' national strategy.

(for more details of the weekend see <http://scouts.org.uk/news/2017/04/summit17-highlights/>).



There was general endorsement for continuing to focus on growth and development, youth shaped scouting, diversity and community impact. However, it was also felt that there should be more support for the delivery of quality programmes (something we've been doing in Durham for some time now) and for helping the public to understand more about how Scouting equips young people for adulthood.

Summit in a Box

In August, the Scout Association HQ will publish "Summit in a Box" resources to be used at District (or County or Group) level, so that all our volunteers can help develop the next strategic plan for Scouting, which will launch in 2018.

The overall aim is to engage all our volunteers in discussions about the proposed strategy and to allow everyone to feedback their views to UK Headquarters.

Summit in a Box will provide three suggested formats for running a local session:

- One that can be used within an existing team meeting that can take around an hour
- One that will fill an evening/half day session
- One that is a full day event (approx. 5 hours)

These resources will include presentations, suggested session plans and activities as well as details of how to submit your team's feedback to UK Headquarters.

We'll be encouraging all Districts to run a 'Summit in a Box' session with the aim that all members will have the opportunity to engage with the proposed plan and to be able to feedback their views on the direction of this plan.

We hope the sessions will uncover whether or not members feel the suggested priorities for the next five years are right, and how easy or challenging it may be to

put these priorities into action. This will not only offer the chance to impact the national strategy, but we hope the sessions will also offer the opportunity for you to discuss what it would mean for your local development priorities in the future.

Visit <http://www.scouts.org.uk/beyond2018> to read an overview of the work being done in the lead up to 2018. You can also find briefings on all the research done prior to creating this draft plan, blogs on the various issues and some of the presentations from Summit17.

County Development Plan and Conference

The national strategy will be one input to the updated County Development Plan

Other inputs to the County Development Plan will come from District Development Plans, directly from member feedback via our satisfaction surveys and the Moor House Adventure Centre Development Plan.

The County Executive Committee has agreed to fund a Development Conference in April 2018 which will pull all these different inputs in to a coordinated development plan for the County – a plan which supports both the national strategy and the needs of our local members.

If you are interested in the future of Scouting both locally and nationally, this is your chance to get involved.

Free 'Inclusive Communities' Training

The English federation for Disability Sports and Sports Coaches UK are offering FREE inclusive communities training to community groups.

The training, delivered in partnership with Sainsbury's, is a basic introduction to how we can adapt physical activities and sports to make it more inclusive.

Scout Groups/Districts in London have piloted the training and it has been very successful. The course involves a 3-hour training course with resource packs provided.

Tyne and Wear Sport (or their counterparts in Cumbria or on Teesside if these are closer to you) simply require a small hall to deliver the workshop.

They book the course, provide the tutor and provide the resource packs and these courses are ideal for people who support disabled people in the community – such as our youth members with additional needs.

Further detail can be found at <http://www.efds.co.uk/inclusivecommunitytraining>

Funding Available

Over the coming months we'll be letting you know about funding that is available to support different aspects of your Scouting – there's money out there if you know where to look.



We'll be creating a special page on the County website where you can find out about funds which Groups and Districts can apply for, but for now here are a few timely ideas.

M&S Energy Fund

If you're looking for financial support for an energy efficient upgrade to your meeting place, check out <https://www.mandsenergyfund.com/>

Persimmon Homes

Persimmon Homes have two funds available – a Healthy Communities fund which can help fund young people in sport (including sports kits), and a Community Champions fund, which can provide up to £1,000 for good causes.

See <https://www.persimmonhomes.com/healthy-communities> or <https://www.persimmonhomes.com/community-champions> for details.

The Big Give

The Big Give are now accepting applications for their #ChristmasChallenge17. You can apply for match funding for your Group or District and join the UK's biggest online match funding campaign.

The campaign, which has been running since 2008, is new and improved this year and they have match funding available for a wide range of charities for an even bigger and better campaign than ever before.

The Christmas Challenge is a live match funding campaign where hundreds of charities join together to raise funds over a 7-day period. Donations made on the site are doubled in real time and last year over £7.2 million was raised! You can find full details at <https://www.thebiggive.org.uk/christmas-challenge/>

And finally, for those Scouting in Durham County, it's always worth a look at <http://durhamvoice.org.uk/Funding.php> for sources of available funding.

Beaver Scouts



Paul Woods
ACC (Beaver Scouts)
beavers@durhamscouts.org.uk

Beaver Picnic

BEAVER & CUB BIG DAY OUT 2017

By the time you read this, the 2017 Beaver Picnic will either be underway, or will just have finished.

Although it looks like it will be a rainy day, we'll have almost 800

Beaver Scouts and 200 Leaders coming along, with a great theme of 'Pirates'.

There are loads of bases organised by Colonies and Districts as well as Moor House activities such as crate stacking and the toboggan run, loads of bouncy castles, an inflatable slides and assault course and a great birds of prey display.

We'll be sure to get some pictures on-line and will include some in the next edition of the newsletter.

Beaver Climbing Competition

As part of the County Satisfaction Survey we were asked why Beavers couldn't take part in the County 'Climb When Ready' climbing competition.

Part of the reason was that the rules of competitive climbing might be a little difficult for some Beaver Scouts to understand, and the main reason is that there just isn't enough time in the day.

We are therefore working on a separate, non-competitive climbing day for Beaver Scouts. We're looking to finalise a date in the busy period after the summer holidays and as soon as we have a date and a venue confirmed we'll let you know the details.

2017 Beaver Pantomime

The next confirmed sectional event isn't too early to think about and you should certainly be putting the date in your diaries.

This year's Beaver Scout Pantomime is "Robinson Crusoe" on 3rd December 2017 @ 1pm, at The Gala Theatre in Durham.

Bookings will open within the next month or so and last year's event was literally a sell out with the Gala Theatre completely filled with Durham Beaver Scouts and families. Please keep your eyes open for details and be sure to make your booking in good time.

Finally, I want to thank you all for the great programmes and activities that you run for our Beaver Scouts. You all continue to do a great job for our young people - Thank You.

Cub Scouts



Sarah Dodds & Lesley Robinson
ACC (Cub Scouts)
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Wot, No Photo?

Note from the Editor: If anyone has a photo of Lesley we could use in the newsletter, please let us know...

Dodgeball

The Dodgeball Competition proved as popular as ever and after a fast and furious, nail-biting final, Murton were proclaimed the winners for the second year in a row - well done Murton.

Thanks to all the Leaders and Young Leaders who helped us out with refereeing on the day!

Pete Swinney Competition

Just when we thought we'd hit the ceiling on entries, this year surprised us with even more teams and Cubs than we've ever had before.

Cubs completed an orienteering challenge around the grounds of Moor House Adventure Centre whilst completing a vast array of team building challenges and activities to earn the most points.

With 75 teams and almost 400 Cub Scouts the scale of the competition meant that we made some changes this year which worked well, and we will make further changes to the timings next year to make it better again, but from the feedback we have had everyone seemed to have an awesome day.

Thanks to all the leaders and helpers who turned out to give almost 400 Cubs a day of fun and adventure, and congratulations to 2nd Chester-le-Street Cubs who won the competition.

The current format of the Pete Swinney Competition was Ian Cooper's vision and he would have been so proud to see what it has become, and to see his own Cub Pack,

celebrating their 90th Birthday this year, picking up the trophy.

In Memoriam

In mentioning Ian Cooper, we can't pass by without noting that it is a year since he passed away.



He is still missed greatly and talked of often, and our thoughts are with Janet and his family, particularly at this time of year.



FW Dunn Photography Competition

Entries for the Photography Competition closed on 31st May and we are expecting a result very shortly.

A new format this year required Cubs to make a poster with 5 photographs depicting Cub activities and the things that Cubs like to do.

We have certainly seen an increase in entries this year, possibly to do with the opportunity to earn an activity badge, and we hope to see entries increase again next year.

We will confirm next year's theme soon, but are looking to base it around one of the Cub challenge badges to enable more Cubs to complete the requirements independently at home as well as at Cub activities.

Look out for this year's entries on display at "Cub Adventure – the Big Day Out".

Cub Adventure – the Big Day Out!

BEAVER & CUB
BIG
DAY OUT
2017

This leads us nicely to June and the **Cub Adventure – the Big Day Out!**

This is a day of adventure and activity for Cubs. Almost 600 Cubs have signed up for the day.

Cubs will get to explore our four themed zones packed full exciting activities. With Active, Survival, Science and Nature zones there is something for everyone and look out for our team of Youth Commissioners who will be collecting feedback from Cubs throughout the day - you can even give them a soaking in the stocks!

Finally, we would encourage all leaders to come along to the programme support meetings, the next meeting is **Wednesday 6th September at 7pm**, why not come along?

Leaders can exchange ideas about badgework and programmes and you can have your say about County support and events. In the meantime, look out for updates about the Cooper Challenge Cup over the next few weeks.

Scouts



There's a lot going on behind the scenes in the Scout section at the moment.

Kent International Jamboree

A number of us are actively involved with the preparation of the Scout (and Explorer Scout) contingent for this August's visit to the Kent International Jamboree.

We've already had one preparation camp and we have another one in the middle of June so that we'll all be ready to have a great time. We already know that we'll be camping with Scouts from Sweden, Malta, France, Ireland, Kenya and Russia and our Scouts from Durham and City and Seaham Districts are really looking forward to their first taste of international scouting.





Go Karting Competition

As you may have heard, a number of leaders in the County are actively looking into the idea of a go-karting competition and we're looking to hold an on-site planning meeting in the next few weeks.

If your Scouts would like to take part (and please ask them as part of your #YouShape Troop forums / Patrol Leaders Councils) and if you'd like to get involved in setting up the competition, please let us know.

In to 2018...

We're also taking the time to plan for a great 2018.

Next year will see the reinstatement of the Vaux Ambulance Shield (first aid competition) and the Dryburn Cup camping challenge. We're looking to revamp these traditional events based on more input from our Scouts and to make them more fun.

With buy-in from all the Scout Counties involved, it is confirmed that September 2018 will also see a big regional Scout section camp at Flamingoland.

We're keen to get more of our Scout Troop Leaders feeding the ideas of our Scouts into all of these events, and helping to organise and deliver these great events. If you interested in getting involved, please contact me.

Explorer Scouts

Hello!

Firstly, we would like to introduce ourselves. I'm Scott your new ACC (Explorer Scouts)...



EXPLORERS 

Scott Doughty

ACC (Explorer Scouts)

explorers@durhamscouts.org.uk

...and this is Iain, your new ACC (Young Leaders).



Iain Scott

ACC (Young Leaders)

yl@durhamscouts.org.uk

As you'll see from the next few pages, it's been a very busy 3-month period in the Explorer Scout section, as we hold events early in the year to avoid the main exam period.

We're really pleased to see more of our Explorer Scouts from across the County getting involved in the things we've been running.

Geoffrey Gordon Cup

March was the annual Geoffrey Gordon Cup, based at Pybus camp site on the edge of the North York Moors (see below). This year we had more than twenty teams competing in our biggest competition of the year

As usual, there were some great bases along the route of the Saturday hike, with a record number of teams completing the hike.



There was also a lot of fun – horsing around even - as can be seen (right)

The Sunday saw the now traditional orienteering challenge, with different points available at each base or checkpoint.

There were emotional scenes when the winners were announced on the Sunday afternoon.



Congratulations go to DRACO from South Tyneside (overleaf), and to all the teams who took part.





Monopoly Run

In April, we also had a record number of teams (nineteen including Scout Network) in the reinstated Monopoly Run, which was run for the first time in three years and was once again based at 5th Birtley HQ in Gateshead.

Most teams camped for two nights and the competition took teams all over Tyne and Wear using their Day Rover passes on buses, trains, the Metro and even the Shields Ferry, finding streets using the special Monopoly board.



The teams also had to undertake some crazy challenges (such as remaking the film 'Titanic' on the top of a double decker bus, or taking photos of small dogs wearing scout neckerchiefs or 'romantic couples kissing'), with bemused members of the public helping along the way.

There were some great moments captured on video and by camera phone for posting to the event Facebook Group, which literally had the judges back at base roaring with laughter as they appeared live on-line.

There were prizes for the best video and photo (below – which also won maximum points for the 'best sandcastle' challenge), but unfortunately some teams lost a lot of points, with one team being late back after taking a bus heading away from the finishing point.



There was plenty of fun back at the 5th Birtley campsite with barbecues, camp fires and games, plus the traditional sharing of the team photos and videos from the actual Monopoly Run.

It was also great to see more Scout Network teams taking part again this year, with the event now firmly fixed as a joint Explorer Scout / Scout Network event.



Congratulations go to the Phoenix Explorer Scout Unit from Blaydon District (pictured below with the County Commissioner) for winning the cup with a well-executed plan designed to maximise the points gained during the 8-hour competition.



Bubble Football Competition

The Monopoly Run was followed – literally on the same afternoon as the Monopoly Run camp ended – by the first ever Explorer Scout 5-a-side Bubble football competition.

In line with good #youshape practices, we asked whether the County Explorer Scouts wanted a traditional five-a-side competition for the County trophy. The answer was no, but the idea of a bubble football competition was suggested by Gateshead District (yes!).

After a wonderfully sunny and warm weekend for the Monopoly Run, the Sunday afternoon was cooler which was just as well for all the Explorer Scouts running around playing five-a-side in their hot, inflatable bubbles!

There were a couple of knockout groups followed by semi-finals and a final. There was also time to play 'British Bulldog' wearing the inflatable bubbles, which had to be seen to be believed, as bubble wearing Explorer Scouts 'caught' players by knocking them off their feet!



Congratulations go once again to the event winners – DRACO from South Tyneside District who finally triumphed in a closely contested final (seen taking their 'bubble bows' overleaf).



Thanks to James Heron and helpers from Gateshead District for organising and hosting the competition.

Outward Bound Selection

I took over and ran (with support from the County Commissioner – outgoing ACC(ES)) the Outward Bound Skills for Life selection event, intended to send 6 remarkable young people to Ullswater to undertake the biggest learning adventure of their lives, for three weeks in the summer.

The selection event was held at Moor House Adventure Centre and consisted of a lengthy night hike in the rain, an overnight bivouac, team and individual challenges and an interview on the Saturday.



The selection event was well supported by adult volunteers who helped me run the event. Some big thanks go to Iain Wood - ACC (Young Leaders), David Holmes - ACC (Scout Network), Paul Lukeman - GSL 1st Eppleton, Rob Sanders - Explorer Scout Leader at 1st Eppleton, Andrew Gray - Deputy County Youth Commissioner,

Carla Lever and of course the County Commissioner for helping run a successful event.

We initially only had six places to award, but it proved very difficult to find just one Explorer Scout who didn't deserve a place on the Outward Bound 'Skills for Life' course.

However, after a conversation between myself and the County Commissioner, we were able to fund a 7th place, so all 7 participants in the selection even were allocated a place.

For next year we are going to see if we can help fund even more places and hope that even more Explorer Scouts apply for this life-changing experience.

Programme Support Meeting

We then ran the Programme Support meeting in May for the District Explorer Scout Commissioners (DESCs) & Leaders and District Scout Network Commissioners.

A number of topics were discussed around the subject of how the County Explorer Scout & Scout Network Commissioners can best support you. Items discussed were:

- Better support for the Queen Scout Award and Duke of Edinburgh Awards,
- How best to move forward with Outward Bound, to fund more places,
- The possibility of an Explorer belt expedition in Darlington district,
- A new SharePoint site for leaders to share items relating to Explorers across the

County, encompassing Young leader training and programme activities.

Also discussed was an Explorer / Young Leader camp with participation from any network members. Please keep an eye open for more information relating to this.

Young Leaders

Iain has been out and about visiting Young Leader Unit Leaders (YLULs), to begin the process of formulating a new direction within our County for the young leader provision.

He's visited most Districts but is aware that he still has a few Districts to visit (and wherever possible I'll come along as ACC(ES) to 'kill two birds with one stone')

We're beginning to share Young Leader training module dates across the County, and we are going to encourage active sharing of resources, young leader trainers (if possible) and ideas across the County.

We've also set up a couple of new Facebook Groups to share Young Leader information (search for 'Durham Scouts | ESL (YL) Group' and 'Durham Scouts Young Leaders' groups, which are for YL Unit Leaders and Young Leaders respectively)

This fits in with the plan that is currently being worked on, which you will all see before Christmas.

We are also very keen for young leaders to have the opportunity to be involved in County events, helping to form the new direction that we would like young leaders to take - our young leaders certainly did a great job at the Cub Scout Pete Swinney competition.

These young people are the Scouting leaders of the future and it is therefore our responsibility give them as many opportunities as possible.

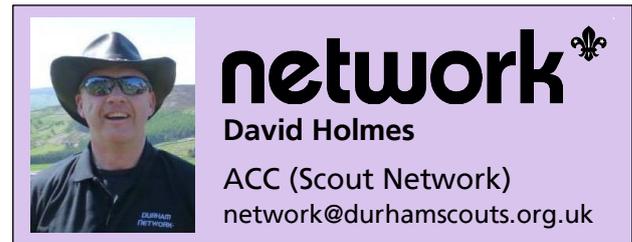
We are currently working towards a youth shaped event specifically for Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders where the young people can share their experiences and ultimately shape the way in which Explorer scouting in Durham Scout County will be going.

We are both really looking forward to working with all our Explorer Scouts and Young Leaders and would like to thank everyone we have visited for their openness and hospitality.

We would also like to thank everyone, young people and leaders alike, for doing what you do. Without you our young people wouldn't have the fantastic opportunities you offer.

Finally, please remember that we're here to support you, so please do get in touch.

Scout Network



As described above, this year we had a good number of Scout Network teams join the Explorer Scout section for the Monopoly Run, including teams from new District Scout Networks and a Network team made up of Youth Commissioners from across the County.

As Scott also mentions above, were looking at organising a joint Explorer Scout / Scout network conference for later in the year so that our 14 – 25-year-old members can let us know what they'd like us to be doing to support them, and what activities they'd like to do.

Please keep an eye out for the date (most likely in September) and plan on coming along to let us know what you'd like to be doing as a Scout Network member.

Our plan to reinstate the County Scout Network (to help support our 18-25 year old youth members without a District Scout Network of their own) was turned down by the Regional Commissioner. We do however have a 'Plan B' which will still allow us to support all our Scout Network members complete their Top Awards, but 'Plan B' is just a bit trickier to set up that 'Plan A', so please bear with us.

Sunderland Scout Network are organising a Quiz which is open to all Scout Network teams – indeed all adult teams – from across the Scout County (see the poster overleaf), so we hope to see lots of Scout Network teams at the quiz in mid-July.

CALLING ALL BRIGHT SPARKS.

Durham Scout County Pub Quiz

15th July 2016
Quiz starts 7:30pm

Sunderland Network are hosting a
Pub Quiz for any and all adults
involved in scouting within Durham
Scout County. 18+ only. Tickets £3.00
Sunderland Network
Chesters Pub
Chester Road
Millfield
Sunderland, SR4 7DR

Call Vicky Hunter on 07976966316 or
email
network@sunderlandscouts.org.uk
network*



thank everyone who has supported me and deputised for me over the last few months.

New Appointments

We're continuing to make new appointments in the Scout County and since the last newsletter I'm pleased to be able to announce the appointment of two new Assistant County Commissioners (Diversity and Inclusion) – May James and Nat Hayley.

May and Nat are extremely enthusiastic about their mission to provide the County with more effective support in the area of diversity and inclusion and bring with them a range of complimentary experience, interests and skills.

Once May has returned from a summer of supporting projects in Africa we will be working together in the autumn to establish the new Diversity and Inclusion Team (Scout Active Support Unit), to leverage the wealth of experience and enthusiasm in the Scout County for providing a welcoming

environment to young people and adults of all abilities, gender, ability/disability, sexuality, race and religion.

That still leaves me with the job of appointing a new County Training Manager, a Deputy County Commissioner, a County Secretary and completing membership of the Finance Board on the list and this will be my priority over the summer.

I know that there's been quite a few additions to the county team in the last nine months, so please remember that for an up-to-date list of who's who in the county team and how to contact them see

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



David Stokes
County Commissioner
cc@durhamscouts.org.uk

County Commissioner's Update

I seem to have had a very busy time travelling for work since the last newsletter was published. While that looks like slowing down again as we head into the summer I want to

District Commissioner Searches

Despite having appointed three new District Commissioners at the start of the year (in Darlington, South Tyneside and Sunderland) the search goes on for new DCs.

I promise that I've not been careless with our former DCs, but the combination of retirement after ten years and existing DCs standing down due to personal circumstances has meant that we continue to look for more new DCs.

I'm delighted to confirm the appointment of a new District Commissioner for Peterlee District. David Patterson (former Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts) has taken over from Sharon Major. While wishing David all the best in his new role I also want to thank Sharon Major for all her excellent work in Peterlee over the last ten years.

We're still looking for new District Commissioners in Bishop Auckland and Derwentside (hopefully to be appointed by the end of June), we're in the middle of a search process for a new District Commissioner for Durham and City and we'll soon be looking for a new DC for Seaham and District.

Finally, after a short break away from the role, Jonathan Chicken has decided that rather than come back for a relatively short period leading up to his ten-year time limit, now is a good time to stand down as District Commissioner in Houghton-le-Spring District. We will therefore also be initiating the search for a new DC in Houghton-le-Spring a little earlier than planned, and I also want to thank Jonathan for everything he's achieved in the last 9+ years in Houghton-le-Spring.

It's been a very busy period for County and DC appointments and I also want to thank the County Search Management Team of Sheila Gibbon, Jeff Ledger and Ken Robertson, as well as the County Appointments Advisory Committee for all their support.

Fun and Adventure

Despite being busy for work and with plenty of Scouting meetings I've still been getting out and meeting our fabulous young people and their leaders.

At Easter, I was able to free up some time to help backstage with the Newcastle Gang Show and was delighted to receive the Commissioner's Commendation from Northumberland's County Commissioner Michael Wood-Williams.

Plenty of other Durham Scouters were similarly recognised after ten years helping with the Newcastle Show (and yes, the rumours are true - we are thinking about a Durham County Gang Show...)

At the end of April, I was able to attend this year's Queen's Scout Parade at Windsor Castle and was delighted to see our St Georges Day Award holders and our latest 'batch' of Queen's Scouts (Kat Rutter and Jack Harrison, below) at our County Award's reception on the Saturday and at Windsor Castle on the Sunday.



Congratulations to Sharon Major (Peterlee District) and Carl Hickman (Houghton-le-Spring) for the award of the Silver Acorn, and to Andrew Williams (Teesdale) for the award of the Bar to the Silver Acorn in this year's St Georges Day awards.



In May, I spent a day belaying at the Sunderland climbing competition (great fun) and later the same day I was delighted to be invited to the opening of 1st Staindrop's new HQ in Teesdale District, which you may have read about in one of my weekly blogs (<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/cc-blog/>).

I've been getting to as many District AGMs as I can (my apologies if I've missed yours) and I also snuck a day off work to head down to Buckingham Palace to see our latest Duke of Edinburgh's Award holders be presented with their Gold awards, which was a great day out and a great honour for me.

Awards for All?

Don't forget that the window is closing for submitting details of your Top Award recipients for the County Awards Day on September 16th at the Xcel Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

Remember to let us know about your young people so that they don't miss out on this exciting day designed specifically to recognise their achievement (nominate at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/awards-2017/>)

Talking of awards, I'd like to see more of our great adult volunteers and young leaders recognised for the hard work and good service.



Although nominations for adult awards formally come from your District Commissioner, please don't be shy in letting your DC know if there's someone you think should be recognised. With a whole range of good service awards from the Commissioner's Commendation to the Silver Wolf,

there's something to recognise everyone's good service (see <http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=230> _

Also remember that you can nominate our best Young Leaders for a Young Leader Good Service Award and you can download the nomination forms and criteria at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/programme-support/explorer-scouts/>

Adventurous Activities



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

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

What can I say? I am delighted to report the first of our new Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold Expedition Assessors from last November's course have received their Assessor numbers and are available to assess your groups.

There is now no reason at all why any group should need to assess their own expeditions at any level. I know it makes a better experience for the young people when they 'perform' in front of strangers.

On the negative side, I have been unable to approve an award because the assessor report did not include the all-important 'Notification number'.

Be advised that Green Forms must be sent for notification at least a month before the expedition. Please do not put me in the position of having to refuse an award because of paperwork. It is part of the role I detest because it is unfair on the young people who have carried out the challenge, and who believe they have done everything expected of them.

The DofE stresses the seriousness of failure to notify the Expedition Co-ordinator of the expeditions in wild country. In such cases the

expedition will have no standing with the DofE and would not count for a participant's Award.

Hillwalking

Course No.110 is being held on 27th -29th October 2017 at The Chesters and places are still available.

Bookings are now open (please e-mail me). This is a very useful course for Scout and Explorer Scout Leaders embarking on Chief Scout, Queen's Scout and DofE Expeditions.

Climbing

You may notice your climbing permit is changing shortly - we are trying to standardise the wording/restrictions for the sake of clarity.



Please check your Compass record every time before you use any of your permits to ensure they are still valid and fit for your purpose.

It's also good to report that eight people have been signed off to run the high ropes activities on The Cube at Moor House and thanks to those eight people for giving up your time.

Archery

Please note that there are two archery courses running on the same weekend of September 30th / October 1st.

I am running an Archery Adventurous Activity Permit (AAP) course at 2nd Herrington Scout HQ (cost £25). This is what you need if you only intend to lead archery with Scouts

Moor House are also running a 2½ day Archery GB course at Moor House Adventure Centre (cost £215). This is what you need if you intend to lead archery with other organisations (e.g. Guides, schools etc), or wish to become an Archery Instructor working with other Groups at Moor House.

Please make sure that you select the right course for your requirements.



Another reminder - I am still receiving Archery GB certificates for people expecting a permit to be issued on the strength of that alone. As with all National Governing Body (NGB) qualifications, no matter how hard won they are, these count for nothing when a Scout Adventurous Activity Permit (AAP) is required. No permit will be issued unless the application is complete with an up-to-date log. (This applies to all permits - not just archery).

Shooting

Shooting however does not require an AAP. By law, you must have the relevant National Smallbore Rifle Association (NSRA) certification to lead shooting in Scouting, which you can record on your Compass record under 'Qualifications'.

Please also let me know that you hold the NSRA qualification, so that I know who's available to support shooting activities at County events (a copy of your certificate would be appreciated).

For the renewal of that Certificate you must also produce a log so you still don't get away with not keeping one :-)

Note that Moor House run regular NSRA courses to help you gain the qualification initially.

Regional Glider

This out of this world activity for young people still has dates available for 2017



Check the website at www.glider.net-activities.org.uk for available dates later in 2017

Other Activities

For new DC's and other new leaders:

scouts.org.uk/activities is brilliant, and will answer most of your activity questions e.g. Can I do the activity? Do I need a permit? Do I need extra insurance? Etc. etc.

Also remember the A-Z index of activities at

<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.

If you have any further queries on any activity or the processes, please use me as a point of reference - it's my pleasure to help.

Events



Ian Hammond

ACC (Events)

events@durhamscouts.org.uk

We're now well into the main event season of the year. Since the last newsletter the Events team have organised and run the Explorer Scout's Geoffrey Gordon Cup and we've also supported the Cub Scout section with the Pete Swinney competition and the Explorer Scouts with the Monopoly Run.

As this copy of the newsletter goes to press the County Events Team will be having another busy weekend, with nearly 1,700 people expected at Moor House over the course of a weekend.

Along with lots of section leaders, we'll be delivering the Beaver and Cub Big Days Out (Beaver Picnic and Cub Adventure!) at Moor House Adventure Centre on 10th and 11th June (rain now guaranteed!)

The Events Team (Scout Active Support Unit) will also be holding their annual meeting and BBQ at Moor House on the evening of Saturday 10th June, allowing our hard-working Events Team to relax and socialise between the two busy days

International



Dave Russell

ACC (International)

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Jamboree Update

Durham have been awarded 6 patrols to attend the 24th World Scout Jamboree being held at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, USA in 2019. That's 54 young people and 6 leaders representing Durham as part of the UK Contingent.

At present this looks like we will have one full unit, plus half of another unit shared with another County, but we are still waiting for final confirmation from the UK Contingent Management Team.

We had a relatively large number of high quality applications for the Unit Leader roles this time around, and we have now appointed the Unit Leader and the Leader for the 5th and 6th Patrols.



These are Ben Hudson, Explorer Scout Leader from Sunderland as Unit leader, and Adam Wilson, Scout Leader in Chester-le-Street as Leader of the 5th and 6th Patrols. Both have attended Jamborees as Unit Leaders and IST in the past so have a very good working knowledge of what is needed to ensure our young people are fully trained for the Jamboree experience. Ben and Adam will also

be supported by other Leaders and IST members who have attended other Jamborees.

Selection of the Deputy and Assistant Leader Roles is on the 17th June at Moor House Adventure Centre. By the end of June, we will have a full team in place and planning for participant places will then start.

We expect the selection of youth participants to be in September/October time. Look out for the information to pass on to all those who will be 14 – 18 years old in July 2019.

Roverway 2018

Roverway 2018 is an incredible European adventure for all 16 – 22 year olds. Roverway 2018 is hosted by Scouting Nederland, from 23rd July to 2nd August 2018.



Over 3,000 participants from over twenty countries will participate in the event.

More details about the event can be found on the Roverway website

<https://www.roverway2018.nl/en/> and the UK contingent site

<http://ukcontingent.co.uk/roverway-2018/>

The process of applying to attend Roverway has changed this time, with Scout Counties being given the opportunity to manage their own patrol of 6-8 participants, just like we do with the Jamboree Unit, and we have accepted the offer of a Roverway patrol Durham.

By making this shift it's hoped more young people will be able to benefit from the Roverway experience.

Ben Hodgkiss from Durham and City District is a member of the UK Roverway Contingent Management team, and I have asked Ben to take the lead for Roverway for Durham Scout County.

Ben will shortly be sending out details of how to apply to be a member of the Durham patrol next summer.

International Visits

I know that most people will be still thinking about this year's summer camps, but you may have started to think about what to do in 2018.

The Visits Abroad process starts from day one of planning, the Visit Aboard process details and paper work can be downloaded from <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search?cat=52>.

You don't need to go abroad to attend an International camp as there are a number held each year in the UK.

You can attend most Jamboree's as a District or a Group and this year the County are attending Kent International Jamboree, taking Scouts and Explorer Scouts from Durham and City and Seaham Districts.

Remember that details of both UK based and overseas International camps can be found in "International opportunity's" available at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=52,208>

Safeguarding



Sheila Gibbon

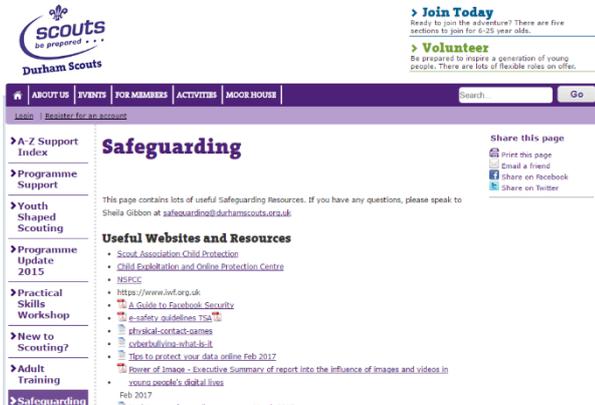
Safeguarding Coordinator

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)

Please do keep checking the safeguarding section of the county website, because I add

information there on a regular basis: the link is <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/safeguarding/>



Over the last few months I've posted the following:

Anti-Bullying Resources

As you may be aware, the Anti-Bullying resources have been taken out of print and new resources will be released in October ahead of Anti-Bullying Week in November.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the new resources please email the safeguarding department at HQ with your thoughts. In the interim you can find alternative resources at <http://www.antibullyingpro.com>

As a result of Safer Internet Day 2017, the [Web We Want](#) and [ENABLE](#) projects have joined forces against bullying and launched a new resource for children and young people: "My well-being and yours: Respect begins with me!".

This new resource is a compilation of exercises discussing topics such as cyberbullying, online radicalisation and hate speech.

Within twelve pages, children and young people are able to carry out a variety of self-assessments as well as engage in interactive group work with their classmates and friends.

Although this is aimed at teachers and covers some areas which are not particularly relevant, you may find some useful activities in it to use with your young people. The link is <http://tinyurl.com/jzsrc7>

You may also like to note that

- Safer Internet Day 2018 will be on Tuesday 6th February 2018.
- The 2016 Internet Watch Foundation annual report can be found at https://annualreport.iwf.org.uk/assets/pdf/iwf_report_2016.pdf

Digital Maker and Digital Citizen

Staged Activity Badges

Information about support and resources for these two badges can be found at

<http://scouts.org.uk/news/2016/02/badge-support-digital-citizen-staged-activity-badge/>

and

<http://scouts.org.uk/news/2016/02/badge-support-digital-citizen-activity-badge/>

"Blue Whale Game"

You will probably have read the warnings about the Blue Whale suicide game which supposedly started in Russia; this was quickly identified as fake, but not before warnings had gone out to schools and other organisations working with young people.

An article detailing the true situation can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/mw8827w>

Safeguarding Training

You don't need to wait if you need to update your mandatory safeguarding training.

If any Districts have leaders who need to complete the mandatory safeguarding training face-to-face, please let me know and I will arrange to come in and deliver a session.

I will also ensure that all Districts are aware of any courses that we are running, so that volunteers can plan ahead to renew their training.

Please remember that this is for experienced leaders and also that if leaders completed the on-line version last time around, they need to complete the face-to-face version this time.

Adult Training



Vacant
 County Training Manager
training@durhamscouts.org.uk

Your Training Questions Answered

In the last issue, we invited ideas for this area of Durham ePost. From the responses, we have collated some questions and answers

Q. I am an established manager but haven't yet fully validated my modules for the Wood Badge – how long have I really got?

The blunt answer is 30th June and that is now less than three weeks away. Gilwell have been clear regarding this date and have recently confirmed it.

Since we determined the need of established managers in early March (many of whom simply needed validation) we have recommended 19 people for their Manager/Supporter Wood Badge.

Q. I see that the Adults Personal File has a suggested order for undertaking modules – do I need to follow this?

No. The suggestion is just that, but there is no need to stop undertaking modules simply because you could not make one; just catch up later.

(also see note about adult training files below)

Q. How can I find out about County Training courses; I seem to find out too late?

All courses for Modules 5 – 19 are included on the County website (see the link below) and can be found from the rolling headline on the home page.

In addition, the Training Contact in every District is sent a reminder six weeks before each module for circulation as appropriate.

Sometimes we organise other courses at shorter notice (e.g. Advising on Adult Appointments – Module 37) and advertise as required. If you want something, just email training@durhamscouts.org.uk and we will be able to advise what is available.

Also note that we are starting to work with neighbouring Scout Counties to make their training courses available to members of Durham Scout County (and vice versa) and that these include weekend and residential options (more on this later).

Manager and Supporter Training will be organised on a Regional basis later in the year; once details are finalised we will circulate information on how to book.



Q. I've completed my Wood Badge; why is my Training Adviser asking for some information they have already seen?

This is likely to be because they have been asked to provide information for the internal moderation process. This ensures that Training Advisers are validating to the same, required standard.

They will simply pass a copy on to show what they saw in the first place. As these are sampled randomly, it is not sensible for them to keep everything they see just in case. Internal moderation will not affect the award of your Wood Badge.

Adult Training Files

After a period of short supply, the County Shop at Moor House now has a new stock of Adult Training Files

Although the County makes no profit on providing these, we're keen that trainers or training advisers who need copies of the current adult training file can obtain them easily.

Please do therefore pop into the County Shop if you need a copy – this is there as a service for you.

Coming up

The following modules will be delivered by the County Training Team.

On Thursday 29th June, we will be delivering Introduction to Residential Experiences (Module 16) at Moor House. This module helps adults understand why residential experiences play such an important part of Scouting. It does not cover practical skills but looks at how these events develop young people, how they are organised, including the team elements and outlines the Nights Away Permit Scheme.

On Saturday 10th September, the Training Team will be at the headquarters of 2nd Wheatley Hill (Peterlee District) to deliver two modules for the County. In the morning, we will deliver Growing the Section (Module 13) covering ideas to help develop your section. It's not just about recruitment, but how to retain both young people and adults. In the afternoon, it is Scouting for All (Module 7) covering diversity and inclusion, beliefs and faiths and explores the Equal Opportunities and Religious Policies to help you put these into practice and overcome perceived barriers.

Later in September, on the 26th, we will be looking at Administration. We are telling you now as the deadline is just after the next edition of Durham ePost. The session will cover a wide range of administration including Member records, financial information and responsibilities and will cut through some of the myths surrounding our processes and paperwork.

Remaining 2017 Training Dates

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

Date	Module
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

You can book now for all all modules via

Book Now

Next Time

By the time we have another issue of Durham ePost, we should have a new County Training Manager in post, so we will leave the content of the next issue to them.

You can find out more about the role and how to nominate somebody - or apply yourself - on the County website at

https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/lead-our-adventures/county_training_manager/

YouthShaped Scouting



Mark Ireland

Youth Commissioner

youth@durhamscouts.org.uk

The County youth team are now well established and we've held a couple of our Youth Network meetings with District Youth Commissioners from across the County.

When asked, we're also supporting District Commissioners to identify and appoint District Youth Commissioners and you should be hearing about more District Youth Commissioner appointments soon.

We're also working with other members of the County Team to ensure that we're considering input from our youth members for all our County events and competitions, and as you can read above, we're also starting to organise some youth forums in the County.

On our new 'Youth Shaped Scouting' page on the County website (<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/youshape/>) is now live.

Moor House Adventure Centre



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

The image shows six activity cards arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each card has a title, a 'RESOURCES NEEDED' section, a 'TIME' section, an 'OUTCOME' section, and 'BADGE LINKS'. The activities are: Agree - Disagree, Car Park, Cool Wall, Hot Air Balloon, Market Stalls, and another Cool Wall. The cards provide detailed instructions and resources for each activity.

Spot the Difference

If you've been to Moor House Adventure Centre you'll most likely have seen some differences as we work to improve the facilities.

A lot of fencing has been repaired / replaced, most noticeably around the crate stacking areas. Work has also been taking place inside the house, installing new blinds and lights, painting and replacing mattresses.

This is all part of the on-going development plan to improve facilities at the centre while still maintaining our low prices for Durham Scouts.

Is Moor House Expensive?

Input to the County Satisfaction survey indicated that some of our members still think that Moor House Adventure Centre (MHAC) is 'expensive' for our members to use.

Over the last few years we have reduced prices for Durham Scouts and although we still need to cover instructor costs and depreciation of

You can find some great ideas about how all leaders can help our young people input to their programmes at all levels.

There are plenty of resources and links to help you make youth shaped Scouting part of your everyday approach.

Remember, if you have any questions on youth shaped Scouting please get in touch with your District Youth Commissioner, or get in touch with the County Youth Team.

equipment, based upon the direction provided by the County Executive Committee, MHAC make no surplus (profit) on bookings from Durham Scout County members.

We now have options for suitably trained/qualified leaders to self-lead activities and contrary to some beliefs, this includes Scout Adventurous Activity Permits.

To make activities cost effective it's important that sections have enough members to share the costs of an activity, and small sections should 'pair up' with sections from the same Group or another section in the District to fill places and get the best prices for their young people.

To fill the house for a booking and make it more cost effective you may also want to organise a Moving On residential experience, bringing your Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts, or Cub Scouts and Scouts, to fill the available beds and help make a memorable weekend allowing the young people and leaders from adjacent sections to really get to know one another.

Likewise, if Beaver Scouts are only looking for a one night sleepover, why not make a District booking for the weekend and organise things so that Beaver Scouts from different colonies swap over and spend one night in the house?

We have reviewed our costs against those of other local activity providers and other Scout County sites and for the large majority of activities, MHAC is the cheapest option for delivering activities to our own members.

Moor House Working Party

The next Moor House working party will be:

- **Saturday 17th June, 8:30am-4pm**

The Working Day in March was well attended and we managed to get a lot done, extending the path alongside the main drive, installing new fencing and refurbishing Charlie's Cabin.

At June's working party we'll be looking to refurbish the main camp fire circle, which was originally developed by the service crew.



Working days are proving increasingly popular and are always a lot of fun. If you can come along for the day or even just for a few hours, sign up at www.durhamscouts.org.uk/friends

Organising a Large Camp / Event at Moor House?

We're looking at setting up a specific booking process for large Groups and Districts who want to hold e.g. a large Group family camp or District Camp at Moor House.

This new process will be designed to help you coordinate the booking of your members, and to help us provide the options you need with respect to camping and activities.

If you have any thoughts on how we can make the process of booking a large camp or event easier and better for you, please let us know.