

## Scout Active Support

Although in some parts of the country Scout Active Support suggests groups of retired leaders, here in Durham Scout County we're very lucky to have some very active county Scout Active Support Units (as shown by these photographs).

These are the:

- Adventurous Activities Team
- Diversity and Inclusion Team
- Events Team
- First Aid Team
- Friends of Moor House
- Media Team



Joining a County Scout Active Support Unit gives you the chance to help deliver fantastic scouting for our young people, gives you the opportunity to socialise with like-minded people and helps you develop skills which you

can take back to your own district, group or section and may even help you to develop skills and experience for a suitable career.

You'll find details of each of these teams inside this edition of the newsletter and we also have some new pages on the county website to provide more information on each team and make it simple for people to sign up.

Membership is open to everyone over the age of 18 – that includes adult leaders and commissioners, members of the Scout Network, supporters and interested people from outside scouting.

The idea is to provide opportunities for people with specific interests and skills to work together, better recognise good service and long service, have some fun and support the work of the Scout County.

Look at the rest of the newsletter to find out more about each of these teams. If you or anyone you know are interested in joining a team, head on over to the county website at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/county-active-support/>

Flexible, adaptable teams of volunteers  
**JUST ASK!**



## 2018 Dates at a Glance

Here are the key dates between now and the next edition of the **Durham ePost** (Spring Edition – published on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018).

- 1 **County Network Chill Out Camp:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January @West Hall
- 1 **County Team Operations Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> January
- 1 **District Commissioner’s Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> January
- 1 **County Hill Walking Course:** 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January @Fell End
- 1 **County Finance Board Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- 1 **Executive Committee Governance Meeting:** 29<sup>th</sup> January
- 1 **Moor House Management Board Meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> January
- 1 **Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Q&A Day:** 4<sup>th</sup> February @1<sup>st</sup> Great Lumley HQ
- 1 **Programme Support Meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> February
- 1 **Belay Training Day:** 17<sup>th</sup> February @Whickham Thorns
- 1 **Introduction to Navigation Days:** 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February
- 1 **Climb When Ready:** 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- 1 **DCs / County Team Meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> March
- 1 **Mandatory Safeguarding Training:** 6<sup>th</sup> March
- 1 **County Scout Council Meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> March

Please see page **21-22** for all **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 for full details (locations, time etc.) and for any late changes: <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/>

### Coming Soon

Friday, 5 January 2018	
18:00	County Network Chill Out Wee
Saturday, 6 January 2018	
County Network Chill Out Weekend	
Sunday, 7 January 2018	
» 13:00	County Network Chill Out Wee
Tuesday, 9 January 2018	
19:00	County Team Operations Mee

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%4ogmail.com/public/basic.ics>

**HTTPS (to display in any web browser):**

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=webdurhamscouts%4ogmail.com&ctz=Europe/London>

## More Practical Skills

### Training

Following last year's successful day at Moor House, we're going to be running more Practical Skills Training in 2018.

Darlington, South Tyneside and Sunderland Districts are providing a training weekend on 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> March. Places for practical skills training will be open to all members of the county.

We're also going to be running more sessions at Moor House later in the year.

This is all so that new and existing leaders can develop new and additional skills to pass along to our young people. This will be combined with some adventurous activities training and assessment.

To make this work we want YOU to tell us what practical skills you want to learn – it could be fire lighting, pioneering, backwoods cooking, basic knots and lashings, craft ideas or something we haven't even thought of.

Use the on-line form at:

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/programme-support/practical-skills-survey/> to select what skills you'd like to learn, or to suggest some skills of your own.



We'll then deliver training on the most popular topics and if there are enough people wanting

to learn enough skills we'll also look at a future residential / social weekend for leaders.

## County Satisfaction Survey

We again want your feedback on what support you want from the county and on how you think we're doing.

This is partly a repeat of last year's survey (so that we can see how things are changing), but this year we're looking for some feedback in a couple of extra support areas and we'd like your feedback on the increase to the county levy (up 50p to £9.50 per young person).

We'd also like to hear from you about how we should be covering the costs of adult training, given the change to regional based training for Managers and Supporters and the move back to some residential training.

We'll be sending out reminder e-mails in the new year, but we've opened the survey now so that you can fill it in over the Christmas holidays (it will take 5-10 minutes).



Please do take the time to [complete the survey](#) – Durham Scout County is YOUR county and we are guided by what YOU want.

## 2018 Census and Membership Subscriptions

### Census 2018

Early in 2018, people will be receiving e-mails about the 2018 census. These people will be:

- Group Scout Leaders
- DESCs
- DSNCs
- Active Support Unit Managers

- District Commissioners
- District Secretaries

These people should already have received some e-mails from HQ by now, but there will be some changes to next year's census which all section leaders may want to prepare for.

In 2018, the census will ask for:

- More accurate information about member's **additional needs**, aligned with the latest government guidelines. (Developmental, Injury, Physical, Medical, Mental Health, Progressive, Sensory, No Disability, Prefer Not to Say). This information is important to have when applying for an increasing number of grants and awards.
- **Top Awards.** To track Top Awards as one of the measures of a quality programme, each Section return (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network) will ask for the numbers of each Top Awards awarded in the Section during the previous 12 months (1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018). For

Explorers and Network these fields will include Platinum/Diamond/Queens Scout, and Bronze/Silver/Gold DofE Awards.

Section leaders may wish to start collating this information now to get a head start on next year's census.

## Membership Subscriptions

Next years membership subscriptions will include

- **National:** £27.00 per young person (increase of 50p)
- **County levy:** £9.50 per young person (increase of 50p)

The increase in the county levy is intended to cover the increased costs associated with a larger county team, which now includes the County Youth Team, Growth and Development Support and support for Diversity and Inclusion.

## Media Team

Managed by Jamie Ion, the County Media Team are responsible for supporting communications within the county and for raising the profile of scouting locally – including in local districts.

Membership is ideal for those who already possess skills or experience – or who want to get involved with: web design and management, social media, photography and videography, video editing, writing press releases and other copy writing etc. You'll occasionally be asked to work to some tight deadlines, but the end result is well worth it.



### What do the Media Team do?

We're responsible for supporting the county by:

- Developing and maintaining the County website
- Developing appropriate media content including press releases, photography, video, web pages and posts
- Promoting appropriate content via multiple media channels including:
- Local media outlets (TV, radio, print and on-line journalism)
  - E-mail (via MailChimp)
  - Social media channels, via integrated platforms (e.g. Hootsuite)
- Working with the HQ media team, as required

To find out more or to join us, just go to the '[Media Team](#)' page on the county website or e-mail [media@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:media@durhamscouts.org.uk)

**Districts** may also charge an additional District levy and will also decide what to do with the 50p per young person rebate provided by headquarters for prompt payment (the scout county always passes this back to districts).

Your districts have been given the following deadlines for census returns and the payment of membership subscriptions and should base local deadlines to work with these.

- **31st January 2018:** Take annual census numbers and record on the census
- **16th February 2018:** Complete and approve District Census return
- **28th February 2018:** Complete and approve County Census return
- **20th March 2018:** Payment of district fees to county (£36.50 per youth member)
- **28th March 2018:** Payment of county fees to HQ

## New County E-Mail

### Addresses

As part of preparing for the new General Data Protection Regulation, we are in the process of rolling out @durhamscouts.org.uk e-mail addresses for all county team members as well as staff.

As well as role specific e-mail addresses (as included in the newsletter e.g. *info@durhamscouts.org.uk*), each member of the county team also now has an individual county e-mail address in the format *alex.smith@durhamscouts.org.uk*)

Please could we ask all members of the county to use these new e-mail addresses when contacting county staff, county team members and members of the county executive committee.

... and please can we remind county staff, county team members and members of the county executive committee to use their county e-mail addresses for county scouting matters.

## County Commissioner's

### Update



**David Stokes**

County Commissioner

cc@durhamscouts.org.uk

Hello again!

Things don't seem to be slowing down any, but now that I'm almost 18 months in to the role the nature of the 'busy, busy, busy' is changing.

I finally got down to Gilwell to complete my County Commissioner's induction at the end of November (with a bust of B-P outside my bedroom, to keep an eye on me...). It was a chance to spend some time with some County Commissioners who have been more recently appointed and it was a chance to think about what we've achieved in the county over the last year and a half.



Although we should never think that scouting as a competition between groups, districts or counties, I was pleased to receive feedback from HQ that we're ticking the right boxes in most aspects.

We now have a full county team in place, the Youth Investment Fund project in Sunderland and Darlington is now well underway and the pace of appointing new District Commissioners has slowed down. I was fortunate enough to inherit some good foundations and I'm now focusing on working with districts and the county team on what comes next.

## County Development Conference

In June next year we'll be holding a county development conference – the first one in number of years.

By then we'll have seen the final national '[Beyond 2018](#)' strategy. We'll also have the development objectives of the various county team members and will be feeding in the Moor House Development Plan.

Most importantly, we should have the updated development plans from our 14 Districts, which is the most critical input to the county development plan. The intent is to align and prioritise all the development actions so that we work on the actions that will have the greatest positive impact on local scouting first.

That doesn't mean that we won't be getting on with other actions identified by the county team, but sections, groups and units are where quality scouting is delivered. We'll be looking to prioritise the things that districts tell us is most important. While the new national strategy will prioritise many of these, where HQ aren't looking to implement some actions for several years, we'll look to act locally to provide the strategic support that districts tell us they need.

## Meetings, Meetings, Meetings?

I had a really great weekend at Confido as Camp Warden (it really is great to meet so many of you and have a chance to chat) and it was another fantastic Durham Scout Event.

Although I wasn't available for our own Jamboree selection weekend, I was delighted to be asked to help out with Humberside's selection, along with fellow 2015 Jamboree Unit Leader James Heron.



I was also able to get along to Operation Sanctuary in November for another cold but memorable event, with more than 500 people taking part this year (well done John Little and 1<sup>st</sup> Framwellgate Moor for organising a great day).

However, since then it's been a relatively quiet period for active scouting and I've been at a lot of meetings organised by HQ and the North East region.

Many of these were very useful - including an Executive Committee Workshop, an English County Commissioners meeting, a County Commissioner's Safeguarding Day, a Regional District Commissioner's conference and a North East Regional Programme Forum – and I've certainly been able to log more than a few Ongoing Learning Hours!



I've also been able to attend District Vision (Development) Days in both Peterlee and Darlington Districts and it's really exciting to see the plans coming out of those days.

In the background I've also been supporting members of the county team to organise some fantastic opportunities including next year's Tall Ships race and the 2019 trip to Kandersteg (more on those elsewhere in the newsletter)

Next weekend is the county Young Leaders Training weekend at Moor House, which I've offered to run as Iain Wood is busy with work and I know that it will be another great weekend.

I'm also starting work on making more hardship support available to our members, to help ensure that our more disadvantaged members get the same opportunities to take part in activities and events as everyone else (more on that next time).

Finally, as this is the last newsletter of 2017, I'd like to thank everyone I've been privileged to work with in the last year and say a big 'well done' to all our volunteers in the county.

Have a great Christmas break everyone - but come back with your batteries recharged for a fantastic year of scouting in 2018.

## Youth Commissioners

### Update



**Mark Ireland**  
County Youth  
Commissioner  
youth@durhamscouts.org.uk

The county youth team had a good presence at Confido, collecting feedback from scouts and explorers at the event, to make sure we know how to make Confido as good as possible.

The team had a 'YouShape Space' which allowed young people to throw sponges at the team if they gave us some feedback - which seemed to go down well.

Over the course of the weekend we received feedback from more than 125 young people, most of which come back to Confido year after year because they enjoy the event so much and love the friendly atmosphere and many activities available for them to participate in - especially the new activities that were added for this year.

The team is also looking at a restructure which will form a new, larger team, including the County Youth Commissioner, a Deputy County Youth Commissioner and four Assistant County Youth Commissioners which will be specific to Events, Programme, Media and Leadership.

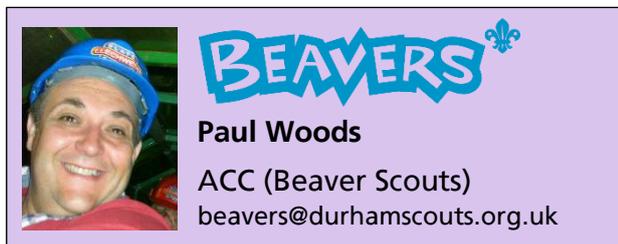
This restructure aims to bring more focus to all areas of youth shaped scouting within the county with each assistant concentrating on a different aspect of #YouShape.

- The **Assistant County Youth Commissioner for Events** will be looking to increase the team's presence at county events as well as working with the rest of the county team to ensure that events are as youth shaped as possible.
- The **Assistant County Youth Commissioner for Programme** will be working with ACCs to ensure that we are delivering a quality youth shaped programme to our young people.
- The **Assistant County Youth Commissioner for Leadership** will be directed at peer leadership and post 18 opportunities for young people in the county.
- The **Assistant County Youth Commissioner for Media** will be working on increasing our media presence across different channels to enable the youth team to have a wider reach and influence.

The team will be recruiting for some of these roles very shortly! Keep an eye on your email and our Facebook page for all the information (<https://www.facebook.com/DurhamScoutsYouth>)



## Beaver Scouts



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

In the last few months I was invited to come along and judge the Chester-le-Street Beaver Scouts Lego competition – well done to all those who took part.

The main thing to report on this time is the Beaver Pantomime at Durham Gala Theatre on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Although a less well-known pantomime, Robinson Crusoe was full of the usual pantomime fun and was a great festive production.



Although we've just had a Programme Support meeting, the next one is on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Moor House and I look forward to meeting up with Beaver Leaders and district representatives to discuss issues, ideas, resources and good practice with the beaver programme.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all Beaver Leaders and supporters for all your hard work and efforts for our young people through the year - it really is appreciated.

I'd also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Cub Scouts



**Sarah Dodds & Lesley Robinson**  
ACC (Cub Scouts)  
cubs@durhamscouts.org.uk

It doesn't seem long since we returned after the summer break. We hope you have all had a good Autumn Term and are looking forward to all things festive.

It's been a reasonably quiet time for county cub activities. We held a trial of the Cooper Challenge Cup for a limited number of teams at Waldrige Fell in September and expect to be able to offer this more widely at Gibside next year.

It is shaping up to be an excellent event, and hopefully a good contrast to other Cub events held in the County.

It was great to see so many Cubs at the Awards ceremony this year, well done to everyone who achieved their Chief Scouts Silver Award. It's great to see that the "new" badge programme has embedded in so well, let us know what went well for you and what you found challenging.

In fact, why not come along to our programme support meetings (next one on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018) and exchange ideas with other leaders?

Looking forward to next year it won't be long until details are sent out about "Climb When Ready" so watch out for those. This is always an excellent event, and this will be swiftly followed by Pete Swinney and Cubboree, so it's shaping up to be another busy year.

In the meantime, the Cubs Team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to thank you for all your hard work and support over the past 12 months.

We look forward to meeting you all again in 2018.

## Scouts



So, just over three months into my new role since taking it up fully in September and my learning curve is getting steeper by the day. I don't seem to have stopped as there is lots going on both in front of and behind the scenes.

I've met some of you at various events and meetings and have also now had the opportunity to visit some District Scout Leaders meetings, which is great as it allows me to put faces to names.

It's also been great when people are making a point of coming to see me at events and have a chat, once they realise who I am!

So - what have I been up to in this short time?

### Dryburn Cup and Vaux Ambulance Shield

Work is continuing behind the scenes on the development of the new Dryburn Cup and Vaux Ambulance Shield weekend and this is now beginning to come together quite nicely, with full details available in the New Year.

In the main I've followed the principles of the old camping competition, but have thrown a few other bits and pieces into the mix to put a slight spin on it to refresh it slightly, and I hope our scouts will like the format.

Likewise, the Vaux Ambulance Shield is now part of an incident hike and having got Kieren (our County First Aid Advisor) involved let's just say there are going to be some good (realistic) First Aid bases to challenge the Scouts.

As this is a total refresh and a combined event we are limiting numbers of entries in the first year, so we can learn from it and grow it slowly as the format works.

Thanks to everyone who has offered to help me out on this weekend and for doing sanity checks on my thoughts of how I see the combined weekend working.

The support is really appreciated, and I am quite excited about the new format - I believe we have the potential to put on a great, challenging event for the Scouts in the County.

### Go Karting Weekend

The Scout Go-Karting weekend is now growing wheels (sorry) and we have the Wolsingham Showground booked for this.

Most leaders I've managed to speak to about this are keen for this to be a success too, which is very refreshing to hear and again there's been a lot of work going on behind the scenes trying to get this up and running.

We're talking about having a scrap heap challenge element, along with races for those with pre-built karts or bought in karts (dependant on category) to keep the weekend open for all.

We will even have a competition for the best/most unusual looking Kart

To understand the concept of this you need to think of [Red Bull Soap Box Challenge](#) - then add Scouts.



The best part of this for me however was having a conversation with my dad (a former Scout from yesteryear) about ideas for a trophy and within a week he one made, which looks excellent and is based on an old style go kart (for those in the County old enough to remember making them as youngsters).

## Explorer Scouts



### EXPLORERS

Scott Doughty

ACC (Explorer Scouts)  
explorers@durhamscouts.org.uk

### County Explorer /Network Conference

28<sup>th</sup> September saw our first ever Explorer Scout / Scout Network conference at Moor House.



This was the first time we've ever run such an event and we had presentations on and stalls with information from:

- The Outward Bound Trust
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- The Queen Scout Award
- The Ocean Youth Trust
- Young Leaders
- The World Scout Jamboree
- Moving on to Scout Network

The main hall at Moor House was full, with an impressive number of Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members in attendance.

The evening captured the imagination of our young people and because of this we now have organised a Tall Ships expedition and have Explorer Scouts wanting to sign up for additional Outward Bound courses (the "Ultimate Expedition").

It really showed everyone the range of exciting opportunities that are open to them and we plan to repeat the conference again in 2019, to

show a new generation of Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members what is available to them.

### Tall Ships 2018

Following the conference, the Ocean Youth Trust offered us the chance to provide a crew on the James Cook, sailing between Norway and Holland in the 2018 Tall Ships Race.

This is the first time we've had the opportunity to do this and after a little discussion and some encouraging feedback on-line we snapped the offer up and promoted it to Explorer Scouts in the county.

20 Explorer Scouts applied for places and on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November we held a selection event at Moor House with a very early start and a variety of climbing and team building challenges.

The selection was difficult, but we eventually managed to select the crew of 12 – who will form the first ever Durham Scout County crew in a tall ships race.

The crew will fly to Norway, spend seven days taking part in the Tall Ships race (and all the cultural events that come with it), sailing to the Netherlands before taking a ferry back to Tyneside from Amsterdam.

While we commiserate with those who weren't selected (everyone who applied was brilliant and deserved a place), this is a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved and is a great chance to promote Explorer Scouting in Durham.



As you'll read elsewhere in the international section of the newsletter, selection is also

complete for the World Scout Jamboree PLUS we are now organising a 2019 trip to Kandersteg in Switzerland, principally for those who missed out on a place at the World Scout Jamboree.

This really is an exciting time to be an Explorer Scout in Durham Scout County!

## Young Leaders




**Iain Wood**  
ACC (Young Leaders)  
yl@durhamscouts.org.uk

### Young Leader Training

At the time of reading this we'll be finalising plans for next weekend's County Young Leader training weekend at Moor House (15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> December).



We'll be delivering 8 modules over the course of the weekend and we're pleased to see that the course is full once again, demonstrating the need for on-going Young Leader training in the county.

We now need to consider what training we need to deliver in the Scout County next year and we'd be interested in hearing your views.

Do you think we need:

- Two Young Leader Training Weekends?
- Additional Module A training organised and delivered by the county?

- Young Leader First Aid Master Classes (module K) delivered by the Scout County?

Please do let me know your thoughts.



### Young Leader Logbooks

We know that many Districts have produced their own version of a Young Leader logbook, which is simpler than the [94 page log book](#) current produced by HQ, which is time consuming and costly to print.

We're pleased to say that HQ have listened to feedback and will be producing a simplified version which will be easier and quicker to print locally, and which should also be available to buy via Scout Shops.

As soon as we know when this is available we'll be passing along the news.

### Adult Leader YL Resources

We also understand that HQ will also be looking at producing better resources for adult section leaders, to better explain the Young Leader scheme and to allow adult section leaders to better support Young Leaders in their sections.

We'll again let you know when these become available.

We'll close by wishing everyone a great Christmas, and with Climb When Ready, the Geoffrey Gordon Cup, Outward Bound selection and the Monopoly Run all coming up in the first half of 2018, it's going to be a fantastic New Year.

## Scout Network



**network** 

David Holmes

ACC (Scout Network)

network@durhamscouts.org.uk

As reported above, the joint Explorer Scout and Scout Network conference was a great success and it was good to see Explorer Scouts and members of the Scout Network together.

I'm delighted to report that Durham and City District have launched their District Scout Network, with their launch event well attended. We look forward to hearing more from Durham and City in the coming months as they start to organise projects and activities.

Sadly, there appear to be on-going issues with the Scout Network joining/membership systems. While we can (and do) work around these in Durham Scout County, things are more complicated than they should be, and we have reported this to HQ and have also raised this at the recent North East Region Programme Forum. If you have any issues with this, please let me know.

There are a couple of Network county events coming up in 2018 which we'd like to remind you all about.

### Network Chill Out Camp 2018

Next year's Network Chill Out Camp is just a few weeks away, from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018, at West Hall as usual

We've already got some good numbers signed up this year, with Sunderland Scout Network taking the lead in the planning.

It costs just £25 for the weekend, including accommodation and food, and the programme which includes some site service activities on site at West Hall.

You can find out more about the camp and how to book a place in the county Scout Network Facebook Group at



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/durhamscoutnetwork/>.

### Monopoly Run

Next year's Monopoly Run will again be open to Scout Network members (including combined Explorer Scout / Scout Network teams) and is an ideal opportunity to build bridges between your local Explorer Scout Units and District Scout Networks

At the request of our Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members, this year's Monopoly Run will be returning to West Hall Scout Campsite near Whitburn, in South Tyneside District

Although the date is April 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, it's not too late to start thinking about pulling together one or more teams

Finally, don't forget that if your District Scout Network are planning any activities, events or projects you can let other Networks in the county know about them via the county Network Facebook Group (link above).

## Events



**Ian Hammond**

ACC (Events)

events@durhamscouts.org.uk

2017 was once again a busy year for the Events Team, organising for all our usual favourite activities and events, plus support for some

## Events Team

Managed by Ian Hammond, the Events Team organises eight major events each year attended by over 4,000 people - from the Beaver Picnic to Confido. We are experts at putting together large-scale, high impact and great quality events. The Events Team Scout Active Support Unit is made up of people with a wide range of skills and experience who all love putting on great events, working with other volunteers in a team and having fun. It's great for those interested in event management, but we have a role for everyone.



### What do the Events Team do?

Working with other Active Support Units, we're responsible for putting on the major county events, and for supporting other events by:

- Managing equipment - setting up equipment
- Preparing for the event - from paperwork to building large stages and marquees.
- Leading teams of volunteers - we need people who can bring teams together quickly.
- Keeping us fed and watered - looking after our cafe and catering outlets.
- Looking after young people - from camp wardens, security, to the help desk.
- Delivering great activities - from helping on those ingenious crafts to the adventure activities.
- Keeping things running - making sure the power, water and technical gear is in fine order.
- Keeping people entertained - camp fires, music and videos keeping us going 24/7

To find out more or to join us, just go to the '[Events Team Active Support](#)' page on the county website or e-mail [events@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:events@durhamscouts.org.uk)

new events such as the Cooper Cup and the Explorer/Network conference.

Since the last newsletter, as well as the County AGM and Explorer/Network conference our biggest and final events of the year were the Awards Day and Confido

### Awards 2017

This year saw us using a great new venue, swapping the history and grandeur of Durham Town Hall for the size and scale of the Xcel Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

This meant three ceremonies instead of eight, but with each ceremony being bigger and more spectacular than ever before. The final session was attended by the Chief Commissioner for England, Alex Peace-Gadsby.

The impact of the event was fantastic with parents awed by the achievements of their young people. Several parents have since volunteered to become leaders with us and we even heard about one new leader who went home and cried for 20 minutes with happiness after realising what she'd achieved for her Cub Scouts.

Section leaders should note that nominations for Awards 2018 are already open at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/awards-2018/>

### Confido 2017

Confido 2017 – with a theme of 'Haunted House' – was as big, friendly and joyous as ever. This year's #YouthShaped feedback was that our young people keep coming back year after year to meet new and old friends, to take part



in the fantastic activities and to soak in the lively festival atmosphere.

The renewed Confido App was a big success and the new Media Team did a great job of 'selling' Confido to everyone who couldn't be there.

We're already planning for our first two events of 2017 with some details below.

### **Climb When Ready**

Our annual climbing extravaganza / competition is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 and is open to cubs, scouts, explorer scouts and scout network members.

Although it is a competition, it's also a lot of fun with music and videos and we usually end up with at least one 'climb off' against the clock which is always exciting.

More details will be coming out to leaders in the new year, but please start telling your young people about this now.

### **Geoffrey Gordon Cup**

The other event occurring before the next copy of the Durham ePost is the Explorer Scout section Geoffrey Gordon Cup.

Although this is an outdoors based competition with the main features being a day long incident hike on the Saturday and an orienteering style challenge on the Sunday, there are also films and games and plenty of time for explorer scouts to socialise with one other (we're typically getting more than 120 Explorer Scouts coming along).

In 2018 we'll be in a new part of the country with a completely new route to challenge our Explorer Scouts.

We'll again be sharing more details in the new year, but Explorer scout Leaders should ensure that the dates are in the Unit diary. When planning for 2018 leaders should also remember that the Geoffrey Gordon Cup can county as a practice expedition for Chief Scout and Bronze/Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

## Adventurous Activities



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

To all of you who helped me at Confido with the Adventurous Activities you will find over the next few days/weeks that I will be adding a role to your Compass Profile.

This is as an Activities Team SASU (Scout Active Support Unit) member and this so that we can recognise your extra volunteering and to help ensure that you will be allocated the role you want to do at subsequent large (or small) County Events.

This will also help me to communicate with the staff needed to run the adventurous activity bases at future events.

### Successes:

At the last Confido we had enough folk on every activity base; This has been possible due to the dedication of a few assessors who have trained and assessed a whole load of people for permits over the last 12 months

We now have a couple of powerboat assessors and three guys working towards canoeing/kayaking coaching qualifications in order that we can cover more of the water activities than ever before - but please watch this space and be patient.



A record number of DofE Expeditions took place between March and October of 2017. If this is to be continued next season, I would ask all leaders to please start planning your dates now - and advise me of them as soon as

## Activities Team

Managed by Stephen Ramsay, the County Activities Team are responsible for supporting adventurous and outdoor activities in the county. If you're an Activities Assessor or an Adventurous Activities Permit holder you're a natural member of the Activities Team, but membership is open to anyone aged 18 or over with an interest in promoting adventurous and outdoor activities.

As well as providing support, the Activities Team is also the place to get involved in adult only adventurous activities (climbing, hill walking, archery etc)



### What do the Activities Team do?

We're responsible for supporting adventurous activities in the county by:

- Providing guidance and advice on adventurous and other outdoor activities
- Providing training and assessment in adventurous and other outdoor activities
- Providing activity instructors and supporters for County competitions, activities and events
- Promoting adventurous and other outdoor activities to adult and youth members

To find out more or to join us, just go to the '[Activities Team](#)' page on the county website or e-mail [activities@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:activities@durhamscouts.org.uk)

possible so that we can arrange Expedition Assessors.

There are currently spaces on the next three activities training courses which are

### Hillwalking:

Course No.111 is at Fell End on 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### Archery:

Course No 6 is on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### Climbing:

The next belay training/ assessment day is at Whickham Thorns on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### Introduction to DofE Course

There is also a DofE Introduction Course running on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018, but places are filling quickly and at the time of reading the course may already be fully taken up.

My thanks to Scott Doughty for organising this.

If you'd like to book on any of these courses, please get in touch.

## International



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

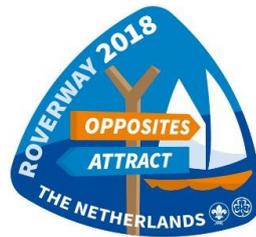
Things are getting even busier on the International Front here in Durham Scout County. We're already aware of a good number of sections planning visits abroad next year – some taking considerable numbers.

We're also helping organise more county International trips that we've had in a long time and it's great to see so many of our young people getting the chance to travel abroad.

As you'll have read in the Explorer Scout section of the newsletter, we have a crew of 12 Explorer Scouts in next year's Tall Ships Race, but there's even more going on.

### Roverway 2018

We've now closed bookings for Roverway 2018 and as reported last time, we effectively share three Patrols with Northumberland Scout County.



With eleven members now attending, this is more than three times the numbers attending recent Roverways and we're sure that everyone is going to have a great time.

### World Scout

#### Jamboree 2019

Our Jamboree selection events were held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October at Moor House with just under 110 scouts and explorer scouts attending.

This was another difficult selection process, but we now have 54 young people selected for 6 Patrols, 2 of which will be in a shared Jamboree Unit with our friends from North Yorkshire.

This is again significantly more than the 18 explorer scouts who visited Japan for the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree in 2015 and we're pleased that our confidence was repaid with so many applications.

The Jamboree Units are now holding their first training events and preparation starts in earnest in 2018.



### Kandersteg 2019

With so many young people applying for the Jamboree, many were bound to be disappointed. We therefore decided to organise a county trip to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in July/August 2019, to coincide with the Jamboree and Swiss International Day



This was announced shortly after the results of the Jamboree selection with priority booking given to unsuccessful Jamboree applicants.

We now have a group of 10 leaders and more than 50 young people heading out to Switzerland in the summer of 2019, meaning that we'll have more than 100 young people abroad at the time

### **You Can Go International!**

It's a little late to start planning for a big summer adventure abroad in 2018, but with an international airport and a ferry terminal on our doorstep you can think about taking young people away for a short break

It's also not too soon to start planning an overseas adventure for 2019 and details of all current International Opportunities can be found at

<http://members.scouts.org.uk/documents/International%20Opportunities%20OCT17.pdf>

Also remember that UK based international camps (Jamborees) are also run each year and attending one of these in 2019 could be the way of letting your young people have an international experience without travelling abroad.

If you have any questions or need any advice about international scouting, please get in touch.

## **Growth and Development**



**Hayley Robertson**

Deputy County Commissioner  
(Growth & Development)

growth@durhamscouts.org.uk

### **Youth Investment Fund (YIF) Project**

Our Growth and Development Office for Sunderland and Darlington, Joanne Hennessy, is now in place and has been travelling around the country finishing her training and inductions.

Joanne, David Stokes and I attended the Darlington Vision day a couple of weeks ago and there is now a development plan in place to match the Sunderland development plan, both of which allow Joanne to progress with her work.

Joanne is working from a bank of projects which has been agreed with Ruth Potts of the

Regional Services Team (RST) and the YIF subcommittee and this includes a mix of relaunched sections, creating new groups and delivering training and workshops.

We are going to review the work bank in February after census figures have come in to see if this changes anything.

Final interviews are underway for the YIF Instructor who will be based at Moor House and whose job it will be to develop and deliver residential events and adventurous activities to the scouts and explorer scouts from the two districts. The Moor House Management Board will shortly purchase the minibus that will support the project.

Both Districts are now looking at improvements to their District HQ buildings that will be supported by the project and are also thinking about what activities equipment should be purchased to help improve the delivery of exciting scout and explorer scout programmes.

We have also finalised the role description of the part-time fund-raiser whose job will be to secure on-going sources of funding to ensure the sustainability of these projects in Darlington and Sunderland.



### General District Development

Peterlee District have had held their District Vision day and have created a new development plan as an outcome.

There are many opportunities to grow and develop scouting across the county, including helping small sections to increase in numbers and opening missing or additional sections in existing groups.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the planned Adult Recruitment workshop due to the low number of people who booked. This seems strange given that everyone tells us that

they want to be more successful in recruiting more adult volunteers.

We suspect that the date was the problem (a Saturday two weeks before Christmas) and we are talking to the Regional Services Team about new dates for the new year.

If you would like to grow your group or think about opening new provision and would like some support from the county and/or the Regional Service Team, please get in touch and we'll explain how we can help.

## Diversity & Inclusion



**May James & Nat Hayler**

ACCs  
(Diversity & Inclusion)



[diversity.inclusion@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@durhamscouts.org.uk)

### Support for Diversity and Inclusion

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of diversity, inclusion or our equal opportunities policy, we're just an e-mail away.

We've already been supporting section leaders to help integrate young people with additional needs into their sections and have been providing advice on how leaders should discuss the needs of young people with additional needs with parents or carers.

### New Selection Policy

We've also helped to develop a new Selection Policy for the county, which will be used to guide members of the county team when running selections for events such as Jamborees, Outward Board courses and the recent Tall Ships selection.

The idea is to ensure that we think about how we can make reasonable adjustments to activities and events to make them open to everyone, regardless of ability, and to ensure that our selection processes are completely unbiased and in accordance with our equal opportunities policy.

## We Are Recruiting!

The Durham Diversity and Inclusion Team will seek to support the Scout County by providing guidance, advice and support to the county team, county executive, adult leaders and youth members on matters relating to inclusion and diversity.

We are looking for team members with skills and/or qualifications in one or more of the following areas of inclusion and diversity:

- LGBTQA+ issues (sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Physical ability/ disability
- Race and ethnicity
- Faith, religion and spirituality
- Physical and mental health
- Socio-economic inclusion



Members must be passionate about providing equal opportunities in Scouting for both youth members and adult volunteers. Applicants must be over the age of 18.

We will expect members to meet quarterly as a team and to commit to support a certain area of the work of the team. We are also looking to get a wide demographic of skills, age and location across the county.

If you think this might be for you do get in touch with us at:

[diversity.inclusion@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@durhamscouts.org.uk)  
where you will be asked to fill in a short application form.

## Diversity and Inclusion Team

Managed by May James and Nat Hayler, the County Diversity and Inclusion Team are responsible for providing guidance and support and promoting diversity and inclusion the county (gender, race, religion, age, sexuality, additional needs, mental health etc). If you're passionate about equal opportunities and/or have some specialist or practical knowledge on any aspect of diversity and inclusion that you're willing to share, membership of the Diversity and Inclusion Team is for you.

We're looking for team members willing to share their knowledge with other scouters, so that Durham Scout County can be as diverse and inclusive as possible.



## What do the Diversity and Inclusion Team do?

We support diversity and inclusion in the county by:

- Providing guidance and advice to the county team on all matters relating to diversity and inclusion
- Providing guidance and advice to the county executive committee on all matters relating to diversity and inclusion
- Providing guidance and support to adult leaders on all matters relating to diversity and inclusion
- Providing guidance and support to youth members on applicable matters relating to diversity and inclusion

To find out more or to join us, just go to the '[Diversity and Inclusion Team](#)' page on the county website or e-mail [diversity.inclusion@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:diversity.inclusion@durhamscouts.org.uk)

## 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).*

***By its very nature, some people may find the following safeguarding advice upsetting, but it is important that we share information to help keep all young people safe. Remember that the great majority of our young people enjoy their time in scouting with no safeguarding or welfare concerns at all, and that it is unusual for our leaders to become aware of or involved in these issues.***

### From the CEOP Education Team

Live streaming is increasingly becoming one of the most popular online activities for children and young people - apps such as Musical.ly, Live.me, Periscope and YouNow are all becoming popular, with the result that other well-established apps such as Facebook are adding live streaming functions.

CEOP has produced a set of new resources which concentrate on the specific risks children and young people face whilst live streaming - #LiveSkills.

They focus on the nuanced features of this new online phenomenon such as the immediacy of 'live contact' and the large numbers of users who may be communicating with a young person at any one time, and the affirmation gained via views and gifts.

The resources highlight the type of tactics offenders' use on live streaming platforms, as well as addressing the deeper rooted issues that might make children and young people particularly vulnerable online - such as low confidence and self-esteem.

The resources comprise a series of age appropriate activities (primary and secondary) which will teach skills to help them think critically about the people they meet online

and empower them to respond safely to pressure and manipulation from adult offenders.

There are also accompanying resources for parents and carers to educate them about their children's internet use and factsheets for professionals that provide context and information about live streaming.

All resources will include key information on reporting to CEOP and where to seek further advice and support. These downloadable resources can be accessed at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/resources/live-streaming/>

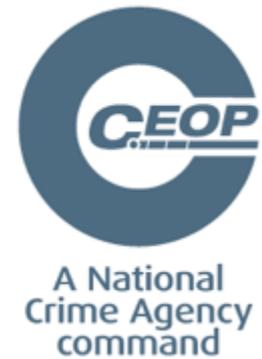
We've heard from CEOP in the last few days about some sexual abuse images and videos being circulated.

The advice from police in relation to this material is that if children and young people receive it on any social media platform, they should delete it immediately and tell a trusted adult - which could include our leaders.

It is important that our members understand that if they show these images or video to someone else or forward it on to other people, they could be committing a crime and we want to stop that happening. The police have been clear that they do not want to criminalise children and that children won't be in trouble if they've made a genuine mistake.

For leaders finding out that images and videos of abuse are being circulated by young people and adults on social media, it can be a stressful time and difficult to know what course of action to take immediately. Here are some clear steps to take and important things to remember.

- Never share a video or image depicting any kind of abuse involving children
- Each time a video or image of abuse is shared it re-victimises the child and increases the likelihood of blackmail, feelings of self-blame and powerlessness



- Report it to the platform it has been shared on e.g. YouTube, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram etc
- Report it to CEOP if it is an image or video of sexual abuse involving a child with a link to where the video or image is hosted e.g. YouTube, Facebook
- If it's not on a public platform and in only exists on a device i.e. phone, tablet still report it to CEOP or the police. Once reported, with authorisation of CEOP or the police, delete it from the device it has been sent to (if offender usernames are visible make note of them)
- Encourage other people to report if it is being shared publicly
- If in doubt, contact your District Commissioner for advice

### Useful websites / apps

- **Brook sexual health and wellbeing** for under 25s  
<http://tinyurl.com/y9mgm9z>
- Childline app for under 18s  
<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/for-me/>
- **The Mix** - is a support service for young people which deals with a wide range of issues including mental health, money, homelessness, job hunting, drugs  
<http://www.themix.org.uk>
- **See it Report it**  
Report on-line extremism at  
<http://seeitreportit.org>
- **Stop speak support:**  
The Anti-bullying Alliance has launched an on-line code of conduct to help spot and tackle on-line bullying; the link is:  
<http://tinyurl.com/y95566zm>
- **Better Internet for Kids**  
Better Internet for Kids (BIK) have a new minisite specifically for young people. Their website includes some focus articles on how young people are getting involved in the BIK agenda, in Europe and beyond.  
There is also info about 'youth participation scenarios' which are at the heart of the new

BIK youth programme. Using co-creation methods, young people will work with other stakeholders to develop online safety guidance, learning and campaigning materials, and contribute to decision-making processes to help create a better internet. More info at:

<https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/web/youth>

### The Scout Association Resources:

Revised yellow and orange cards are due for release on 1st January 2018, but current ones are still available if required.

## Adult Training



**Justine Torrance**

County Training Manager

[training@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:training@durhamscouts.org.uk)

Although the previous 'interim' Training Team of Sheila and Ian had fixed the dates for wood badge training in 2018 (thanks guys), we're now starting to look at our broader training strategy.



We'll be developing this more in the first part of 2018, but we already know that:

- A good number of leaders would like options for residential training
- We will be providing more practical skills training

- We will be consolidating the booking and administration of all training (including young leader, first aid and practical skills)

As we develop the new county development plan we'll be reaching out to people to understand how you would like adult training to develop in the county, so please keep your eyes open and let us know what you want.

### Manager / Supporter Training

We're also now starting to find out more about the new Manager/Supporter training, including which courses are on which dates (note that some are one day, and some are two day courses).

We can now also share that the venue for the first residential Manager / Supporter training in the region is.... Moor House Adventure Centre!

For those looking to attend the new regional Manager and Supporter training, the following courses will be running on the following dates:

- **Skills of Management:** 24/25<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Moor House
- **Achieving Growth:** 17<sup>th</sup> March
- **Managing Change:** 18<sup>th</sup> March
- **Skills of Management:** 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> April
- **Managing Change:** 19<sup>th</sup> May
- **Achieving Growth:** 20<sup>th</sup> May
- **Skills of Management:** 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> September
- **Achieving Growth:** 24<sup>th</sup> November
- **Managing Change:** 25<sup>th</sup> November

To book places in this training please e-mail Regional Training Manager Chris Watson on [rtm.northeast@gmail.com](mailto:rtm.northeast@gmail.com)

**Book Regional M&S Training Now**

Please note that because we were not aware of the cost of these courses before the 2018 county levy was approved, it was not possible to allow for the cost of these courses in the 2018 county levy. Groups/Districts will be directly responsible for paying for these courses in 2018.

As part of the latest [county satisfaction survey](#) we're asking you to tell us what you think are reasonable costs for residential training and how you think it should be paid for (as part of the county levy, by your districts or group, and whether individual leaders should contribute to the costs).

We'll be deciding on this after the March 2018 County Scout Council meeting, so please complete the survey and/or come to the meeting and have your say.

### Validation of Training by Training

#### Advisors

Remember that all Training Advisors should be now able to directly validate modules on Compass

If you haven't done this before or if you're struggling to do this, you can view user guides on how to validate a module on Compass at <https://compasssupport.scouts.org.uk/?quick-start-guide=how-to-add-update-and-validate-a-members-module>

### Wood Badge Training Dates

Wood Badge dates for 2018 are as follows

- 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018: Module 5 - Fundamental Values of Scouting
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018: Module 15 - Promoting Positive Behaviour
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018: Module 12a - Delivering a Quality Programme
- 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018: Module 17 - Running Safe Activities
- 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018: Module 9 - Working with Adults
- 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018: Module 8 - Skills of Leadership
- 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018: Module 36 - Special Needs
- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018: Module 14 - Supporting Young People
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018: Module 16 - Introduction to Residential Experiences

- 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Module 13/21 - Growing the Section / Movement (Leaders and Managers/Supporters)
- 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Module 7 - Scouting For All
- 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Module 11 – Administration
- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Module 19 – International

Remember that booking these modules is easy, via the county website at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/booking/training/courses.php?type=adult>

**Book Durham Training Now**

## Governance News

Whether registered with the Charity Commission or not, all Groups and Districts (as well as the scout county) are separate charities. Each should have an effective Executive Committee and all members of these committees are Trustees. We are now looking at how we provide better governance support for Executive Committees in the county and 'Governance News' will now be a regular feature of the newsletter.

## Support from HQ

There is good support for Executive Committees available from HQ. If you are an Executive Committee member and this is all new to you, we'd suggest looking at:

- The [Trustees in Scouting Facebook Group](#) – a good source of updates from HQ and a

## First Aid Team

Managed by Kieren Stephenson, the County First Aid Team are our in-house experts in first aid. If you already deliver First Response, are interesting in further developing your first aid skills as an adult, want to help with first aid cover at events or whether you'd just like to do a better job supporting first aid as part of the youth programme, the First Aid Team is where you belong.



### What do the First Aid Team do?

We're responsible for supporting first aid in the county by:

- Providing guidance and advice on first aid and medical matters and other relevant health issues
- Providing training and assessment in the form of first response and other, more advanced qualifications
- Providing comprehensive and professional first aid and medical cover for all County competitions, activities and events
- Promoting first aid as an important aspect of scouting and everyday life to adult and youth members

To find out more or to join us, just go to the '[First Aid Team](#)' page on the county website or e-mail [firstaid@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:firstaid@durhamscouts.org.uk)

great place to ask and get answers to any governance questions that you may have

- The Executive Committee pages on the Scout Association Website, which has useful documents and information on recruiting Executive Committee members, training resources, role descriptions and regulatory supporting requirements – see <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=55,594>
- The Charity Commission pages on Gov.uk – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>. Although this covers general charity law rather than scouting specific content, it is the definitive source of information on your responsibilities as Trustees

### NCVO Membership



Thanks to a deal done by Scout Association HQ and our national CEO Matt Hyde, Groups and Districts can get free membership of NCVO. Because of our size, the scout county must pay a small fee for our membership, but we are already finding it worthwhile for the useful resources available.

There are some useful resources including a funding database. NVCO is a good source of guidance and advice and it's well worth a look. As it's free for Group and District Executive Committees to join, why not make use of it?

See <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/> for more details.

### County Trustee Support Group

In 2018, to help Executive Committees in their important work, we'll be holding a couple of Trustee Support Group meetings.

The idea is to allow District Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries (and any from Groups who'd like to come along) the opportunity to discuss their roles, share good ideas and good practice and share any challenges that they might have.

We know that there's already a lot of good practice across the county and that we can all learn from one another and this will be a forum for providing some 'self-help'.

The dates for your diaries (locations to be confirmed) are:

- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### Preparing for GDPR

Many of you will already have heard of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will be enacted in to UK law and which becomes effective on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Every group and district must comply with this law and you have less than six months to get ready. This extends existing EU data privacy laws, but introduces some additional challenges including:

- Reducing the time to comply with data subject access requests to 30 days, with no right to charge any fees
- Requiring an opt-in rather than an opt-out for any communications e.g. e-mails
- Introducing a 'right to be forgotten' which means that individuals can require organisations to delete their personal data (except where it needs to be retained for other statutory purposes)
- Allowing individuals the right to have incorrect data about them corrected
- Massively increased penalties for non-compliance



This is very challenging to comply with when you consider that most districts and groups currently rely on volunteer's private e-mail addresses, that volunteers hold data locally in spreadsheets or documents on home PCs and that old files are hidden at the back of a filing cabinet somewhere in the Scout HQ or the church hall cupboard.

The scout county is already preparing and have developed an updated data privacy policy and will be developing additional procedures which we'll be happy to share with groups and districts.

Some of the things we're doing in the scout county to prepare for this are:

- Stopping the use of personal e-mail addresses and providing all county staff and volunteers with @durhamcounty.org.uk e-mail addresses
- Stopping the ad-hoc use of e.g. Google Forms linked to personal Google accounts
- Provisioning Microsoft Office 365 (which is free for charities to use for less than 300 accounts), which also brings a lot of additional useful features. This will allow us to quickly search all our data so that we can report, correct or delete it as necessary under GDPR
- Going through our old paper files and records to either delete them, archive them, retain and file them securely

There is plenty of advice on GDPR for charities (see above) but all groups and districts need to be acting on this now.

## Moor House Adventure Centre



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

[info@moor-house.org.uk](mailto:info@moor-house.org.uk)

(0191) 584 1703

### Development Plan Update

Implementation of phase 1 of the Moor House development plan is mostly complete with showers in the house cleaned and resealed, shelters moved, the mountain bike track having been levelled, house painting complete and steps installed to the low ropes course.

Over the winter we will be completing some of the final tasks, which includes some electrical work and an upgrade of the audio-visual facilities in the main hall.



We've been supported in this work by [Interserve](#), who undertook many of these projects as part of their corporate social responsibilities program. Some of these jobs would have taken our own volunteers many months to complete, but with many volunteers and the right equipment on hand, Interserve got the work done in a fraction of the time. Our thanks go to Interserve and their willing staff who have really made a big difference in implementing the Development Plan.



### Respect?

Sadly, we still see on-going low-level damage from users of the site. Even more disappointing is that we know that some of this is coming from our own youth members when unsupervised on site.

When visiting Moor House, our youth members should be briefed on the site rules (including safety), reminded of the need to respect not only other people, but also 'property and possessions' and supervised when appropriate.

### Working Days

Based upon the success of our 2017 working days we're now looking at how we better use the support of our members and the Friends of Moor House.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Friends of Moor House SASU, look at the information panel and get in touch.

## Friends of Moor House

Managed by Ian Hammond, the Friends of Moor House Scout Active Support Unit works with volunteers and staff teams to help create a world-class adventure centre in Durham. We are a group of scout members, all volunteers, who all care passionately about Moor House and help in whatever way we can.



### What do Friends of Moor House do?

We're responsible for supporting the Moor House Management Board with implementing our ambitious development plan by:

- Helping to improve the site through working parties
- Fundraising for specific projects
- Marketing the Centre to scouts and customers outside of scouting
- Provide advice to the Moor House Management Board about specific topics
- Taking on responsibility for delivering certain projects

To find out more or to join us, just go to the '[Friends of Moor House](#)' page on the county website or e-mail [mhmb.chair@durhamscouts.org.uk](mailto:mhmb.chair@durhamscouts.org.uk)