



Aldwark Activity Center, North Yorkshire

Paddle Sports Weekend

More Water!

You asked for more water activities – and that's what you're getting. We're slowly signing up more water activity assessors to help assess our leaders for more water activities. The Tall Ships crew recently went power boating offshore and had a great time thanks to the offer of a permit holder in the county.

Also, thanks to a great bunch of leaders from Darlington we're working towards more paddle sports activities for our members.

Leaders from Darlington are keen to deliver more paddle sports activities to their young people and ACC (Activities) Stephen Ramsay is helping to fund training which will lead to gaining the national governing body qualifications required to become a paddle sports assessor.

This in turn will lead to more paddle sports permits for our leaders and more young people on the water.

Aldwark Paddle Weekend

To get things going a canoeing and kayaking weekend was organised for the start of the month and the invitations went out to leaders in the county via social media – “who wants to take their young people canoeing / kayaking?”

On the weekend of 1st – 3rd June, a total of 58 young people from 19th and 24th Darlington Scout Groups, 13th and 19th Gateshead Scout Groups and some Girl Guides from 1st Usworth all took part in a weekend of paddle sports at the Aldwark water activities centre in North Yorkshire (just an hour away for most Durham Scouts).

Aldwark is a super facility for water sports but also has great indoor accommodation and camping and lots of other land based activities as well.

The weather was great and everyone – young people and adults – got to spend plenty of time on the water, had a great time and no-one was left dry.

Plans are already being discussed for a similar weekend next year where we'll hopefully have even more young people on the water.

2018 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 2018).

- 1** **Cubboree:** 22nd – 24th June @ Moor House
- 1** **Jamboree Unit 33 (Yorkham) Camp:** 29th June– 1st July @ Howl Wood, Helmsley
- 1** **Jamboree Unit 30 (Durham) Camp:** 29th June– 1st July @ Moor House
- 1** **County Team (Operations) Meeting:** 7pm, 5th July @ Moor House
- 1** **Cubs Water Day:** 7th July
- 1** **Operation Sanctuary:** 14th July
- 1** **Moor House Management Board Meeting:** 7pm, 24th July @ Moor House
- 1** **Finance Board Meeting:** 7pm, 25th July @ Moor House
- 1** **Tall Ships Race:** 26th July – 7th August @ Stavanger, Harlingen and Amsterdam
- 1** **Executive Committee (Governance) Meeting:** 7pm, 1st August @ Moor House
- 1** **Tall Ships Crew BBQ:** 25th August @ Moor House
- 1** **DCs/County Team Meeting:** 7pm, 4th September @ Moor House
- 1** **Programme Support Meetings:** 7pm, 5th September @ Moor House / On-line
- 1** **Cooper Cup Competition:** 9th September @ Gibside Estate

Please see page 23 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



Wednesday, 13 June	
19:00	Module 36 - Additional Needs
Friday, 22 June	
18:00	Cubboree 2018
Saturday, 23 June	
	Cubboree 2018
Sunday, 24 June	
» 17:00	Cubboree 2018



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>

New Branding, New Look Newsletter



By now we hope you'll have noticed that the county newsletter has a new look, which is based on the new style guide produced as part of the Scouts rebranding. In simple terms this means that the newsletter uses new colours, a new font and our new logos,

Everything in scouting will be getting a new look – new logos, websites, building signage, documents, minibuses liveries, leaflets, banners and so on.

The new brand was launched on 15th May and research has shown that our new logo and new brand is more attractive to prospective youth members and to potential adult volunteers. Adults have said that they are significantly more willing to volunteer with the Scouts if we promote ourselves with a modern identify.

We've already started to change things at the county level and we were 'on brand' at the recent county development conference (see picture below), However, we all have two years to complete the change to the new brand and we'll be completing the change in county branding as we replace branded items by early 2020.

Follow Us:

The easiest way to keep up to date and be the first to know about what's happening in the county is to check your emails and follow Durham Scouts on social media:

Email:

Make sure that your main email address on the Compass membership system is up-to-date. That way you'll receive general updates and role specific information direct to your inbox.

Also check that emails from @durhamscouts.org.uk are 'white listed' and are not going into your spam folders.

(Note that you may 'opt-out' at any time).

Facebook

Durham Scouts main Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/durhamscouts/>

We also have various Facebook pages and groups for members who share common interests (linked from the newsletter).

Twitter

Follow @durhamscouts on Twitter – or via <https://twitter.com/durhamscouts> - and you can also follow tweets from various members of the county team and from various teams and events in the county.

Instagram

If you're on Instagram you can also follow us via <https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/191088021060/durham-scouts/>

Flickr

Our media team upload photos of events to the county Flickr account at <https://flickr.com/photos/96869182@N06/>

YouTube

You can also view videos of our events and activities on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/durhamscoutcounty>

Join with us on line and let's make sure that more people outside scouting know what we're up to!

To use the new brand to the best effect and to get the biggest impact it's important that every section, group and district move over to the new branding within the two-year period.

If you don't adopt the new brand locally you'll miss out on the advantages of the rebrand and risk your local scouting being seen as out-of-date.

You can find lots more about the new brand and templates you can use at the new Brand Centre (<https://scoutsbrand.org.uk/>), and you can also find out all about the new visual identity and how to use it at <https://docs.scoutsbrand.org.uk/guidelines.pdf>

County Development Conference

On 2nd June just over 50 members of the county came together at the Emirates Riverside Stadium, the home of Durham County Cricket Club, to input in to an updated county development plan.

Regional Commissioner Ian Chappell provided an overview of the national "[Skills for Life](#)" [national strategy for 2018 – 2023](#) and Ian Hammond, Chair of the Moor House Management Board provided a summary of phases 2 and 3 of the Moor House Adventure Centre development plan.

Members of the county team also outlined their own development ideas based on the results from the last two county satisfaction surveys.

Most importantly, representatives from groups and districts from across the county worked together to tell us what they see as their priorities for development in the county.

In order of highest priority these were:

- Adult Recruitment
- Adult Training
- Young Leaders
- Internal Communications



Regional Commissioner Ian Chappell outlines the implementation of the "Skills for Life" 2018 - 2023 strategy

- External Communications (media)
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Improving the Volunteer Journey
- Programme Support
- Support for 18 - 25 year old
- Digital Support
- Executive Committee Support
- Activities Support

Based upon this input the county executive committee and county team will now produce an updated development plan to identify specific actions, timescales and action owners.

The intention is to link together the national strategy initiatives and timescales and our own local priorities to develop a plan which best meets the needs of local sections, groups and our 14 districts.

Groups and districts should also now be looking at how to implement the national "Skills for Life" strategy and guidance on this is available in guidance documents which have been specifically developed for

- Groups ([GSL Guide](#))
- Districts ([DC's Guide](#))

Online Scout Manager (OSM)

Following the recent membership survey on the county licensing of OSM, the County Executive will now look to move forward with the licensing of OSM.

The preferred option of the membership was for the county to licence OSM and to provide a simple discount code to sections and groups who currently (or wish) to use OSM. Sections and groups will still pay for and renew their licenses as usual, using a discount code.

This means that we will NOT be providing OSM to all sections and will NOT be increasing the county levy.

Districts and the county will NOT have access to section OSM accounts or any personal data and there will be no need to change any existing OSM accounts.

After the next County Executive Meeting more details will be circulated to all members on how we will roll this out.

YOU are the County

Over the past 12 months we've seen a remarkable number of people get involved in helping deliver county activities, events, competitions and training.

We have just under a 100 county training advisors providing support across 14 districts – and most of those people have taken this on in addition to their local roles in their groups and districts.

We now have an incredible 192 members of various county scout active support units – more than 10% of our leaders in the county – many of whom are members of more than one SASU.

That's a great resource to help deliver adventurous activities and events to our membership, provide first aid support, raise the media profile of scouting but also provide diversity and inclusion support and help develop facilities at Moor House (check out <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/about-us/county-active-support/> if you'd like to know more about



Matty and Ryan - members of the County Executive Committee - just two of the volunteers who made this year's Monopoly Run possible

joining a county scout active support unit).

More impressively, we're now starting to see new teams come together to 'own' and deliver competitions. We had a great team of almost 20 adults and young leaders come together to deliver the rebooted Dryburn Cup and Vaux Ambulance Shield and earlier in the spring people rallied round at short notice to support

the Outward Bound selection event.

Volunteers from Gateshead district organised and ran the county Explorer Scout bubble football competition and volunteers from our smallest district – Seaham and District – took on the running of our biggest yet county Monopoly Run event and they did a fantastic job (they've volunteered again for next year).

It's also noticeable that some districts and groups are working together more closely, sharing ideas, resources time and volunteers – it's how scouting should be.

"The County" isn't just the County Executive Committee, County Team and staff – it's all of us, helping one another to deliver bigger and better activities and events to more than 6,000 young people and supporting one another when we need help.

When we work together, everyone achieves more – we are all part of the scouting TEAM!



"Slimer" came along for just a couple of hours to judge the cooking at this year's Dryburn Cup

County Update



David Stokes

County Commissioner

cc@durhamscouts.org.uk

There are a lot of exciting things going on and there's never a time when we're not busy in Durham Scouts. We're now well into our busy summer period with lots of camps, competitions, expeditions and adventures going on.

There are plenty of exciting, fun and challenging things happening for our young people and I really enjoy catching up with our youth members.

Over the last three months I've been to Windsor to recognise the achievements of our latest Queen's Scout Award recipients (pictured) and St Georges Day Award recipients (congratulations once again to Anne Gordon and Adam Wilson on the award of the Silver Acorn).

I was fortunate to help at the 'rebooted' scout section Dryburn Camping Cup and Vaux Ambulance Shield competitions, which were highly enjoyed by the scouts who took part and also those adults who came along and supported the event. These competitions are 100 years old next year and it's great to see them given a new lease of life.

I was also at the cub scout Pete Swinney competition to see hundreds of our cubs having a fantastic day and it was a pleasure to present the trophies and county neckerchiefs for all these competitions.

I've also been getting out and about and involved in some of the exciting things that have been going on, including a night under the stars during the Outward Bound selection event bivouac and abseiling from the Middlesbrough transporter bridge to help raise funds for next year's international trips.

I attended the media workshop organised by the county Media SASU and as you can see from the quality of some of the photos, the increased media coverage and increasing presence on social media, the media team are doing a great job.

As you can read above, it's also an exciting time with the launch of our new branding and the new "Skills for Life" strategy and I'm really looking forward to working

with everyone in completing the new county development plan.

While the new "Skills for Life" strategy is important, it's also important to recognise that different groups and districts are at different stages in their development plans.

That's why we're building a county development plan that is top down in leveraging the "Skills for Life" initiatives, but which is also bottom up in understanding and supporting the specific development needs of our groups and districts.

The next five years are going to be a really interesting and exciting time for Durham Scouts.

Financial Support

I often hear from leaders that our young people sometimes struggle to pay for activities and events (especially international opportunities) and from time to time we hear about groups who need some financial support to help develop local scouts.

It's therefore disappointing when we have so few applications for financial support from the county.



Congratulations to Sarah and Matthew - our latest Queen's Scouts



Proving that you're never too old for fun and adventure and never lose those "Skills for Life"

There are a number of grants available from the scout county, to support local scouting and participation in defined events and activities. These are:

- **County Commissioner's Fund** - to assist those in financial hardship to participate in scouting (up to 50% funding, up to £250 per person per year)
- **International Fund** - to provide financial support for those taking part in defined international opportunities
- **Development Grants** - to fund your 'Bright Ideas', intended to support the development of local Scouting (loans and grants available for various development ideas)

If your young people – or group – could benefit, check out the [County Grants](#) page on the website for more details.

Growth and Development



Hayley Robertson

Deputy County Commissioner (Growth & Development)

growth@durhamscouts.org.uk

Youth Investment Fund Project

The Youth Investment Fund (YIF) project is now starting to show some really positive results:

- New activity programmes (including on-site activities at Moor House, the delivery of activities at scout troops and explorer scout units and off-site climbing, hill walking and gorge walking activities) are now available
- June will see the opening of the new 'tented village' at Moor House Adventure Centre, allowing new

sections and members to camp even before they acquire their own equipment (also available to other sections in the county)

- The new YIF minibus is on the road, helping young people from Darlington and Sunderland access activities (also available to hire by other sections/groups in the county – see below)
- Open 'taster' events are being held, with more Cubs and Scouts joining existing scout groups
- We're in the final stages of opening our first new Scout and Explorer Scout sections

With two years of growth and development to go, we're starting to see a real impact in the delivery of more scouting for 10 to 18 year olds in Darlington and Sunderland Districts.

By working with other members of the Regional Services Team we're also helping the beaver and cub scout sections to grow, to ensure long term success of the project.

As we move into year two of the project we'll be recruiting a fund raiser to help Darlington and Sunderland districts identify additional sources of funding to help with the purchase of equipment and the on-going delivery of programmes and we also expect to identify other grants and funding that other groups and districts can access.

New County Minibus

To allow our youth members easier access to activities at Moor House Adventure Centre and to adventures offsite, the YIF project has purchased new 17-seater minibus complete with telescopic wheelchair ramps and 4 point wheelchair restraints.

It still needs to be branded (we waited until the new branding was launched) but is already being put to good use.

Groups in Darlington and Sunderland can hire the bus for just £10 per day, and other groups and sections in the county can hire the bus for £50 per day, plus the cost of fuel.

If you need a minibus for your next camp or expedition, take a look on the county website for more details

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/yif-minibus/>



The new county YIF minibus - available for all groups to hire

Growth Champions

The official census figures have now been released and we are 'growth champions' once again – now in our 13th consecutive year of growth in the county. We now have more than 6,000 youth members and just under 2,200 adult volunteers (including

occasional helpers) and our growth over the last five years is double the national average.

We can however do more to reduce our waiting lists and deliver #skillsforlife to even more young people in Darlington, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and County Durham.

Working with the Regional Services Team we can help you to address your waiting list challenges by helping to:

- Open 'missing sections' (in groups with no beaver colony, cub pack of scout troop)
- Open new sections in popular groups ('Grow your Group')
- Recruit new members and adult volunteers to small sections (those with fewer than 12 young people)

If you'd like to provide scouting to even more young people locally and you have a local champion who will work with us, please get in touch with growth@durhamscouts.org.uk to talk about a project.



Youth numbers in Durham Scouts are still 'on the up'

County Development Plan

Following the county development conference (see above) the County Executive Committee and County team will work together to develop an updated County Development Plan.

This will consist of

- Strategic initiatives, to address the priorities that came out of the development conference (including initiatives from the national "Skills for Life" strategic plan and your local needs)
- Operational actions, which are intended to make life simpler for everyone and make our everyday scouting more effective

The draft plan will be shared with District Commissioners for local review before being approved by the County Executive Committee, who will be accountable for the implementation of the plan.

Youth Shaped Scouting



Mark Ireland

County Youth Commissioner

youth@durhamscouts.org.uk

As part of the new county development plan we're putting together an updated youth shaped strategy for the county.

We've come a long way since the county youth team was formed eighteen months ago and compared to the national picture, districts have been doing a good job appointing District Youth Commissioners.

A number of districts still don't have a youth commissioner and we're very happy to help with the process of helping define the role and identifying good candidates.

Among the things we'll be looking to include in the youth shaped development plan are:

- Increase youth engagement through the appropriate use of social media
- More effective youth forums at district and county level
- Ensure a youth shaped presence at all major county events
- Improve support to leaders in the planning and delivery of youth shaped programmes
- Improve support to 18-25 year old trustees in the county

If you'd like more support to make your section, group or district more #youthshaped just drop us a line.

attending (out of more than 1,600 in the county).

Thanks to all of the leaders, events team members and other supporters who made it possible – it's not easy organising an event of this scale and everyone does a great job of pulling it off – thank you.

You'll soon be able to see photos from the event at the county Flickr account at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/96869182@N06/>

Beaver Scouts



BEAVERS

Paul Woods

ACC (Beaver Scouts)

beavers@durhamscouts.org.uk

Beaver Picnic

By the time you read this, the 2018 Beaver Picnic will just about be over (9th June), with more than 500 of our beaver scouts

Calling All Beaver Leaders...

Don't forget that there's a beaver scout leader's meeting at Moor House at 7pm on Wednesday 5th September - all Colony leaders



Great weather and great fun at this year's Beaver Picnic

are welcome to have their say on county events and share ideas on how to make our beaver programmes even more fun, adventurous, exciting and challenging.

Remember that we also have our own 'secret' group on Facebook where we can share ideas, discuss issues and ask one another questions

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/143786182977770/>)

Cub Scouts

Aha! We've finally managed to get a photograph of Lesley, but it took a couple of attempts!



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



14th Washington Beavers having fun at the Beaver Picnic

Pete Swinney Competition

12th May saw another great Pete Swinney competition at Moor House Adventure Centre, with some amazing challenges and activities.

Feedback from our VIP's (our wonderful cubs) has been excellent and everyone seemed to have had a great time!

Congratulations to the team from 1st Wolsingham who won the competition this year and thank you to everyone who help plan prepare and deliver the event.

FW Dunn Photography Competition – New Closing Date

Leaders have told us that they need a little more time to submit entries due to extremely busy calendars

We have therefore extended the deadline for entries to 13th July 2018..

Please remember to send your entries – on the theme of 'Our Adventure' (see last newsletter for details) - to

cubs@durhamscouts.org.uk

More Beaver Competitions

At the recent county development conference it was clear that there is a demand for more beaver scout events and competitions.

We're already looking for a suitable venue for a beaver scouts climbing event, but what else would your beaver scouts like to do?

Why not ask them and drop me a line to let me know, or come to the meeting on 5th September.



The low ropes course - just one of the challenges at this year's Pete Swinney competition

Cubboree



Remember Cubboree 2016?

This year we'll have even more cub scouts attending in 2018!

Cubboree returns on 22nd-24th June this year, for another fun-packed weekend with a great atmosphere, great activities and more than 1,000 Cubs and leaders camping under canvas!

It will be a weekend full of adventure with a great atmosphere and amazing activities.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!! -

We are very lucky to be welcoming one of the National HQ team to Cubboree, Mark Tarry, Deputy UK Commissioner will be visiting us on Saturday afternoon to see what we are getting up to and to talk to our Leaders and Cubs

Bookings have now closed with a record number attending - we have even exceeded the number we had in the cub centenary year!

It's going to be another fun packed and fantastic weekend and we look forward to seeing you all there!



Deputy UK Chief Commissioner
Mark Tarry will join us at
Cubboree on Saturday afternoon

If you see him please say hello!

Cooper Challenge Cup

This year's Cooper Challenge Cup is on Sunday 9th September. Bookings will be opening soon for this new event, so please keep your eye on social media and your email inboxes.

This has been very successfully trialled for the past two years at Waldridge Fell and we are hoping

to grow it further this year, with the event being held at the National Trust Gibside Estate, on the border of Derwentside and Blaydon districts.

The competition will take the form of an incident hike for Cubs, navigating around the grounds on a set course, completing challenges and problem solving on the way.

The competition will cover many aspects of the Cub Challenge badges, particularly around the Our Adventure challenge.

We will also need help to run the competition so if you would like to help out please let us know!

Calling All Cub Leaders

Don't forget that there's a cub scout leaders meeting at Moor House at 7pm on Wednesday 5th September - all Pack leaders are invited to come along to have your say on county events. You can also share ideas on how to make cub scout programmes more adventurous, exciting and challenging.

Remember that 'Durham County Cub Leaders' is a closed Facebook group and has been created so that Cub leaders can share ideas, ask for help and advice and keep up to date on Cub events taking place each year. We look forward to seeing you there -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/327518474321762/>

Finally, don't forget that the Cubs Team is always here to help and support. Any questions just ask and please share your activities on our Facebook page, we would love to see what you've been getting up to!

Scouts



Dryburn Cup / Vaux Ambulance Shield

Back in May we held the Dryburn Cup camping competition and the Vaux Ambulance Shield first aid competitions, in a new format which combined the events in a single weekend.

The idea was to retain the best ideas of these competitions but to update the format to make them more fun for the scouts taking part, and to ensure that the camping standards and first aid skills were relevant to the 21st

century – making sure that we are developing real #skillforlife

Scout troops competed over the weekend and were judged on the layout of their camp site, pitching their tents and use of their own equipment, kitchen layout, food hygiene, menus, cooking and camp gadgets.

There is now more emphasis on team working with fun team challenges thrown in to the mix as well as a great camp fire in the Saturday night.

A number of the teams had practiced camping in the previous

weeks and a good standard was shown by all Patrols.

The Vaux Ambulance Shield has now moved out of the hall at Moor House and onto the camp site and surrounding countryside, with teams having to deal with scenarios include a road traffic collision, bodies in a tree and a very uncooperative county commissioner with heat stroke!

Both competitions were supported by a brilliant team of adult leaders and young leaders who had a great time.

All of the teams are keen to return in 2019, which will be 100 years since these two competitions were first held.

Make sure that your Scout Troops are part of the fun next year and keep your eye open for details of the 100th Anniversary competitions.



Team building challenges are now a significant part of the Dryburn Cup competition - teaching and testing #skillsforlife



Simulated car crashes and loud 1980's music were among the challenges in this year's Vaux Ambulance Shield

award expeditions on the new date numbers were down on the previous year.

However, the new venue at Barny Beck worked out very well and everyone had a great time.

Thanks to the Events and Activities teams for planning and delivering another great competition.

Outward Bound Selection

This year's selection for the Outward Bound "Skills for Life" was completed the weekend after the postponed Geoffrey Gordon

Calling All Scout Leaders...

Don't forget that there's a scout leader's meeting at Moor House at 7pm on Wednesday 5th September - all Troop leaders are welcome and new faces are beginning to appear at these meetings.

We discuss scout troop programme ideas, plan county competitions, and are ensuring that we cover as much badge work as possible e.g. each scout attending this year's Dryburn Cup and Vaux Ambulance Shield practically covered the outdoor challenge badge, Stage 3 Emergency Aid, gained nights away and much more.

Remember that we also have our own group on Facebook where almost 150 of us share ideas, discuss issues and ask one another questions
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163235637520159/>)

Explorer Scouts



EXPLORERS

Scott Doughty

ACC (Explorer Scouts)

explorers@durhamscouts.org.uk

As the summer holidays are fast approaching it's been a busy time for explorer scouting across the county.

Not only have we had great growth (numbers up 10% in the last year) but we also have more young people embarking on great activities within Durham county and we have had more and more top awards achieved locally across the county.

A massive thank you to all the explorer scout leaders across the county for delivering what you do so well.

Geoffrey Gordon Cup

This year's Geoffrey Gordon Cup was delayed due to snow and because a number of the original teams were undertaking planned

Cup and this year's six participants have been selected and places booked.

I hope they thoroughly enjoy the three weeks course later in the summer.

A massive thank you to those at the Sir John Priestman Charity Trust and the Outward Bound Trust for making this opportunity available at no cost to our six fantastic young people (each of these truly life changing courses is worth around £1,600).

Thanks to everyone who turned up a short notice from across the county to help with the selection event which again included a evening/night hike, an overnight bivouac in the woods at Moor House, climbing, team challenges and an interview.



This year's Monopoly Run was a crazy as ever, with plenty of unusual challenges

Thank You – Monopoly Run and Bubble Football

A huge thanks go to Seaham district for running the Monopoly Run which was well attended by a record 22 Explorer Scout and Scout Network teams.

The bubble football competition has also been a success this year thanks to the organising team

from Gateshead and will continue again next year, where we are hoping to have a county trophy available to make this popular event a permanent fixture in the explorer scout calendar.

Explorer Belt Expedition in 2021

As well as these activities - which we hope will always run - I have

now begun the process of organising a county Explorer Belt Expedition for 2021 and have a team helping from all corners of the county.

This is the natural progression for those Explorer Scouts who achieve their Queen's Scout Award at an early age, (although you don't need to have your Queen's Scout Award to take part and you can also join us as a Scout Network member – see details of the award here -> <https://members.scouts.org.uk/explorerbelt>)

If you'd like your Explorer Scouts (or Network members) to have the opportunity to take part and would like to help with the organisation please get in touch.



Explorer Scout Camp – February 2019

In the next few weeks we're also going to open bookings for the first county camp open exclusively for Explorer Scouts. This will be in February 2018 at Great Tower in the Lake District, so please keep an eye open for details.

Tall Ships

Finally (almost), the tall ships crew are all sorted and ready to sail under the leadership of Captain Scott Sparrow.

We have a very able crew who will be blogging etc on the county



The county Explorer Scout Bubble Football competition came down to an exciting and unusual penalty shootout



Captain 'Scott Sparrow' and Matty will be leading the County Explorer Scout crew in this year's Tall Ships leg from Stavanger to Harlingen

Young Leaders



Iain Wood

ACC (Young Leaders)
yl@durhamscouts.org.uk

New ACC (Young Leaders)

At the recent county development conference support for the young leader scheme was seen as the third highest priority and it is important that we build capacity for this brilliant scheme,

which is so important for the future of scouting.

Nominations have closed for the appointment of additional ACCs (Young Leaders) to work alongside Iain Wood and help develop the scheme in the county.

Young Leader Active Support Unit

To allow more effective coordination of the young leader scheme across the county and to ensure even better support for our young leaders, we are in the final stages of setting up a Young Leader Scout Active Support Unit.

This will be open to anyone supporting young leaders – YL Unit Leaders, YL trainers and adult section leaders working with young leaders.

October YL Training Weekend

Please remember that bookings are now open for the next county

Facebook page and uploading to the county website via the county media team for everyone to see how we're doing.

As well as this we'll also provide a link to the tracking system so you can see where exactly in the race we are, so please do have a look and show your support.

And defiantly finally I would like to thank all the leaders in the county for all their help. If it was not for you delivering great explorer scouting locally and helping with all these other opportunities we would not be able to deliver these great #skillsforlife to our young people. I am extremely proud of all our leaders and of our young people, so a massive thank you from me to all of you.



October's Young Leader Training weekend promises to be a lot of fun!

young leader training weekend, on 12-14th October 2018.

These courses are always full (which is why we're running a second one this year) and places can be booked at <https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/for-members/young-leaders/>

We suggest you book before the summer holidays to secure places.

New Resources and a New Module

May 2018 saw a number of changes to the young leader scheme – updated resources, some revisions to a number of modules (A, F, G, H and I) and a new Module J.

Based on feedback the young leader logbook has been changed to make it less expensive.

The new module J is all about communication and you can find details of the new resources and the revised and new module at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/2628/resources-to-support-the-scheme?cat=9,98&moduleID=10>

Scout Network



network

David Holmes

ACC (Scout Network)

network@durhamscouts.org.uk

Membership of the various district Scout Networks across the county continues to grow and there are a number of great activities going on.

National Gathering

There was a good number of Scout Network members from our various district Scout Networks at the national Network Gathering at Great Tower over the Easter Weekend which had a spies / secret agents theme.

The feedback is that everyone had a great weekend and it's hoped that even more network members from Durham will attend next year.

Monopoly Run

The Scout Network was also well represented in this year's Monopoly Run, with a record 22 teams entered this year (the event is open to Scout Network and combined Explorer Scout and

Scout Network teams)

Next year's event should hopefully be even bigger with more teams from Northumberland Scout County.

Network Quiz

A reminder for all over 18's (not just Scout Network members) that the County Network Quiz is scheduled for 21st July, 19:00 at the Chesters, Sunderland.

Water Activities Camp

We are still looking at the possibility of a regional water-based camp later in the year.

And Finally...

Can I also remind all Scout Network members that they should inform their District Scout Network Commissioner of any and all activities that they are planning as network activities (this does not include youth programme activities where Scout Network members are also

section leaders or occasional helpers).

Finally, please do remember to share details of your activities and ideas via the County Facebook Group so that people can attend cross boundary activities (<https://www.facebook.com/DurhamScoutNetwork>).

Active Support

/activesupport

Victoria Pelling

ACC (Scout Active Support)

sasu@durhamscouts.org.uk

A new section for the newsletter and a new member of the county team.

Victoria Pelling joins the team as ACC (Scout Active Support), with a role to support those groups and districts who want help in setting up Scout Active Support Units (SASUs).

As we're finding in the county, Scout Active Support Units are the ideal way to organise and coordinate those leaders and supporters who have common interests in supporting some aspect of scouting.

This can be as a general SASU supporting a scout group by maintaining a building, helping to raise funds or helping organise a group camp. It could be a more specialised SASU, helping look after a district camp site, or delivering practical skills training in the district – as long as there is a Service Agreement defining what needs doing and as long as the members are active – it's a SASU!

Adult membership costs nothing and the advantage of joining a SASU is that long service and good service can be recognised.

If you think that your group or district would benefit from setting up a SASU, or if you have questions about the way an existing SASU or organised and run, contact Victoria for some advice.

Planning for Cubboree is just about finalised, and we're already thinking about the county awards in September (see below).

Bookings for Confido will open within the next few days and we'd like all Durham scout troops and explorer scout units to book before the exclusive Durham Scouts cut-off date.

Keep an eye on your email inboxes and county social media for when bookings open.

Awards 2018

Remember that nominations for the county awards day (15th September at the Xcel Centre) are open until late July. You have until then to register your young people for a presentation experience they'll never forget.

Events



Ian Hammond

ACC (Events)

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As this year's county satisfaction survey shows, large county events are considered very important in the county and they are also rated very highly by our members.

We're well into the busy period of the year and by mid-June the county Events Team have delivered or supported:

- The postponed Geoffrey Gordon Cup
- The Pete Swinney Competition
- The County Development Conference
- Beaver Picnic

See

<https://www.durhamscouts.org.uk/events/awards-2018/> for details.

New Mobile Stage

It may not be brand new, but it's new to us and it's been serviced and rebranded. By 'it' we mean a mobile stage which South Tyneside local authority no longer needed.

This will allow us to easily set up a small stage at events such as the Beaver Picnic, Big Day Out etc (see photograph), but because it's also trailer based it can be



The new Events Team mobile stage makes it's venue at the Beaver Picnic

taken out into the community, used for recruitment events etc.

If you'd like to enquire about using the mobile stage (including the licence and vehicle requirements to tow it) please get in touch.

If you just want to learn basic navigation for low level (Terrain 0) walks or for personal satisfaction why not just come on the next Navigation Introduction. Day,

The next course is on 14th October 2018 and if you're interested get in touch.

Activities



Stephen Ramsay

ACC (Activities)

activities@durhamscouts.org.uk

Hillwalking Courses

Course No.112 is at Chesters and is on 26th – 28th October 2018.

It includes a wild camping nights away permit endorsement for leaders helping with DofE and QSA expeditions.

If you don't need a wild camping permit there are a limited number of indoor places available on the course for those people who just want to gain a T1 permit but do not need the wild camping endorsement.

Archery

Note that the old scout factsheet has been changed and now has a link to Archery GB information.

The main difference is that **the MINIMUM SHOOTING DISTANCE FROM LINE TO TARGET MUST BE MINIMUM 10 metres**, with no encroachment whatsoever.

Please re-measure your range to be sure.

If beavers cannot reach a target at 10m then they should be taught to loft the arrows in the same way

an adult would if shooting from a lot further away. This is achievable with equipment of the correct size and poundage.

Note that the next archery course is No. 7 and is on the weekend of 29th and 30th September 2018.

Climbing

Simonside, Sunderland and ROF59 (Newton Aycliffe) walls are all scout friendly and have a list of leaders with first aid certificates, belaying permits and a copy of Scout Insurance Certificate.

Adventurous Activity Permits are accepted at these centres and they allow you to belay in these centres.

Remember that there is also a great discount scheme for ROF59 and if you aren't taking advantage of this please contact me.

The County Activities Team are considering using ROF59 to offer coaching for the Climbers Badge - with a view to eventually converting to traditional climbing outdoors.

This will involve a commitment of any young person - and also of their leader(s) - to accompany them, but before planning anything we need to know who is that keen... drop me a line if your young people are interested.

Water

As you'll see from the front page, there's now more water activities going on, but you need to tell me what activities you require - if I don't know I can't facilitate it.

We have a growing number of water activity instructors and assessors on the activity team willing to help so please let us

know what water activities your young people want.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We currently have 37 expeditions on the go this year already and plenty of expedition assessors. Award completion rates are running just above 50% and I am proud you are upholding standards in scouting.



We have a lot of ward expeditions in the county - and a great team of supervisors and assessors

I am however still frustrated by section leaders assessing the volunteer section of the award not checking evidence of YL Award Module completions on to the eDofE system.

Please coordinate with district young leader unit leaders to ensure that details of applicable training are known and recorded on eDofE. Failure to do this will inevitably delay the completion of the awards.

Creative – County Gang Show

The County Executive Committee have approved the idea of a

county gang show in principle, but we need to ensure that we have enough young people involved to make it viable.

The idea is to plan some creative/performance activities in the next few years. Derwentside district are planning a show which will be open to all, we'll plan some activities for 2019 and the Durham2020 will provide plenty of opportunities for performance activities.

The hope is that we would have 80 to 100 young people interested in a large county wide show, with the potential for a show in 2021.

International



Dave Russell

ACC (International)

international@durhamscouts.org.uk

ACC (International) Dave Russell is off on a community

development project in Uganda at the moment (supported by some funding from the county international fund), but there's plenty of international action at the moment.

Also heading to Africa to support community projects are a group of leaders from Crook and Weardale District.

Roverway 2018



Roverway 2018 is from 23rd July to 2nd August and we're delighted to be sharing three full patrols with Northumberland Scout County.

We wish our Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members a fantastic time in the Netherlands.

Tall Ships Are Go!

Also ready to head off at the end of June are our Tall Ships crew who are competing in the Norway (Stavanger) to Netherlands

(Harlingen) leg of the 2018 tall Ships race.

They're sailing aboard the Ocean Youth Trust's James Cook and you can track them in the race at <http://tallships.org/connect-with-us/fleet-tracker/>

Visits Abroad

We also have a number of groups and districts heading overseas this summer with a party from Derwentside and Darlington Districts heading to France, and a large contingent from Blaydon District heading to Adalboden in Switzerland.

If you'd like to know more about how to take your young people abroad, just drop us a line.



Durham IST members join the North East Region IST at their first preparation camp

Jamboree Preparation

Both of our Jamboree Units are well on with their preparation for next year's adventure to the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia.

There have already been a number of training camps and fundraising events and the

leaders and young people from all over the county are coming together nicely.



Can you guess which of our two Jamboree Unit this is?

Members of the International Service Team (IST) have been selected and have already attended their first IST weekend at the start of June.

Diversity and Inclusion



May James & Nat Hayler
ACCs (Diversity & Inclusion)
diversity.inclusion@durhamscouts.org.uk



Thanks to everyone who came to the country development conference and provided feedback on the support you need in the important area of diversity and inclusion – which remains a strategic priority under the “Skills for Life” 2018 – 2023 national strategy.

As we update the county development plan we’ll be putting actions plans together which help implement our national strategy and which help meet local needs.

Diversity and Inclusion Support Information

Back in April everyone should have received an email providing links to various diversity and inclusion support materials which are available on the Scouts website.

These can help everyone to understand our equal opportunities policy and how to make reasonable adjustments for those members with additional needs.

You can find all of that information under the heading

“Scouting for All” in the members area of the scouts.org.uk website, or just use the link

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search?cat=377>

Why not take a look at how you’re section or group is doing with respect to inclusivity and complete the RAG (red, amber,

green) assessment you’ll find at https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=377_890

If you have any questions or concerns on what we are required to do to meet both our legal obligations and the requirements of our equal opportunities policy, or if you have a specific need to consider the needs of an individual please get in touch. We can either help you directly or put you in touch with and we’ll help you.

Northern Pride

We will once again be attending Northern Pride 2018 – which is on 21st July and which will again be held in Newcastle.

Last year’s event was a great day for those who are happy to show their support for diversity and inclusion in all forms. There was a great group of scouters and some young people from Northumberland and Durham counties and great support for the Scouts.

The pride parade and events are open to all and we will once again be welcoming all adults and our older youth members to join us in the pride parade, proudly sharing the message that scouting is open to all, and supporting those who believe in diversity and inclusion.

We hope to see even more of you there this year, so please look out for emails and on county social media for more information in the next few weeks.



Come and join us for a great day out at Northern Pride 2018

Safeguarding



Sheila Gibbon

Safeguarding Coordinator

safeguarding@durhamscouts.org.uk

(Note: Please use the above e-mail address for general safeguarding queries only.

Report all safeguarding issues or concerns direct to your DC, not to the above e-mail address).

Safeguarding Training

With a change to the rules which provides more flexibility on the training of safeguarding trainers, we're pleased to share that we have appointed additional safeguarding trainers in the county.

Although there is some flexibility about how safeguarding refresher training is delivered, there is no substitute for the discussions that take place during face-to-face safeguarding training and the ability to ask specific questions.

It can also be useful to attend a face-to-face safeguarding training within the first five years of appointment and you don't have to wait until mandatory retraining is due.

We're looking to run another face-to-face safeguarding training session in September so please get in touch if you'd like or need to attend.

We'd like to progress to the stage where every district has access to a local safeguarding trainer, but in the interim we will continue to provide local safeguarding training on request. If your district would like a safeguarding course running, please also get in touch

Yellow Cards

Although they were due to be available in early May, we still do not have a specific date from HQ when the updated 'Young People First' yellow cards will be available from the Scout Store (the new name for Scout Shops).

In the meantime, please continue to use stocks of the previous versions of the yellow card

(Version 5 – 2012, or version 6 – 2018 if you have it.)

If you have any questions in understanding the differences between the various versions please get in touch.

Useful Information

Remember that you can access useful safeguarding resources, links and the latest updates on the safeguarding page on the county website, including:

- Links to useful websites
- Downloadable resources
- Programme activities and badges supporting keeping young people safe
- Useful reports
- Advice on internet and other, new technology safety including Internet Safety Day
- Safeguarding newsletters (local and national)

Just use the link

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



Adult Training



Justine Torrance
County Training Manager
training@durhamscouts.org.uk

Adult Training Changes

As part of the new "Skills for Life" 2018 – 2013 national strategy, Scout HQ have committed to changing section leader training, with the objectives of making it simpler, with a greater emphasis on practical skills and supporting leaders to plan and deliver great programmes with confidence and competence.

This is a priority under the national strategy, but it will take some time prepare and roll out a revised training scheme.

At the recent county development day, you rated adult training as our second highest priority in the county.

Although we need to wait until the details of the new national training scheme are announced before making any changes to content, we need to improve the way we are delivering the existing training scheme to our volunteers.

Starting in 2019, we therefore plan to:

- Recruit and train more adult trainers
- Offer more practical skills training, and support districts to do the same
- Offer more key Wood Badge modules, to allow new leaders to gain core skills more quickly

- Provide weekend residential training options
- Support easier access to training options offered by other counties in the north east region
- Implement a new booking system for all adult and youth training, workshops etc.

Wood Badge Training Dates

The remaining Wood Badge dates for 2018 are as follows

- 13th June 2018: **Additional Needs (note that this training is for learning purposes only - there is currently no national Module 36 and this training cannot currently be validated)**
- 20th June 2018: Module 14 - **Supporting Young People**
- 3rd July 2018: Module 16 - **Introduction to Residential Experiences**
- 15th September 2018: Module 13/21 - **Growing the Section / Movement** (Leaders and Managers/Supporters)

Book Durham Training Now

- 15th September 2018: Module 7 - **Scouting for All**
- 24th September 2018: Module 11 – **Administration**
- 18th October 2018: Module 19 – **International**

Governance (Trustee) Support

Trustee Support Meeting

Our next governance (trustee) support meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 19th October.

These meetings are intended for all district chairs, treasurers and secretaries to attend, so that important matters of charity law and scout association rules can be shared and discussed.

It is hoped that districts will then hold similar meetings with group chairs, treasurers and secretaries (some already do) and that these good practices can be passed along.

The main topics on the agenda for the October meeting will be

- Charity reporting requirements, including looking at annual reports and accounts, the use of pro-forma templates, reporting to the Charity Commission and reporting within scouting.
- The roles and responsibilities of trustees, including the extent of automatic trustee insurance provided by the Scouts

If you have anything you'd like to add to the agenda, please let us know

Trustee Recording on Compass

Can we remind you that as well as completing Module 01E, all group and district trustees (executive committee members) should have their appropriate roles recorded on Compass.

Chairs, treasurers and secretaries should have these roles recorded. Section leaders, who must opt to be members of the applicable executive committee (section leaders are no longer automatically members of the group executive committee), should have the 'executive committee member' role added to their records as should all parents, supporters etc and Module 01E training completion should be added to these roles.

Note that ex-officio members (as defined in Policy, Organisation and Rules e.g. GSL, DC, DESCs, DSNCs, Youth Commissioners) do not need to have the executive committee roles added.

GDPR Compliance

The new General Data Protection Regulation became enforceable in 25th May.

Updated resources from Scout HQ (updated May 3rd) are available at

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=55,88>

If you still have queries and concerns about data protection, drop us a line and we'll provide some practical support wherever we can.

More Useful Information

For those who missed the spring edition of the newsletter, can we remind you that it contained useful information on:

- Trustee support from Scout HQ
- Executive Committee member training
- Trustee recruitment and diversity

Moor House Adventure Centre

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

info@moor-house.org.uk

(0191) 584 1703



Moor House has been increasingly busy over the past few months and we're pleased to say that in 2017-18 the centre generated a financial surplus.

As a charity we are expected to reinvest any surplus in the work of the charity. Part of this surplus will be used to fund some new developments and activities at the site (watch this space for news) and some will support the general work of the scout county.

Remember that Moor House Adventure Centre is YOUR county activity centre and can help you to deliver great programme for your young people including:

- Indoor and camping residentials (why not join

- with another section to reduce costs?)
- Tailored activity days delivered by qualified instructors
- Self-led activities (all activities at Moor House can be led by leaders with appropriate skills, permits or qualifications)
- Badge-in-a-box courses, delivering scout badges and award programmes to your young people.

We continue to make Moo House Adventure Centre to easy option for you and to make activities at Moor House Adventure Centre even more attractive to our members we have introduced more flexibility to groups sizes for self-led activities.



[Come and take the Leap of Faith on THE CUBE at Moor House Adventure Centre](#)

Remember – Moor House Adventure Centre is owned and operated by Durham Scouts – all activities are provided to our members at cost, meaning you'll always get great service and the lowest prices around.