



## State of readiness to return to face-to-face Scouting is currently RED

**This means:**

**Digital programme delivery only**

## Welcome to Ben

My name is Ben Fountain and I will be taking on the role as your new County Youth Commissioner.

I am 21, from East Cleveland and come from a family of Scouts and Leaders. I have been a Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer, Young Leader, Assistant Section Leader, Explorer Scout Leader, District Youth Representative and District Youth Commissioner. I started Beavers in Marske before moving to Cubs in Guisborough, where I stayed until now.

My job within the County is simple - to support all our volunteers and young people. I aim to build a team that will champion, encourage and develop youth leadership at all levels. A team that will help to retain and grow membership numbers across the County. And a team that will support leaders to encourage badge work, and offer advice to make a leader's life easier – "because being a grown up shouldn't mean you have to miss out on all the fun"-scouts.org.uk.

I look forward to working closely with you all.

Ben Cleveland County Youth Commissioner

## Winter Camp 2021

Scouting has many different guises and aims, but for us we wanted Wintercamp to be an experience of engagement and inspiration for our son.

Initially Saturday morning was greeted with the indifference of a 10 about to turn 11 year old, until the Wintercamp itinerary was divulged. Was that Science and Engineering? Did you just say Raspberry Pi? Do you mean the real Red Arrows?

After some chores and errands the Scout of our house settled down in front of the PC to watch an engineering segment, building towers and something including pens and a plastic cup. "Dad is that the engineering you did?" came the question. It sparked a conversation, although brief, of what did you do before becoming a teacher? Maybe he now has some understanding why I try and fix things before reluctantly retiring them.

Then streaming out of the sky smoke billowing behind came the Red Arrows. Our Scout was transfixed by the documentary followed by a talk by the lead pilot. Lots of "wows!" and "How do they do that?!" emanated from an astounded Scout.

Then came some lunch swiftly followed by a bit of Raspberry Pi. No not some sweet dessert but a small, very versatile, and code-able computer. The Raspberry Pi Foundation encouraging our Scouts to get involved with The ESA Astro-Pi challenge. Follow along and start coding was the order of the day.

So did Wintercamp engage and inspire, well it did in our house. Thank you Wintercamp Team 2021.

Lisa and Kevin Storer



# County Commissioners Corner

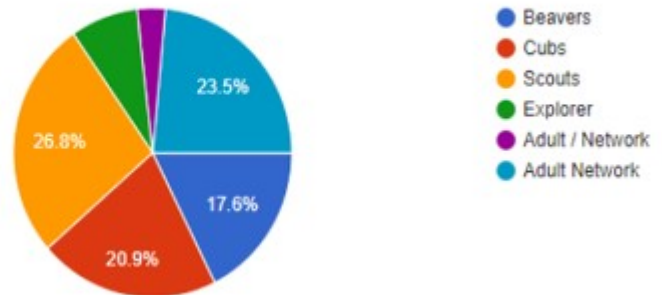


Thank you to all those who took the time to complete the County survey regarding restructuring of the county. Your honest feedback and thoughts have been extremely helpful in giving a flavour for what Scouting in Cleveland may look like in the future. The headlines are attached below. For a more detailed feedback, see the County website.

Having discussed it with the County Exec, we have decided to pause discussions and planning until Autumn 21. In this way, we can review Census in January and September to assess membership numbers and hopefully by then we will be well on the way to getting back to 'Green' and a return to full Scouting activities.

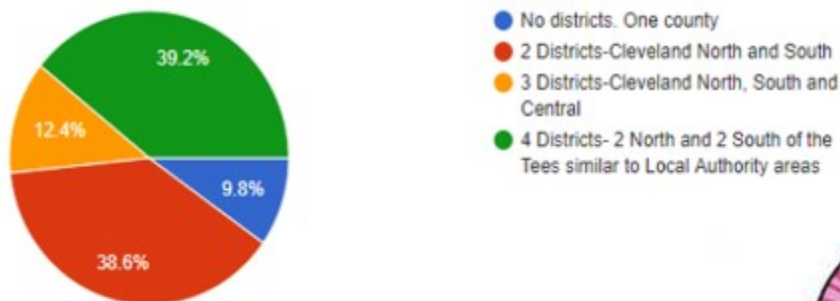
## Section

153 responses



Having seen the presentation for options for Cleveland Scouts 2021 and beyond, which option would you think is best?

153 responses



## Well Done Card Design

There are a lot of people in Cleveland who are doing great things for Scouting within the Cleveland area and the County Team would like to be able to say thank you in the form of a Thank You Card.

To show the County Team thanks Andy has launched a competition to create a design for the Thank You card so get you thinking heads on and send your designs to Ian Railton, 1 Surbiton Road, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees or at [dcsections@gmail.com](mailto:dcsections@gmail.com) by Sunday 14th March.

Any medium can be used.



### THANKS

**Thank you to those who have contributed to this months Courier**

# County Activities 2021

Elsewhere in this month's Courier you will find details about our County Calendar Photography Competition for 2022 which is running throughout 2021 and which have been sent out to all Districts and Groups within the County.

## What else are we doing Countywide this year at the moment?

- The **Cleveland Courier** will be published each month to keep over 1,000 volunteers in touch with what is happening in the County and beyond.
- **Face2FaceLIVE** will still go out weekly, hopefully on a Wednesday morning at 11am but that depends upon my work schedule. If you've never watched it before you can catch it on the Cleveland County Scout Leaders Facebook Page and if you can't watch it live you can always watch it later. It regularly has over 100 views each week and it includes:
  - ◆ Thought for the Week
  - ◆ The Scoutmaster Quiz Question
  - ◆ A round up as to what's happening in Cleveland, the region, nationally and sometimes, internationally.
  - ◆ HQ updates are also included
- Termly during 2021, we, the ACCs and I are going to hold **Get2Gethers** on Zoom for each Section for you to join us for a natter and a nibble and an opportunity to find out what is happening locally, regionally and nationally and to ask questions just like we did a year ago with the original Face2Face meetings. We'll circulate the dates via email to your Groups and Districts and back that up with announcements on Facebook, in the Courier and on the website.
- Inspired by the work Middlesbrough District did with the Foodbank last year and the fundraising two Cubs from TVN did then we thought how great it would be for the whole of the County to have the opportunity to take part in the **Random Acts of Kindness Challenge** which we will launch during the Summer holidays in time for you to do some planning for the Autumn Term.
- We have made the decision not to do any **Zoom activities** for the young people at present as this is the main way of delivering your weekly programme at present and now that they, and probably you, are having to spend time doing 'live lessons' at home they – and you – will just become zoomed-out.
- Unfortunately Zooming is our only way of delivering our **Adult Training** at present. I'd just like to thank Phil, Andy, Michael, Helen and Rachel for delivering modules so far. Look out each month for **Adult Training News** on the County website, [www.clevelandscouts.org.uk](http://www.clevelandscouts.org.uk) and in the **Cleveland Courier**.

## HQ's ONLINE PROGRAMME SUPPORT

It's very disappointing that we are back to the RED readiness level until further notice. However, through Scouting, our young people can still meet with their friends, have fun and learn skills for life in an informal environment. **Zoom licenses** are still available for a number of months and HQ's got loads of online programme resources to help us to keep going:

- ◆ A 6-week online programme – PRESS PLAY and GO with videos, guidance and tips and tricks
- ◆ HQ's activities database and your section
- ◆ COVID-19 safe programme ideas – with example risk assessments and information about taking Scouting online.
- ◆ Activities about COVID-19 – inform, empower and mobilise young people around the risks and realities of living in a pandemic.

Ian Railton

Deputy County Commissioner

E: [dccsections@gmail.com](mailto:dccsections@gmail.com)

T: 07854 207126

### Photography Competition

Throughout 2021 the County are holding a monthly themed Photograph Competition open to all Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network members and all adult volunteers! Each month a guest judge will choose a winner and they will win a £10 gift voucher, so its well worth entering!

Then, once we have our 12 winners, we will put the calendars on sale and all profits will go to the County Hardship Fund to support Groups in need of financial support in years to come.

#### THE MONTHLY THEMES

November	Explosions of Colour	May	Local Landmarks
December	Winter Festivals	June	Cooking
January	Frost and Snow	July	Pets
February	Creative	August	Adventure
March	Spring Flowers	September	Black and White
April	St George	October	Weather

Each monthly competition will end on the last day of the month BUT for January we are accepting entries for November, December and January so that we have time at the end of October to produce and sell the calendar.

So, to get you started have a look through any pictures you have taken in November, December and January which match the themes and send them to the following email address by January 31<sup>st</sup> stating your name, section and Group.

[clevelandcalendarcomp@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandcalendarcomp@gmail.com)

Please share this with all members of your Group so that they can participate.

Any questions please direct to: Ian Railton, [dccsections@gmail.com](mailto:dccsections@gmail.com) or 07854207126



# 1st Ingleby Barwick Lockdown Scouts

We had a term of outdoor activities planned for after Christmas, and when we found out we were going to be Zooming until half term at the earliest, we quickly went back to the drawing board. When we are f2f we do the same activity two weeks in a row (as we have split our troop into 2 to keep under 15 kids a night) but since it was all going to be online we had to double the number of activities we needed to come up with. 1st Virtual to the rescue!!

We have had a night playing Among Us (using an instruction video from Scoutadelic), and have booked in two external providers – Shiny Kitchen and the Forensic Experience.

I thoroughly recommend Shiny Kitchen. Zoe is patient and helpful, and knows how to talk to the kids since she is a Cub Leader herself. Also, the session was only £25, which I thought was a bargain compared to some!

We have also been working on some navigation skills and our next session will be split between games, an intro to route cards, and helping Adam find his way back to safety after being abducted by aliens and having his memory wiped. (Never a dull moment here!) To have these all run at the same time we will be using breakout rooms. It really makes our lives easier as you can talk to 6 or 7 kids in a group rather than a full screen of 20+. We tend to have one less breakout room than the number of leaders, so that one leader is using the 'main' room as their breakout room. That means that if someone drops off the call and needs to be readmitted there is a group in the main room when they arrive and no-one is left 1:1 with a child.

Our final session of the half term is going to be a Science Night. Three brave Scout volunteers have stepped forward, and instead of doing a 'cook along' we are going to have a 'science along'. Each scout will have 20 mins to talk the others through a science experiment, with the others doing it along with them. They will then propose a change to the experiment, predict what, if any, change this will make to the outcome, and test their hypothesis.

We are prepared to be still online after Half Term, and have booked in someone to lead a 'make along' for sausage patties and burgers, and a 'trip' to the Welsh Mountain Zoo. We are also working with Phil to try and do a couple of online First Aid lessons using parents/siblings as the 'victims'.

We are all looking forward to having Big Adventures out in the Wide World, but for now we are coping the best we can, nicking good ideas from other people, and coming up with bonkers ones of our own. In some ways nothing has changed!

## Virtual Duck Race

Just to let you know I'll be running a Virtual Duck Race on 19th February at 19:00!

This is to raise vital funds for Raven Gill in what is a very tough climate for the charitable sector.

Details to be confirmed so stay tuned on Social Media to find out how to enter!

Cheers, Stuart. Featherstone



## Shoe boxes

This week Allen and Margaret delivered shoe boxes for the Dragoon Guards who are deployed Mali. The boxes are from cubs and beavers from 18th. Hartlepool

Well done everyone.



# Welcome to 1st Digital Scouts.

For over a century, Scouts have given young people the skills and experiences they need to succeed in life. Now, we're using the power of technology to give even more young people the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to excel.

It has never been more important for young people to be given real opportunities to develop their creative, problem solving, and leadership skills as we prepare them for life in the modern world. That's why we're trying something that's never been done before. We're bringing together a diverse group of volunteers from across the UK to deliver the Scout programme in an entirely new way. We're inviting excellent leaders to put their own unique twist on tested programme ideas to make sure that Scouts continue to be at the forefront of helping young people realise their full potential.

As the UK's first fully online Scout Group we're opening up the Scout programme to anyone of any age, wherever in the country (or world) they are.

With the Digital Scouts platform we're making a bold statement; we believe that to become a more inclusive organisation which makes a bigger impact in our communities we need to be open to making new friends, going new places, and trying new things.

Scouts has never been as important as it is in 2021. As we work to overcome a global pandemic, we need to make sure that young people feel supported and prepared to succeed in a changing world. Through our platform, and thousands of Scout Groups throughout the country, we help young people develop a sense of optimism and strong values as well as the leadership and teamwork skills that are more valuable today than ever.

So, what are you waiting for? This is Scouts as you've never seen it before.

For more information check out [scouts.org](https://scouts.org)

(Taken from [scouts.org](https://scouts.org))



## Do You Know Your Chocolate Answers

- |    |               |    |                 |
|----|---------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Bounty        | 11 | Wispa (Caramel) |
| 2  | Lion          | 12 | Boost           |
| 3  | Mars          | 13 | Snickers        |
| 4  | Milky Way     | 14 | Milky Way       |
| 5  | Double Decker | 15 | Fudge           |
| 6  | Topic         | 16 | Toffee Crisp    |
| 7  | Starbar       | 17 | Chomp           |
| 8  | KitKat        | 18 | Turkish Delight |
| 9  | Yorkie        | 19 | Picnic          |
| 10 | Aero          | 20 | Crunchie        |

## Dark Skies Festival

Check out the Dark Skies Festival for a host of online events to help celebrate the dark skies above the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors -- the UK's two newest International Dark Sky Reserves!

All events are ideal for anyone interested in astronomy, no matter their level of experience. They have got a range of activities aimed at younger astronomers too!

What's more all events are **FREE OF CHARGE!** For a full line up and to book your space see the Go Stargazing website... <https://gostargazing.co.uk/national-parks-dark-skies...>

For more events see the National Parks Dark Skies website: <https://darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk>



# The Highs and Lows of Raven Gill

As you aware Mitch has been keeping an eye on Raven Gill until we can reopen by refurbishing and catching up with jobs around the site. The highs show the refurbishment of the Wardens quarters. The lows being that one day when out at Raven Gill he found that the roof to the entrance in the Jubilee Centre had collapsed. The good news is that it has now been replaced and thanks go to Mitch and all his helpers for their fast work. If Mitch had not been keeping up with the Raven Gill it might not have been found for a long time and more damage could have been caused.



# Can You Help

2nd Billingham Scout Group have a vacancy for a Scout leader.

We are an established but small group, with our own hall and grounds.

We have a friendly group of regular and dedicated Scouts and have been operating with 3 assistant leaders but no leader for the past 2 years.

If there are any experienced assistant leaders, new leaders or anyone wanting to side step into the role as leader with our 2 existing assistant leaders in this friendly group, please contact our GSL Tracey via email [secondbillingham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:secondbillingham@yahoo.co.uk) to exchange details and have an informal chat.

# Trash the Trash Day

Scouts Trash the Trash Day is an international project for Scouts around the world where Scouts are challenged to collect at least a 1kilo on the first Saturday in May. We have registered Cleveland as a group for anyone who would like to take part.

We know that at the present time you cannot do this as a group but hopefully by May things might have changed by then, but if not, you can do it on your own or in your "bubble" and collect at least 1kilo of rubbish and send a picture of it with the following details. Number of bags collected, The Group, Section or family you are from, how many people were in your group and the hours that you took. Then send it with a photo to [clevelandcourier14@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandcourier14@gmail.com)

Badges and certificates will be available for those who send in their details.



For more information and activities to do take a look at [www.scoutstrashthetrashday.org](http://www.scoutstrashthetrashday.org) and [www.facebook.com/scoutstrashday](https://www.facebook.com/scoutstrashday)

# Do You Know

Do you recognise anyone in the 4th Norton Football team in the Photo below ?

They think it was taken in the summer of 83/84 at Newham Grange Park. Some classic kits on display !

If you do contact [clevelandcourier14@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandcourier14@gmail.com)

Photo Courtesy of Neal Aberdeen

