



Its Another Celebration Year



County Commissioner's Corner



Welcome to 2026 (Although we are now into February!)

It's an action-packed year with national birthday celebrations for lots of our sections and planning having already begun for County Fun Day on 12th September.

Stockton district also have their Big Weekend weekend 26th-28th June which they have fantastically opened up to all groups across the county. You should have seen details and an invite to join them. For further information, contact Stockton district.

Young Leaders training

Ian and the district leadership teams are working closely to support close links across the county in developing Young Leaders. They are creating activities and events to unite the county and foster strong training. Hopefully these Young Leaders will go on to become adult members and support the county further.

If you require any further information about the Young Leader training and events, contact Ian Railton.

Adult Awards

We are aware that when the new adult membership system was being implemented early last year, some adult award nominations were lost during system upgrades. If you think your nominations haven't been processed, please check with your district lead. All awards should now be up to date so if the nominee hasn't received their award yet you may need to resubmit.

Andy



Exploring LGBTQ+ people's experiences of masculinities in Outdoor Education: A case study of UK Scouts.

We would like to invite you to take part in research on 'LGBTQ+ people's experiences of masculinities in Outdoor Education' which is being undertaken as part of a BA Sociology Dissertation.

A brief outline of the study is provided below, for further details please read the Participant Information Sheet before participating. You can find the Participant Information Sheet attached to this email.

In recent years, there have been a number of studies exploring the experiences of LGBTQ+ participants in Outdoor Education, in particular exploring the barriers that prevent equal participation in the Outdoors. However, this research has failed to explore how LGBTQ+ people are affected by masculine identities in the Outdoors (including their own relationship with masculinities and their experiences of other people's portrayals of masculinity). This research will use UK

Scouts as a case study to explore the following questions:

- How do different portrayals of masculinity influence the experiences of LGBTQ+ participants in Outdoor Education?
- How are masculinities changing in Outdoor Education?
- If masculinities are changing in Outdoor Education, are these changes improving or worsening the experiences of

Outdoor Education for LGBTQ+ participants and providers?

- How can we utilise these findings to recommend practices that will make Outdoor Education more inclusive?

The research will ask you to create a scrapbook reflecting on your perceptions of masculinities and reflecting on how you have experienced other people's portrayals of masculinities within UK Scouts. It will involve an initial online meeting to introduce the research and a gap of a week or two to complete your scrapbook independently. The scrapbook is designed to be flexible and creative and to include what you find most important. Sections of the scrapbook will be used and analysed in the final report.

Once you have completed the scrapbook, you will be asked if you would like to participate in an online interview where you discuss your reflections in the scrapbook. This interview is different to a traditional research interview and places the participant in control of what topics are talked about. Your reflections in the scrapbook will set the 'research agenda' and is designed to make it easier to discuss sensitive topics. You do not need to decide whether you would like to participate in the second phase of the research until the scrapbook is complete.

Who can participate?

This research aims to explore the experiences of adult members of the UK Scout movement who identify as LGBTQ+. To participate, you must:

- ✓ Be aged 18 years or older
- ✓ Be a current leader in UK Scouts (e.g. as a Cub Leader).
- ✓ Identify as LGBTQ+ (You do not need to publicly identify as LGBTQ+, i.e. you do not need to be 'out').

Note: This study aims to go beyond the gender binary to explore how people with a variety of LGBTQ+ identities perceive masculinities and experience the impacts of how other people portray masculinities in Outdoor Education. There is no expectation that participants identify in any way as 'male' or 'masculine'.

If you have any questions about the research and/or would like to sign up to take part, please email Beth Clayton at jfdq48@durham.ac.uk.



Ian's Bit's & Piece's



Seeking a new challenge in our County in 2026?

Then maybe this is what you're looking for!

Come and join our very active Cleveland Scouts Programme Team for a maximum of three years as a Section Team member and help shape unforgettable adventures for our Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

Already in the past year the Programme Team has:

- run a County Fun Day for all sections to celebrate 50 years of Cleveland Scouts
- run the first County Fun Day, 'Squirrels Go Nuts' just for our Squirrel Dreys
- run the annual Water Sports event and other sessions throughout the summer months
- organised weekly climbing events for sections both indoors and outdoors
- organised Operation Escape for Explorers
- seen the Target Sports Team become operational at Raven Gill
- seen the Nights Away Team formed, run its first training sessions and support leaders, Districts and Groups.
- seen the International Team select leaders and young people for both the 2027 World Scout Jamboree and Haarlem Jamborette.
- supported young people undertaking Duke of Edinburgh Awards across the County

We're now looking for enthusiastic members of our Sections, aged 18 and above, who are passionate about creating fun, imaginative, and impactful experiences for our young people.

As a member of the Programme Team for the next three years you'll contribute to:

- the delivering of the 2026 County Fun Day for all our young people
- designing and delivering an exciting Countywide event for your preferred Section, with others for support, which will take place in either 2027 or 2028
- working with the other Section Teams to design and deliver the 2028 County Fun Day.

If you're ready to bring ideas to life and help us build something amazing, we'd love to have you on board! Here's what's we have in mind for the events!

Event in 2026

- County Fun Day – September 2026

Events in 2027

- Scout and Explorer Weekend Winter Camp - January / February 2027
- Beaver Weekend - Summer 2027
- Squirrel Fun Day - Autumn 2027

Events in 2028

- Cubs Themed Weekend Camp - Spring / Summer 2028
- County Fun Day for all Sections - Autumn 2028

Also in 2027 we will be celebrating the following Scouting birthdays:

- the 120th birthday of Scouting (Scouts) and
- the 25th birthday of Explorers.

National Headquarters may well produce resources for these celebrations but if they don't, we will!

Without support from our volunteers these events won't reach the heights our young people expect and we're aiming for!

How do I apply or nominate someone?

If any of these roles sound like something you'd be interested in or you know someone who you think could fill one of these roles then we'd love to hear from you.

Contact the County Programme Team Leader, Ian Railton, dccprogrammecs@gmail.com by Saturday 31st January to arrange an informal chat.



Ian's Bit's & Piece's



Cleveland Scouts



Volunteer Development Team

New for 2026!

The Multi-Module Weekender PLUS!

Saturday and Sunday 18th & 19th April

Finished your **Growing Roots** learning and now want to complete the **Branching Out** learning so that you can gain your **WOOD BADGE**? Then we can help you do just that in 2026!

The County Volunteer Development Team are putting on a 'weekend plus' of learning, covering all **SEVEN** modules.

THE WEEKEND!

- ▶ Module 8 – Skills of Leadership
- ▶ Module 9 – Working with adults
- ▶ Module 11 – Administration
- ▶ Module 13 – Growing Your Section
- ▶ Module 16 – Introduction to Residential Experiences



Modules 8, 9, 11 and 13 will take place on Saturday 18th April at Synthonia HQ in Billingham and Module 16 will take place on Sunday 19th April at 1st Norton's HQ.

THE PLUS!

The County Volunteer Development Team will also be putting on:

- ▶ Module 18 – Practical Skills
- ▶ Module 19 – International

Modules 18 and 19 will take place on Saturday 25th April at Synthonia's HQ.



COMPLETED SOME OF THE MODULES ALREADY?

Not a problem! Just register for the modules you require. We'll publish the times of each module once its all finalised.

To register: Email Ian Railton dccprogramme@ccs.org.uk

Cleveland Scouts preparing more young people with skills for life supported by amazing, trained volunteers delivering imaginative, youth-shaped programmes year in, year out.

New for 2026!

The Skills for Residential Experiences Weekender!

Following the recent success of our Module 38 learning we're responding to requests to combine the two days into **ONE WEEKEND**, which means we can include even more learning for new / inexperienced volunteers which will help them gain their Nights Away Permit should they wish to.

- **Where?** At Raven Gill Camp Site, Comondale, North Yorkshire
- **When?** Saturday 21st March - Sunday 22nd March
- **What will I learn?**
 - How to plan from start to finish
 - What the elements of effective administration are
 - How to choose and prepare your team
 - How to choose, use and maintain the right equipment
 - Practical skills especially for a residential experience
 - Health, happiness and safety issues
 - How to cater for large numbers
 - How to evaluate suitable venues for your young people to stay
- **.... and much, much more both in the sessions and in the breaks over the weekend!**
- **To register email:** dccprogrammecs@gmail.com.
- For more information, contact Michael Cook, County Nights Away Team Leader
clevelandscoutsnightsawayteam@gmail.com



For the learning to go ahead we must have at least 6 (SIX) participants.



Hampshire Scouts



Online First Response Courses 2026

To register for any of these online courses with Hampshire Scouts go to [First Aid Training - Hampshire Scouts - Adult Training](#) where you can click on the course you require.

Tuesday 20th January 7.15pm

Thursday 12th February 7.15pm

Tuesday 17th March 7.15pm

Monday 13th April 7.15pm

Tuesday 12th May 7.15pm

Wednesday 10th June 7.15pm

Tuesday 14th July 7.15pm

Monday 17th August 7.15pm

Wednesday 23rd September 7.15pm

Tuesday 13th October 7.15pm

Thursday 19th November 7.15pm

Tuesday 8th December 7.15pm

2027

Monday 18th January 7.15pm

Please register for a course 3 months before your present certificate runs out. All volunteers who work with young people must have a First Aid Certificate as soon as possible.

Once you have attended one of the courses and received your certificate,

Email Ian Railton: dccprogrammecs@gmail.com

He will organise your 10B assessment which is a short session to check that you know how to correctly minister the practical parts of the course i.e. CPR

Cleveland Scouts preparing more young people with skills for life supported by amazing, trained volunteers delivering inspirational youth-shaped programmes year in, year out.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Like all Scouting activities, Middlesbrough Gang Show is put on by volunteers. The producers, backstage crew and admin team, as well as the entire cast are all volunteers.

As a charity, we rely on donations as there are a lot of costs associated with putting on the show. Not only is there hire of the theatre, costumes and props, but also heating costs for Scout HQ and rent for our storage unit.

You can donate now with our QR code! We would also ask if you could complete our Gift Aid Declaration

If you would like to donate to Middlesbrough Gang Show, please get in touch to become a patron!

Scan to Pay

Download ScanUp Pay to earn cashback on every purchase.



It's Gang Show Year again!

If you've never been or taken your young people to a Gang Show before then here's your chance to put that right!

From Wednesday 8th April until Saturday 11th April Middlesbrough Scouts present 'The Gang Show' at Middlesbrough Theatre.

Over 100 cast members from Beavers and Brownies to adult leaders from both Scouts and Guides from all over Cleveland are rehearsing weekly to put on a fantastic show for you all.

Tickets on sale now on a Saturday Night from Middlesbrough HQ 6.30pm - 8pm.

Gang Show Administrator Wanted

After many years Jane our Gang Show Administrator is stepping down from the role of Administrator consequently we are looking for someone to replace her. She is still Administrator for this years show so anyone who is interested will be able to shadow and assist her. This would enable them to find out what the position entails.

If you are interested or know of anyone who is please will you speak to Chris Greenwood

Infant Hercules Choir

The Infant Hercules Choir was talented spotted recently and asked to take part in The National Lottery's A Night at the Musicals to be shown later this year on television. If you look closely our County Nights Away Team Leader is part of the Choir!

From 30 years ago! Do you know them?

Spot the Beaver from 40 years ago! He's now a Cub Leader in Stockton, Thornaby and District! Who is it?



Centenary Centre Improvements at Raven Gill

Over the quiet time James and Paul have laid a new floor throughout the Centenary Centre at Raven Gill. Looks much better, thanks guys!



Synthonia Scout Group

Tonight the scouts started their Artist badge. We applied paper mache to balloons, making a thick layer, that once dried next week we can use to make some masks. We ended the night with some games



From 30 years ago! Do you know them?

Billingham Scouts raised £1,700 helping shoppers in Iceland pack their shopping over the Christmas and New Year period. Pictured here on 11th January 1995 are Daniel Dillingham of the Synthonia Scouts and Barry Williams of the 2nd Billingham at the store.



43rd Middlesbrough Scout Group

Cubs this week built lego camp sites and played Wii sports



Synthonia

A special visitor was present at Synthonia's Group Christmas Party back in December. The Mayor of Stockton can be seen second left in the picture. He later wrote about his visit on his Facebook Page.

Ice Hockey at Billingham Forum is very popular with the Scouts. Here's pictures from 2nd Billingham and Synthonia's recent visits.



1st Nunthorpe and 1st Fairfield

(at least) are collecting sweet tubs on behalf of Greene King pubs for recycling. Here's 1st Nunthorpe's collection last month.



1st Saltburn

Last night we experimented with electromagnetism ... could we pick up a paper clip with a battery, nail and some copper wire?? Some managed!



Around the County

Young Leaders

Young Leader action around the County from being presented with awards to getting together for fun activities!

Congratulations to Euan on gaining his Platinum Chief Scouts award and his Belt Buckle as a young leader. Euan you are an inspiration to all our young persons in our group.



East Cleveland

On Friday (9th Jan) we held our first Young Leader event. This time it was all about team work. Thank you to everyone who attended and we can't wait to see you at the next one!



Scouting n Europe

#DYK that the Scout Promise varies across different countries?

While each organisation may have its own version of the promise, #Scouts worldwide come together in unity and strength. Regardless of the wording, these promises emphasise the core values of Scouting and unite Scouts worldwide in their commitment to personal growth, community service, and making a positive impact on the world.

🇮🇪 On my honour I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

🇬🇧 I promise to do my best to seek my life stance to help others, and to live by the Scout Law

🇫🇷 On my honour I will do my best: to do my duty to god/my conscience and my country/my community to help others, and to obey the Scout Laws.

🇮🇳 I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to myself and to my community, to uphold our principles of Scouting and to work with my fellow Scouts towards creating a better world.

🇪🇪 I solemnly swear that I will do my best, to honor God, to do my duty to Estonia, my fatherland, to help my fellow man and to follow the Scout Law.

📷 Moritz Münch

#Scouts #WorldScouting



6th Redcar

Great way to finish our 4 taster sessions at Squirrels home made cards posted in the local area while out Christmas lights spotting.

They then finished off the evening by all receiving their first badge!

Well done Squirrels we look forward to welcoming you back in January.



18th Hartlepool

Last night the cubs continued their pioneer badge. They practised reef knots, figure of 8 and a clove hitch. They then used their knots to make a ballista. We are going to continue our work on knots to complete our knot board.



1st Fairfield

Last nights murder mystery night was a great success. The scouts managed to work together to narrow the list of suspects down to just one. Some great outfits made the night even better. Hope they all enjoyed the night



Explorer Belt



**3 THINGS YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
ABOUT THE
EXPLORER
BELT**

WHAT IT REALLY IS

An international Scouting
award for Scouts aged
16 - 26 years old*
where you travel to a foreign
country with a map, a plan and a
responsibility.

*Ages vary depending on the country: United Kingdom (16-25 years old), Finland (18-26 years old), Sweden (16-20 years old).

HOW IT WORKS

Over 10 days, you
hike 200 km or
more, with +50
hours of travel.
**No shortcuts, you
plan everything.**

*The duration of the trip can also change. In 2025, DPSG (Germany) organised a 20-day expedition.

HOW IT WORKS

You also
investigate culture,
history and
everyday life
**through projects
you design and
complete on the
move.**



MIDDLESBROUGH SCOUTS PRESENT

THE GANG SHOW

**A family friendly variety show of sketches,
singing and dancing!**



MIDDLESBROUGH
72



Middlesbrough Theatre

WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL - SATURDAY 11TH APRIL 2026

Wednesday and Thursday - 7:00pm

Friday 6:30pm

Saturday 1:30pm and 6:30pm

TICKET HOTLINE 01642 312624

middlesbroughgangshow.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 1014923

