



County Commissioner's Report

Thank you all very much for the way in which you have dealt with this still very unprecedented situation that we find the world surrounding us with. Some of our members are self-isolating for a multitude of reasons and some of our members are on the front line or essential key workers, due to the nature of their professional lives. Some of our members are working from home, and possibly juggling childcare too, and we are all making sure our family and friends are looked after and in essence, finding ourselves busier than ever, in a world that seems quite still! A message from Guiding is to remember, being a volunteer is a hobby, and family must come first, even more so at a time like this. I know some of you are doing virtual meetings and keeping in touch with units, and however much you are still giving to guiding, and in whatever way at the moment, you are all doing an amazing job! Lots of our younger members are struggling with the sudden changes in almost every area of their lives, and thank you for keeping in touch with your units, and letting them know we are still here.

It is lovely seeing the country come together with rainbows in windows and rounds of applause, and within our own network, our Guiding light shining in windows and the love and support we have shown each other is what makes Guiding great. The first few weeks of isolation gives an opportunity to catch up on all those jobs we have never got around to doing! However as the weeks go on, this can be as equally straining, mentally, as it is physically, and it is great to see the members of our county prepared to help, if any of our fellow members and Trefoil members find they need a hand. Just as during the war when our country needed volunteers to support our troops, Guiding members continue to lend a hand, in whatever way we can.

Well Done on achieving 98% of subscriptions paid on time, I know isolation caused some problems towards the deadline date, but this emphasises the need to not leave things until the last minute and to ensure that our unit bank signatories are up to date, with at least three signatories. It looks like Guiding will most certainly be on lockdown for a while longer, and we have delayed the annual review until we are all out of isolation and able to attend - it will still be a ceilidh so keep those dancing shoes at the ready.

Nationally, trading has taken a break in order to keep staff safe and Girlguiding have launched Adventures at Home to help to keep members engaged. Region trips to Cambodia and Gdansk due to take place in the summer have been postponed until next summer and we are still hoping to go ahead with Wellies and Wristbands in August, and Flamingo Fling in September.

Now more than ever, we all need to stay safe and take some Guiding down time over the Easter holidays, unless we are helping others. Once the holidays are over, it gives a great opportunity to check and update GO, get your accounts up to date, check when your next training is due, and get admin ready for when we are able to meet face to face again.

Val Cullen
07984027708



<https://www.facebook.com/GirlguidingCleveland>

Please like our page and encourage parents to do the same. We need local items to go on this page to show what Girlguiding Cleveland has been doing. This page is open to anyone to view, so please be mindful as to what photos you send to it. If you wish you can email your write up to me and I will put it onto the page: karen.lee7@sky.com.



DBS Checks

If your DBS was issued for renewal before 15th March, it will be on the old process and membership will be withdrawn if the completed checks are not carried out within the deadline of 120 days. If your renewal was issued after 16th March, the same 120 days will apply, however you will be suspended from Guiding until the checks can be carried out. We are by no means encouraging face to face meetings to complete DBS checks, we can use Facetime and Zoom to set up meetings as typically renewals would be done locally by someone known to the member and documents can be shown to the camera in order to exchange details.

Changes to the process for qualified leaders who would like to volunteer with a different section

A new process has been developed for qualified leaders who want to change sections. It's now a checklist for an existing leader to work through and complete with their mentor or local commissioners. The aim of the checklist is to ensure the leader has a full understanding of communicating and working with different age groups and knows how to embed the Five Essentials into a unit meeting. Completing the checklist replaces the need for leaders to re do module 1 when they move sections so long as they meet the following criteria:

- leaders should already be a Girlguiding qualified leader;
- they should be moving to another section or taking on an additional leader role in another section, and
- they should have been active within a unit within the last three years.

Further information about the checklist and notes for mentors and commissioners can be found at:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/learning-and-development/leadership-skills/leadership-qualification/>

If you have any questions about this change please contact me via phone 01642 453317 or email

hazel.moore1954@outlook.com

Thanks

Hazel Moore

Leader in Training Coordinator

Cleveland Friends of Egton

Thank you to those who continue to send their donations to support Friends of Egton, it is much appreciated.

In this strange situation we all find ourselves, we hope the future, will enable us to visit our Egton premises, meeting together with our guiding friends, in the beautiful countryside.

Denise Williams

Training

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel three first aid courses so far and the refresher on 9th May will be reviewed shortly. Thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented time. All cancelled trainings will be rescheduled as soon as it is safe to do so, and all payments received will transfer to the new training date. Please don't worry if your first aid has just run out or is due to expire in the coming months, we ask you to book on the first available course once the covid 19 pandemic is over.

Please use this time we cannot meet to complete level 1 and 2 safe space online. If you are not sure how to do this please contact your commissioner or email myself for help.

County Training day will take place on Saturday 17th October - more details will follow later in the year.

County Training weekend at Waddow has been booked for the weekend of 19th – 21st November 2021, save the date.

Karen Lee
karen.lee7@sky.com

Trefoil Guild

Life is very strange for Trefoil Guild members, obeying the rules of self isolation and social distancing as we are very social people! However I know most members will be keeping themselves busy as there are a lot of crafters among us and I'm sure some lovely homemade crafts will appear before too long. I imagine lots of us are making the most of the opportunity to do those jobs we have put off for a long time!

Thank you to Girlguiding Cleveland who have offered to do what they can for any member of Trefoil Guild who needs help, it is much appreciated.

We must look forward to getting back together and enjoying each other's company, to this end we have booked our Friendship Day in October and will rearrange our Annual meeting probably as a Christmas Event.

Until life changes for the better make sure you stay safe, and our thanks to all those in Girlguiding who are looking after us by continuing to do their jobs in The Health Service, supermarkets, care homes and the 101 jobs that go unseen but are much appreciated.

Sue Thompson
Chair of Cleveland County Trefoil Guild

Application forms can be downloaded from our website
www.girlguiding-cleveland.co.uk

Please note it is usual to wear guide wear when attending a training event

1st Response Training

**Saturday 9th May
10am-12pm**

1st Response Refresher - £10

Thornaby Salvation Army Hall

Please bring a packed lunch (full day training). Hot drinks will be provided. Places are limited.

Safe Space Training

To complete the online Safe Space, Level 1 and Level 2 please use the following links, and remember to fill in the questionnaire at the end and add in your membership number to add the record to your GO profile.

Level 1

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/making-guiding-happen/learning-and-development/a-safe-space-training/a-safe-space-level-1--an-introduction/>

Level 2

<https://training.girlguiding.org.uk/a-safe-space-module-2/#/menu/5c1b88888f2971c5fe4d881>

Applications for trainings should be sent to Judith Harrison, 34 Brecon Crescent, Ingleby Barwick, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 5DA. girlguidingcleveland@outlook.com
Cheques should be made payable to Cleveland County Guide Association
Application forms are available on the County website

Save the Date

Saturday 17th October

County Training Day

19th – 21st November 2021

Waddow Training Weekend

Booking Process for Training Courses

On all future trainings, including First Response, your reserved place will not be confirmed until advance payment has been received. This will help to ensure that courses are run effectively and will prevent courses being run half full when people are waiting on a reserve list for the opportunity to attend.