

County Commissioner's Report

Hello all, I can't believe it's nearly halfway through the year and will soon be the summer holidays.

It has been a busy few months in the county, with Thinking Day and Coronation events, a huge thank you to those who organised and ran these events for us all.

I had great pleasure in representing the county at the NEE Thinking Day service at York Minster in February. It was so nice to get the Cleveland standard out again. It does serve as a reminder of our foundations and how far we have come. In 2024 we celebrate Cleveland's 50th birthday so we will be looking at asking for some help and support in organising some amazing events.

We have also attended our Trefoil AGM and it's great to see how they are celebrating 80 years and having a great time.

Attached to this is a flyer for our County Social night on 30th June, we are holding a quiz night with a difference. This is instead of an AGM (although we will still give out awards) so please come along and join in the fun. It will be lovely to see you all.

See you there!

Contact Details

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Have Your Say!

Over the next few weeks we will be sending out a survey to find out what you want in a newsletter – what information do you need to know and what you wish to know about.

GMail will be getting revamped and (hopefully) a new name and will launch in September.

Also, behind the scenes, we will be redesigning the Cleveland county website and will be asking for your help with what we are going to put on there.

On the new website we hope to make things easier for you to:

- Buy items from the county shop
- Book and pay for training and county events
- Book at Egton/Danby through an availability calendar and pay

We hope that this will launch in September (fingers crossed).

Finances

From 1st January 2024, the county will no longer accept cash or cheques.

All transactions will need to be made either through the website or internet banking.

With the current situation of the banks closing down around us, it is becoming too time-consuming getting to the bank to pay in money and cheques.

Most banks do internet banking so you may need to call them to check and get set up. If you need any help, speak to your treasurer or your division commissioner.

Just to remind you there needs to be **3** signatures on all Guiding accounts and account numbers and signatures **MUST** be provided to your division commissioner.

Here is the link to Girlguiding finance policy for you to review if needed:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-volunteers/policies/finance-policy/>

New Opportunity for Section Advisors

Do you fancy becoming an advisor for your section within your district/division or even county?

We are looking for advisors who have unit experience and will be able to support new leaders and new units within the division/county.

This is the chance to share your knowledge and encourage others with all Girlguiding has to offer.

If this sounds like something you are interested in – speak to your commissioner

If you are already an advisor, please make sure your GO records are correct.

Have you enjoyed the Coronation?

Please share your photos with your commissioner and info@girlguidingnortheast.org.uk

It is up to you to ensure you have the correct photo consent to share the photos you send us.

Region Vacancies

Region currently have a selection of vacancies:

- Queen's Guide award adviser
- Lead Volunteer for Girl Experience
- Sports Coordinator

More details can be found on the NEE website - <https://girlguidingnortheast.org.uk/region-roles/>

Vacancies

Over the next few months we will have some vacancies for the Division Commissioner role. While this might sound daunting, it is a fantastic experience with a massive amount of support, help and advice to support you.

As part of Girlguiding's flexible policy, this role can be done as a job share or team and you can be a commissioner in any division (you don't need to stay in the division you guide in).

If this is something you want to find out more about contact Nicola or Lucy.

Do you know someone who deserves an award?



Thanks badge

- The Thanks badge can be either a brooch, pin or cloth badge, given to members and non-members of Girlguiding as a sign of appreciation for their support
- Any member of Girlguiding may present a Thanks badge after discussion with a leader or commissioner
- The Thanks badge may only be given to a member of the Trefoil Guild if they have given service specifically to Girlguiding



Good Service brooch

This brooch may be given to an adult member of Girlguiding or a branch association for excellent service to guiding. It can be awarded by:

- the chief guide, for service to Girlguiding or a Branch Association
- a chief commissioner, for service in a country or region (including British Girlguiding Overseas)
- a county commissioner, for service in the county
- the commissioner for a branch association, for service in a branch association

To be eligible for a Good Service brooch the nominee must fulfil one of these criteria:

- Hold a current member and recognised volunteer card
- Have completed a role no more than six months before the application is made

The Good Service brooch is silver metal with blue enamel. A certificate accompanies it.

GO Update

We are using GO information a lot more regularly within the county to look at opportunities for new units, waiting lists and where we need volunteers, so please can you review the following for your units:

- Unit capacity has been added on GO.
- Unit capacity is correct and has been updated since Covid and is showing the correct number of spaces available at a unit.
- Some units showing as only having one volunteer, please can this be checked as to minimise risk all units should have at least 2 adult volunteers.

Help files are available on GO on how to update these areas, but if you have any problems, please speak to your division commissioner.



Race for Life Middlesbrough in Stewart Park

7th July 2023 – 7pm start

Girlguiding Cleveland are supporting Race for Life Middlesbrough this year through encouraging our members to take part or volunteer. The event is a 5K run or walk around the paths of Stewart Park in Middlesbrough. The 5K is open to everyone with the purpose of raising valuable funds for live-saving research into cancer.

If you want to take part, then [here is the website](#). Adult entry is £15.99 and children (under 16) is £11.00. Under 6s can enter for free without registering. There are some discounts available for multiple entries to encourage families to take part together. Young adults (16 and 17 year olds) can take part without an adult, but must have the consent of a parent/guardian. All children must run with an adult and have their parent's permission.

If you, your Guides or Rangers want to volunteer, then I've arranged for us to marshal a specific area of the course. There are a couple of areas that could do with 'vocal' marshals to help 'guide' (can't take credit for that joke) the participants safely round the course. Our group would receive a full brief and we would provide leaders to supervise them. We would need to arrive one hour before the event begins, which would be 6:00pm for Middlesbrough, and our shift would end at approximately 9:00pm. The organisers provide snacks and have water available, but we ask that volunteers bring a refillable water bottle.

Please can all interested volunteers contact me with your contact details and list of any others who will be volunteering with you. I'll sort out a consent form for our young volunteers.

Any questions, please ask.

Helen Hill – Tees West Division Commissioner (keen runner and knows many people whose lives have been impacted by cancer)

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The booking deadline for Flamingo Fling has been extended until 23rd June.

For information and booking visit the North East England website [Flamingo Fling – Girlguiding North East England](#).

Become a Friend of Girlguiding

We know Girlguiding makes a massive difference to girls' lives and the wider community. Since the pandemic, more girls than ever before need the benefits of our amazing programme. But we have more girls wanting to join than we have spaces available.

Join us as a friend of Girlguiding and your regular donation will support Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers across the country, as well as our amazing volunteers. With your gift we can open up the Girlguiding experience to even more girls.

Your monthly gift will help Girlguiding offer incredible opportunities for girls – for now, and for the long term.

As a thank you, we'll send you a specially designed friend of Girlguiding enamel badge. We'll make sure we update you on what we're doing. And we'll share exclusive stories about the impact we have, and the difference your generosity makes to girls' lives and futures.

£5 per month can help train Rangers to become peer educators and talk about important topics such as body confidence with younger girls.

£8 per month can help run our young leader qualification so girls can become the leaders of the future.

£10 per month can help send a girl on her first international adventure with her friends.

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/donate/friends-of-girlguiding/>

GOLD Opportunity

Guiding Overseas Linked with Development (GOLD) is our overseas development programme open to members aged 18-30. It's in partnership with WAGGGS. Applications for Go for GOLD 2023, the free selection event for GOLD project in 2024, is now open and closing date is the 4th June. Find out more details and how to apply to GO for GOLD go to:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/international-adventures/gold/>

Recruitment Events

2nd June – Stockton High Street – times TBC

6th – 9th July – Tall Ship event, in Hartlepool marina, times TBC

16th July – St Peters Church, Thornaby Green in Thornaby, 10am to 4pm

3rd September – Thornaby Show, Harold Wilson Field, 10am to 4pm

New County PR Material

Over the next few weeks we will receive some new County PR merchandise... here is a sneak preview...



Training & Events

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

Sunday 25th June 10am-4pm	1st Response Training - £15	The Avenue Primary School Nunthorpe
Sunday 24th September 10am-4pm	1st Response Training - £15	Hartlepool Scout Centre
Saturday 18th November 10am-4pm	1st Response Training - £15	Thornaby Salvation Army Hall
Please bring a packed lunch. 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. You will be directed to the learning platform, where you will need to create an account in order to access the training.

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

[A Safe Space, Level 2 – Creating a safe space | Girlguiding](#)

Level 3 – Online training – all trainings can be found on the Learning Platform

[Girlguiding: Log in to the site](#)

The Prior Learning Exemption for Level 3 has now been suspended. Any leaders who have used this method in the past are now invited to complete the Girlguiding Level 3 course when they are due for renewal.

The demand for face-to-face trainings is becoming less with the option of online/virtual training. Please let the county office know if this is something you would prefer. We would need a minimum of six leaders for a face-to-face training to go ahead, so cannot promise, but as always will try to accommodate as best we can to allow training to be accessible for all.



<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.lee6950@gmail.com.

