

# Scouting

East Somerset Scout District



Newsletter  
February  
2018

Happy New  
Year!



**Welcome Back!** This year we have loads of activities and adventures planned across the District and the County.

The District diary (see [www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](http://www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk)) is setting to get filled with lots of exciting camps and activities for all of our sections from Beavers to Explorers. Additionally we have FREE first aid courses for leaders and young leaders as well as information on how to access some of our instructor courses and growth workshops so please visit the web site and find out more.

Appointments Committees are still continuing to grow across our District, with boards meeting in the communities where you live and Scout. We know that more is needed and we know that some have been waiting for some time, but we are working on this constantly and we aim to get you all (those waiting) into an Appointments Committee in the very near future. To help us to meet these targets we will be aiming to increase our pool of appointment committee members.

Although there is still much to do within the District and areas that can always be improved, we are collectively in a great place. East Somerset Scouting is growing; we have more young people, adults and adventurous activities across our District than ever before. We have waiting lists and we need more leaders and new sections but while the District and Regional teams will work closely with our groups to see where there are opportunities to do this, we know that it is important to look after the volunteers & resources that we have and acknowledge the contributions made across our District. To help us to do these please see the article on the awards boards below.



## **Its Census time: Help grow the District!**

A big thank you to everyone involved in East Somerset for your hard work this year. Yet again, (although early days with the data coming) we can see that East Somerset has again made substantial growth in youth membership.

Thank you to all the GSL's, exec members and District staff for getting the information all back in time and thank you to all involved for helping to provide more Scouting Experiences for more young people across our County.

### Grow Your Group Workshops:

This month saw the final workshop run at Holy Trinity Scout Hall in Yeovil. Over the last year, 10 groups from across the District have accessed the free workshops. Hopefully these workshops and the free resources they have obtained will help grow Scouting across East Somerset. Well done all who took part!

# GROW YOUR GROUP.



### Defib's: Do you have one in your community?

Defibrillators are becoming more common sight in our communities as an accessible essential piece of life support with reacting to first aid incidents, but for many of us, especially in our rural settings, there is still not an accessible device to be seen. Some Scout Groups across our District are now working with local businesses, Parish/Town Councils and other organisations to fund raise and install these facilities in outdoor locations near our HQ buildings. As part of our Scouting work in the community why not try to map where your local one is and if there isn't one available then why not work with your parish council to establish a new community resource in your area? If this is a project that you are keen to look at contact your District Commissioner who will put you in touch with some local experts: [james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk)

Remember for Big Camps & group activities – there is a District defibrillator which can also be signed out for local use.

### Looking for a new challenge – how about becoming an Explorer Leader?

(14-18yrs):

Explorer Units are growing rapidly across East Somerset and we are in need of more Leaders and helpers to support the expanding section. If you fancy a change and a new challenge or if you know someone outside of scouting keen on DofE or Ten Tors please get in touch at:

[DESC@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:DESC@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk) and we will find you a unit in need of support in your area.



### Awards Board – Nominate a deserving adult volunteer?

Our Awards board have been very busy in 2017 process many award nominations for national good service award. Hopefully they are not too tired out as we want to try and go for more! If you know someone who you feel deserves a good service award for their volunteering to Scouting in East Somerset then please, we want to hear from you.

Simply e-mail us at: [awards@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:awards@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk) and state the name and why you feel they deserve an award and we will do our best to make sure it is processed (*there are some criteria about training & service length of time – but we will do our best to support you*).

## Macmillan Programme Support Pack

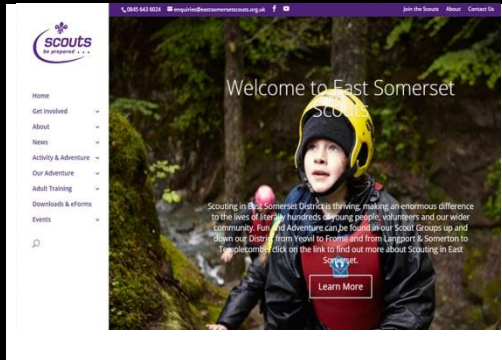

East Somerset Scout District have been working with Macmillan Cancer over the last year to establish new community impact activities, projects and resources to support the sections with programme ideas. To get involved or to receive some information resources please contact:

**Genevieve Drinkwater**

**Fundraising Manager - Somerset**

Email: [gdrinkwater@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:gdrinkwater@macmillan.org.uk)

# WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

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|--|--|---|
|                            |  | <h3>2017<br/>OPENING HOURS</h3> <p><b>Friday 4-6</b><br/><b>Saturday 10-12</b></p> <p>6th Jan - 4th Feb<br/>24th Feb - 25th March<br/>21st April - 20th May<br/>9th June - 22nd July<br/>8th Sept - 14th Oct<br/>3rd Nov - 16th Dec</p>  |
| <p><b>Website</b><br/><a href="http://www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk">www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk</a></p> | <p><b>Social Media (Facebook)</b><br/>'East Somerset Scout District'</p>           | <p><b>East Somerset Scout Shop</b><br/><a href="http://www.eastsomersetscouts.shop/">www.eastsomersetscouts.shop/</a></p>   |

## Compass: If you have not logged on yet – Please do so!

We are trying to send out a reminder to all volunteers to log on to compass if you haven't already. It is important to check your personal details, training records and roles and make sure they are correct. If you do find a mistake please let your DC now and we will try to sort this out ASAP. Click onto:

<https://compass.scouts.org.uk/login/User/Login>



# Term important date: events, activity days and camps:

To find out more information please visit: [www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk/events/](http://www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk/events/)

## Cubs Events:

**15<sup>th</sup> June:** District Cub Camp (Orchard Park Farm)

## Scout Events:

**11<sup>th</sup> May:** District Camping Competition

**29<sup>th</sup> June:** District JAWS (activity camp) Weekend (Buddens Campsite)

## District / Group Support Events:

**13<sup>th</sup> April:** District Leader Camping skills weekend (Tedbury)

**Various:** District Archery session (Great Lyde) – see website



## **Ribbon of the Poppies project: getting ready for 2018**

Scouts and Guides the length and breadth of the UK have pledged to plant poppies to help create a carpet of the red flowers in time for the centenary of the end of World War One. This is a great project for the groups and units to have a real impact in the local community. The flowers should be planted in 2018 ready for flowering between April & August ready for the anniversary. For more information visit the news stories below including one from Somerton Scout Group.

**News story here** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-40960256>

**Somerton Post here** <https://www.facebook.com/1stSomerton>

## **Somerset County Big Camp 2018:**

24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Aug'18 @ Bath & West Show Ground

The big camp is fast approaching and more information is coming out shortly. At this point in time it all about getting the date in the diary and having a chat as a group about attendance as a group. All sections are invited and it will be a jam packed weekend of fun for everyone.

For more information visit:

[www.somersetscouts.org.uk/upcoming-events/](http://www.somersetscouts.org.uk/upcoming-events/)



## **St. George's Day week celebrations?**

How are you celebrating St. George's day this year? How are you going to renew your promise and what activities are you doing in the section nights leading up to the weekend? Whatever it is, whether it is a local parade, a party in the park, a group trip out or kayaking on a lake, we want to hear from you and see your pictures and stories on our web site, social media sites and of course in the next addition of this new newsletter.





## Online Scouting Manager: new County wide resource:

Somerset County Scouts with support from the Districts have agreed to fund OSM (Gold) for every section in every group including our 14-25 units. It is live and available now. The new provision will help all of us with event administration, badge work and programme and support with transferring of information between sections.

If you have an account already simply add in 'somersetOSM' in the discount code, if you don't have an account, set up a trial account and then add in the discount code.

## District Team & Contacts:

District Commissioner:

**Vacant**

District Chairperson:

**Tim Rutherford**

District Treasurer:

**Pam Burch**

District Secretary:

**John Myers**

District Appointments Secretary:

**Becky Haynes**

ADC IT & Communications:

**Paul Bentley**

14-25 Commissioner (Explorers & Network)

**Pete Ward**

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

**Louise MacDonald**

YL Leader:

**Vacant**

ADC Scouts:

**Charlotte Redfearn**

ADC Cubs:

**Rob Pitts**

ADC Beavers:

**Heather Pitts**

District Shooting Advisor:

**Craig Powis**

District Awards Board – Lead Co-ordinator

**Dot Cretney**

[Chair@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:Chair@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk)

[treasurer@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk)

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[awards@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:awards@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk)

## Vacancies across the District:

Group Scout Leader positions:

- Great Lyde Scout Group
- St. Michaels Scout Group
- Castle Cary Scout Group

District:

- YL Leader (South)
- Network Commissioner

If you are interested in a role above and would like the challenge of a Group Scout Leader role then please contact Liz Henderson (County Commissioner) [cc@somersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:cc@somersetscouts.org.uk)





A lot of you may know as a result of adverts and word of mouth, that this week I will say good bye as District Commissioner of East Somerset. I have loved every minute of being part of this great District, from its creation to the current day.

Leave the role on a high with East Somerset in a strong position. We have seen growth for a second year running; we have a strong and creative programme for all sections, financial stable and are blessed with a fantastic group of volunteers and young people who makes Scouting in East Somerset each week exciting and fun.

I leave as a result of work commitments and the desire to spend more time with my young family. I would promote and support any apply for the role of District Commissioner. It truly is a great role especially with its support of a great District Executive and the District team behind it.

I would like to thank you all for your support you have given me over the years and I look forward to seeing as many leaders still at District and County events as I still intend to stay on as West Coker Scout Leader.

Take care all.

**James Divall**

District Commissioner  
East Somerset Scout District

If you are keen on applying for the District Commissioner roles or either of the Deputy District Commissioner roles (South or North) please visit <https://www.somersetscouts.org.uk/join/adult-volunteers/vacancies> or contact the County Chairperson: [Adrian.Ashford@somersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:Adrian.Ashford@somersetscouts.org.uk)