

# Scouting

East Somerset Scout District



**February 2015 (edition 7) – District newsletter.**

**2015 is here with a big 'Bang': East Somerset Scouting programme is starting to take off: make sure your group is part of it!**

We are only in February, and East Somerset District has seen a number of great events and activities already. Not only are there great stories of our groups and units taking part in some adventurous and exciting programmes but our young people and adult members have been getting stuck into District wide programming as well. So far we have had Beavers Connect 4 & Draughts in two venues, Cubs Chess & Draughts, Scouts Chess & Draughts, District & County Masterchef cooking competitions (**Thank you Ray Marsh**) as well as a great weekend hiking on Exmoor with the Scouts. Don't miss out as a section, get in touch with your District ADC and find out what is coming up in the near future.

## **Scout Section: East Somerset Scout District Exmoor Weekend**

From extreme winds and cold on the Friday night and Saturday to the glorious sunshine of the Sunday, the Exmoor weekend truly delivered a 'wild' terrain experience for our 60+ District Scouts helping them to learn new walking, navigating and camping skills in these challenging conditions. Well done to all who took part and Thank you to John Lewis (the Yeovil one) for organising the event. It would be great to get more there again next year and increase the number of Scouts taking part in this event.



Scenes on Exmoor over the recent Scout Exmoor walking weekend (Feb'2015)

## **District Programme (updates from all sections):**

**Network (District):** Network from April onwards will become a District provision and we are really keen to get this up and running across the whole of East Somerset. How will it work? That's up to you guys as members – we want you to help us shape the provision and programme. If you are keen to get involved in the management, co-ordination, marketing of the section or just want to get involved as a member then please contact James Divald (Transition Manager) at [james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk)

## **Dates for the Diary:**

**Scouts District Fox Trophy (Hiking comp):**  
10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April  
(More info contact ADC Scouts.)

**St. Georges Day:**  
(2 locations):  
Yeovil & Frome  
Football Ground  
Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April

**Scouts District Camping Comp:**  
8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May @  
Lufton, Yeovil  
(More info contact ADC Scouts)

**GSL meeting:**  
29<sup>th</sup> March (7pm)  
@ Charlton  
Musgrove Village  
Hall.

**District Cub 'Big Day Out' event:**  
Woodhouse Park  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June  
(More info contact ADC Cubs)

**District beaver 'Big Day Out':**  
Woodhouse Park  
Sun 21<sup>st</sup> June  
(More info contact ADC Beavers)

**District Cub Leader meeting:**  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March  
Pipers Inn, Ashcott  
(7.30pm)



## Community Impact: Fancy a Challenge? Do you want to raise money for the District Hardship Fund?

A bigger District means potentially more young people to help through the financial constraints of accessing Scouting, going on camps, getting a uniform or taking part in activity days. We are looking for individuals / groups to help us raise more money to support the District Scout hardship fund. If you are interested, then why not contact us about how you can get involved, support local Scouting and get hold of a branded 'East Somerset Scouts' running vest.

So if you are running the London Marathon, the Yeovil ½ Marathon or even a village fun run contact James Divall to find out how you can support local Scouting and get hold of an East Somerset Running Vest.

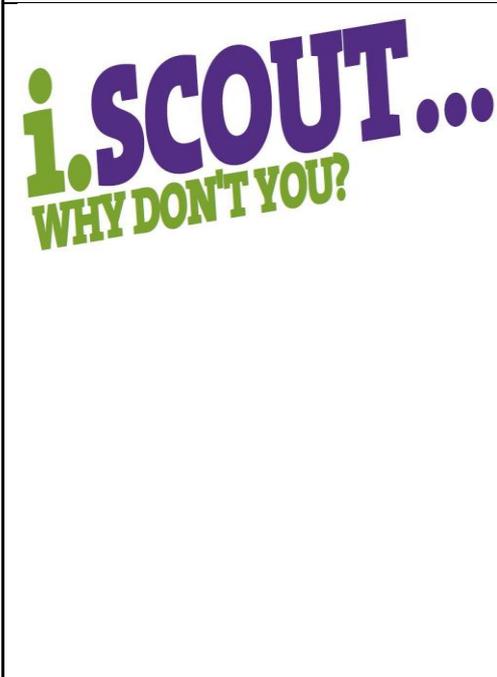
## East Somerset's new District NAN & AN online system: Open for the whole district – so how do we use it?

After a very successful pilot programme in the Yeovil area, we are happy to say that the online NAN / AN form is available for all groups and units across East Somerset. The online form is easy to complete and will go direct to the people who need it a push of a button.

The form is accessible via [www.scoutforms.org.uk](http://www.scoutforms.org.uk) or through our District web address [www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](http://www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk). This is currently a holding web page just to keep a District web presence and to secure the web site domain while the new District Web site is being developed.

The Scout form site also provides our District Scouters with an incident form that can be completed and will be automatically sent to the Transition Management Team (HQ forms are still required) but this form will allow communication between District & HQ to be swifter and easier for all parties.

Many thanks for the hard work and efforts from Paul Bentley.



## Want to get involved? New Job descriptions for District programme and Strategic support roles available now (Please contact):

East Somerset District is starting to take large strides forward with its development and growth. We are now in a position, where we can understand what we need to do to grow, develop and be sustainable while meeting the national vision 2018 objectives. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to take on key programme and strategic support roles within the District team.

- District 14-25 Commissioner (Lead for Explorers / Network)
- District Explorer Scout Commissioner
- District Network Co-ordinator/s (Potentially 2 x local hubs)
- ADC Recruitment
- ADC Marketing & Media
- District Executive Committee Member (Youth) x 2

Job descriptions and application form are available from James Divall, Transition Manager: [james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk](mailto:james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk)

## Contact information for the District Transition Team:

Dawn Wilson	Team leader	Tel: (01934) 733203 Tel: 07771 907019	<a href="mailto:Dawn_scouting@yahoo.com">Dawn_scouting@yahoo.com</a>
John Lewis	Executive committee & finance	Tel: (01373) 832875	<a href="mailto:John.lewis@durnfield.co.uk">John.lewis@durnfield.co.uk</a>
James Divall	Strategy, programme & communications	Tel: 07912 992048	<a href="mailto:james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk">james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk</a>

## Contact information for the District Programme ADC Team:

Heather Pitts	ADC Beavers	Tel: 07789 917863	<a href="mailto:heatherpitts@sky.com">heatherpitts@sky.com</a>
Rob Pitts	ADC Cubs	Tel: 07748 245326	<a href="mailto:robpitts.adccubs@gmail.com">robpitts.adccubs@gmail.com</a>
Charlotte Redfearn	ADC Scouts	Tel: 07887 780023	<a href="mailto:redscoutleader@gmail.com">redscoutleader@gmail.com</a>
N/a	ADC 14-25	Position open and available for application.	



## Media & Communications Workshop Bristol

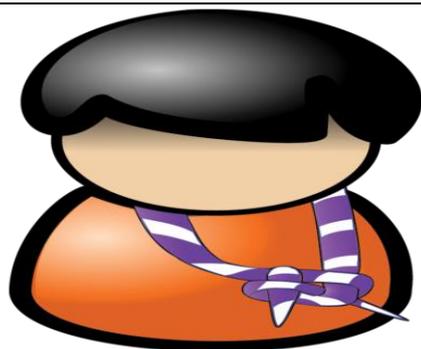
**When:** Saturday 27 June 2015 (9am – 4pm)

**Venue:** Woodhouse Park, Bristol

The workshop is open to any adult in Scouting who has an interest in media and communications. By the end of the workshop participants will be able to:

- Better understand and value the Scout brand
- Spot, craft and pitch a story to journalists
- Write engaging and relevant content for members
- Package content for external media use (newspapers, online news, radio and TV) and member use (websites, newsletters, social media and ad hoc publications)
- Plan to gather content to successfully use a Scout event to communicate Scout key messages
- Obtain written and recorded quotes appropriate to the message needing to be communicated
- Obtain still and moving images of the event appropriate to the message needing to be communicated
- Make the best use of social media for their Scouting needs.

For more information please email [communications@scouts.org.uk](mailto:communications@scouts.org.uk).



## Group Support: GSL's

We have been thinking long & hard about how we can manage the 30 Groups we have in EAST Somerset. It's unreasonable to expect any one person to be the first port of call for that many Groups, so we have come up with a different plan. What we would like to try is clustering 5 or 6 groups together under the support of a senior Scouter. This new role will be the initial contact for the GSLs and will be a mentoring / development type role (& is so new we don't yet have a job title for it!). Any experienced leaders and senior GSL's interested should in the first instance contact **Dawn Wilson** (Transition Manager) for more information.

**GSL meeting:** Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March (7.30pm) Charlton Musgrove Village Hall, BA9 8HF:

**web link:** <http://www.charltonmusgrove.org/our-hall/location/>



## Marketing your section: Are you using the Scout HQ brand Centre resources?

During the District wide consultation events and online surveys when we were initially setting up the District 65% of members mentioned that they do not use the Scout Brand Centre. The online resources are FREE and can help aid to promote your section & group. Why not visit: [www.scouts.org.uk/memberresources/PrintCentre](http://www.scouts.org.uk/memberresources/PrintCentre).

## Programme news

So much has happened already this year and we have more coming your way. Check out this new section of our District newsletter to find out what has happened and what is coming up for your section.

# BIG CAVE

### District 'Big Cave' Weekend (3 hour taster sessions)

The 'Big Cave' Weekend is a great opportunity for Scouts, Explorer and Network members to come along and try real caving for the first time. There are 3 hour taster sessions, all with a qualified instructor running across the weekend based in Burrington Combe. Information is coming out soon, and spaces are limited (8 per group). For more information and to book your section in contact **James Divall**.



### Beavers District Draughts Competition (North & South):

**Well done** to Tristen Harris (St Michaels), 2nd Joshua Beaumont (St James), 3rd Lewis Williams (Wincanton) (Pictured left) – winners of the southern District competition.

Also **Well done to:** 1st Place - Tom Grogan (1st/7th Frome) & 2nd place - Rowan Maidment-Windsor (5th Frome) in the Northern District Competition.



### District 7-a-side Football Competition

Football has been one of the top activities our District Scouts want to take part in (so says the consultation to date), so we have come up with a **New District 7-a-side football** competition on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July (11am – 5pm) on the 3G pitch at Bucklers Mead Sports Centre, Yeovil. Spaces will be limited so if your group is interested complete the booking information and return it to **James Divall**. Information coming out shortly!



### District Cub & Beaver 'BIG DAY OUT' to Woodhouse Park and the National fund day event: Sat 20<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Information is out now for the Cubs 'Big Day Out' to the national fun day event at Woodhouse Park. An amazing day for the Section loved by all. Contact **Rob Pitts** for more information.



### District Kayaking Sessions: Sutton Bingham

Another session of kayaking taster sessions and Paddlepower / Discover training courses are nearly upon us. Kayaking sessions are now available for booking – if there are any groups or sections interested in booking either a taster session evening for their section or a 3 week course for their young people please contact Kev Bull. Information is attached with this newsletter.



### District Scout Camping Competition: Lufton (Yeovil)

With no 'Open entry' to the County camping competition, this year's District Camping Competition has become the number 1 'Jamboree' for our Scout section. The event will run with 2 sub camps for novice and camping competition patrols as well as access to a number of activity bases throughout the weekend. The event is open to 'group camping', offering groups an opportunity to be part of the experience as well as showcase competition camping to their Scouts. The weekend also includes cooking and gate competitions, a group camp pioneering challenge and some great old fashioned evening entertainment. Information coming out shortly so watch this space: **Date: Fri 8<sup>th</sup> – Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May (Yeovil)**.

The District Transition Team and the District Executive are currently hard at work developing a new 'Action Plan' for the District to meet the Scout Associations 'Vision 2018' This document focussed on the resources, tools and staffing needed to support our East Somerset groups, units and members to growth and develop local Scouting in our area for the next 5-10 years. The vision document focuses on the key national themes of growth, inclusion and equality, youth shaped and community impact. There is a lot of work and detail behind this document but we feel it is important to provide you all with an overview (the headlines) of what will be included. **OUR DISTRICT STRATEGY / ACTION PLAN WILL INCLUDE:**

1) Empowering young people	2) Promoting & valuing volunteering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Explorer units and access to the explorer programme (online virtual units)</li> <li>• 2 x Youth members of District exec</li> <li>• Youth consultation throughout the year to shape District programming</li> <li>• Scouting links to Town &amp; area youth councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More promotion of Queen Scout award (achievement)</li> <li>• Establish new SAS unit/s within the District.</li> <li>• Establish a District awards board</li> <li>• Survey to establish both adults &amp; youth members views on awards system (data)</li> <li>• Develop a District leader recognition award scheme ('Thank You's' from the District)</li> </ul>
3) Managing growth & sustainability	4) Leading effectively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish District Network provision</li> <li>• Programmes to improve transition between section (one for each)</li> <li>• Marketing plans &amp; resources for each section (branding / budget needed)</li> <li>• Volunteer (adult) satisfaction survey to obtain baseline data</li> <li>• Increase adult volunteering by 10%</li> <li>• Increase retention by 5%</li> <li>• Increase the number of sections by 5% by 2017</li> <li>• Increase the number of groups by 5% by 2017</li> <li>• Development plans to support key District facilities (campsite, scout shop, etc)</li> <li>• Pilot 10% of groups through Scout Association RAG development plans</li> <li>• Establish a new District web site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a volunteer appraisal to target and increase personal development needs and aspirations.</li> <li>• Create volunteer tools &amp; resource (Adult programme resources)</li> <li>• Increase number of training advisors by 5% in the District.</li> <li>• Increase training provision in the district by 5%</li> <li>• Marketing &amp; Communication course within District for leaders / youth members</li> <li>• Activity &amp; skills based training in our district</li> <li>• Run first District conference &amp; workshops</li> <li>• Review and update District constitution</li> <li>• Establish District Executive sub committees &amp; their terms of reference</li> <li>• Establish a new East Somerset District appointments committee</li> </ul>
5) Promoting inclusion	6) Community impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a fund raising &amp; grant information for groups</li> <li>• Establish a hardship fund within the District</li> <li>• Fund raising action plan for District assets / interest (highlighted need)</li> <li>• Working with Regional Development Team complete targeted work on one area of social deprivation by 2017.</li> <li>• Establish training &amp; resources to support greater understanding of DDA requirements in Scouting.</li> <li>• Develop a District wide access audit for District &amp; groups (Working with GSL's)</li> <li>• Faith education tool for groups / units</li> <li>• Scouting marketing resources to target migrant communities (translated)</li> <li>• Develop total communication training and courses for groups and sections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish community event marketing resources to promote East Somerset.</li> <li>• Highlight and book events and activities for East Somerset Scouts to have presence.</li> <li>• Work with outside agencies to establish partnership programmes (3 by 2016)</li> <li>• Establish a District Active Recruitment Team (DART) for events and outreach.</li> <li>• Promote community impact opportunities, activities and best practise examples on the new web site.</li> </ul>



Win a share of  
**£10,000**  
for your community

Supported by South  
Somerset District  
Council



## Vote for your East Somerset Scout District!

The Western Gazette is delighted to be working in partnership with South Somerset District Council to launch Cash for your Community. This campaign will give local community groups, charities, primary school and non-profit organisations a chance to win a share of £10,000.

From youth clubs and shelters to sports teams and trusts, the Western Gazette is inviting you to nominate your local worthy causes & we have set up East Somerset Scouts as one of them.

After the closing date, twenty causes will then be determined by a judging panel, and will be shortlisted for the chance to win a share of £10,000. The share of the £10,000 they receive will be based on the proportion of total coupons collected. It's that simple: the more tokens you and your community collect for your group, the more cash your group will receive. To make those coupons count, make sure you register your group today to claim your share of the £10,000.

### Why vote for East Somerset District Scouts & not our own Group?

As groups and units we all could sign up to this and we would collect good numbers of tokens but not enough to really go for some of the bigger prizes on offer. As a District we can work together towards a common cause, collecting large numbers of tokens. The collective money raised can go towards District wide resources that can be used either by groups or as a District during activities, camps or promotional events such a play day, village fete and community events (for recruitment). The benefits can be much bigger if we come together and share resources.

### What could we put the money towards?

We as District are always looking for new programme developments, resources and ideas to increase our local brand awareness within our community to help our Scouters on the ground to grow their groups and sections and into increase the number of adult & youth members. Tools like these below can help increase the quality of programming as well as help with recruitment and District promotions.



District wide Caving trailer unit   District Marketing resources   District activity equipment

Please send any tokens to James Divall, Transition Manager: 17 Font Lane, West Coker, Yeovil, BA22 9BP. **Help us to make a difference in East Somerset.**