



# EAST SURREY DISTRICT SCOUTS

Registered Charity No. 1032242. A Member of Tandridge Voluntary Service Council

District Commissioner – Nick Hough,  
Tel. 07851 001940 or 01883 371935 e-mail [dc@eastsurreydistrictscouts.org.uk](mailto:dc@eastsurreydistrictscouts.org.uk)

## District briefing – February 2017

Greetings. Thank you for getting your census data entered in a timely way, and thank you for the programmes which have nearly all been received.

**DC Visits - Please do contact me to let me know when I should come along to meetings and/or to your Group Executive committees.**

The new **District Treasurer. Mr. Christian Bell** is now in place, subject to further confirmation at the next meeting of the District Executive on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

### On the PLUS SIDE...

This is a section where I hope to include success stories and ideas for encouragement.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tatsfield have identified a candidate for **Group Scout Leader**. We will welcome and invest him once the formalities and basic training are in place. This is an achievement for 1<sup>st</sup> Tatsfield and an example of the importance of networking in the local community. He is an experienced head teacher and a family man with sons in the Beavers, and will doubtless be most welcome at Tatsfield and in the District.
- Last weekend, the 1<sup>st</sup> Oxted and the 1<sup>st</sup> Tatsfield held a **joint Winter Camp** at Broadstone, with 1 Explorer, 5 Tatsfield Scouts and 18 Oxted Scouts, and leaders from both Groups, and myself. I encourage you to consider joint activities – joint nights, joint camps, whatever works. All of us on camp this weekend have all learned much from one another through working together. I was particularly impressed to see a device that charged your phone from just a few twigs burning, and also to learn a way to fold a mess tent without it touching the muddy ground.
- We hope also to see **Beaver Colonies** restarting at Godstone and Tatsfield during the spring.
- A number of people, including Ian Blackford at Lingfield and Explorer leaders Amanda Doran and Paul D'Alessandro, have air rifle certification and have been working hard on District level provision of **target shooting**, based at Mill Lane. Lingfield, Tatsfield and Oxted Scouts, as well as the Explorers, have been able to do target shooting and archery recently.
- One young person from 1<sup>st</sup> Godstone will be going to a **Chief Scout's Gold Award** presentation at Ashted on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### **District Directory**

Am still having this worked on and I'm aware that it is very important.

### **Temporary website**

For the present please browse to <http://eastsurreydistrictscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/> This is a Wordpress site, easy to maintain, quick to update, simple and classic. It don't need IT geeks to do anything. EXCEPT I do need to get [www.eastsurreydistrictscouts.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreydistrictscouts.org.uk) to be ported through to this website. It can be done; it will be done, please keep watch.

- **Dates for your Diary** <http://eastsurreydistrictscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/information/dates-for-your-diary/>
- **News updates** <http://eastsurreydistrictscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/information/news-updates/>

**Please check these two pages frequently!!**



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## District briefing – February 2017

I can't highlight everything – this is a *briefing*...but, anything you want broadcasting, please do let me know. It is literally the work of seconds to amend the web site. I can do it myself or anyone else in the District team can be given access rights to do so.

**Colditz** - 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> March, See <http://eastsurreydistrictscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/sections/scouts/colditz-2017/>

### St Georges Day

Will take place on Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the young people should be told to gather at 1345, with a finish at 1600-1615 – times to be confirmed. The venue will be either St Peter/Paul at Lingfield (as usual) or – if we can get it – Oxted school. Watch <http://eastsurreydistrictscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/information/st-georges-day/>

### Scoutabout

7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July, Ardingley. <http://eastsurreydistrictscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/sections/scouts/scoutabout-2017/>

Two important facts that should not be neglected are:

- 1) Each Group needs to provide an activity
- 2) Each Group needs to provide TWO (2) volunteers for the catering team

### Chief Scouts Gold Award presentations

This District is **WELL OVERDUE** to HOST this Award ceremony. It is a big deal. We may have to host it on July 15<sup>th</sup> this summer; possibly it can be put off until November or maybe into 2018. These are big County level presentations, generally for 250-300 people, with catering, visiting dignitaries etc.

Anything else you want broadcasting, please let me know. It is literally the work of seconds to amend this new web site. I can do it myself or anyone else in the District team can be given access rights to do so.

**Training:** I visited **Pam and David Marshall-Jones** this week and we had a good conversation. We shall continue the long-standing arrangement with Caterham District whereby they supply, at cost, such training as we need in East Surrey.

### Module 1E

We continue to try to ensure that our Executive committees have done this important module, on what it means to be a Trustee. Many of you have worked very hard – Burstow and Tatsfield amongst others – to do this training.

### Module 25T

Whilst I myself am now no longer provisional in COMPASS, the DC is not all-powerful. Only Training Advisers can actually amend COMPASS with training records. I can oversee and provide witness towards validation of training, but the actual mouse-clicks to put you right in COMPASS must come from a Training Adviser. The quicker we have more people to assist Rob Holyoake, Karen Rapson and Christine Warren, the better. Training Advisers need to be fully Wood Badge trained and must do Module 25T and get it validated. This is a full day course.

### Module 37

This is a the course for becoming part of the Appointments Advisory Committee. We urgently seek such people. If necessary, when we find sufficient people, Caterham will run a course for us. It is not an onerous requirement, but it is important that we have a large group (10-12 people) from whom appointments panels can be drawn.

### Module 16 and Module 38 – Nights Away

This is another area that I need to look at closely, and I shall seek advice from Tim Evans DC Caterham District and from County.

**Scout Shop:** I will be available for a chat at the Lagham HQ Saturdays 10-12 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> March.