

# DOFE NEWS

SOMERSET



County Council

Summer 2010

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### Special points of interest:

- Somerset's first eDofE completions
- Winner of the annual return questionnaire competition
- Latest training dates
- Supported assessment opportunities
- An in-depth look at part of the DofE website



## THE VIEW FROM THE HOUSE

As ever, there's a lot to report in this newsletter.

Our end of year figures show that over 2200 young people started a DofE programme in 2009/10, and while overall completions were slightly down on 2008/9 (by 10% to 786), more young men completed their Bronze, and Gold completions were up by almost 20% on the previous year. Thank you for your hard work and support in helping so many young people benefit from a DofE programme.

More elements of the DofE modular training framework have been produced, and we are planning a bigger and better training programme in the coming year.

Somerset has registered its first eDofE completions. Harry Speedy and Rebecca Kinnear signed off their Silver programmes in early June and a presentation was made to acknowledge their achievements and to thank the Taunton School centre leader for his 'can-do' attitude to making the most of what eDofE offers.

We have made minor amendments to the centre agreement for the coming year in order to provide greater clarity about responsibilities, and these will be sent to Heads and relevant managers in September. Please ensure they are completed and returned as soon as possible to enable us to maintain our support to you.

Many of you will have met Geoff Tate and Phil Treleven from the DofE regional office over the last few years. Geoff has decided its time to retire from the post of Consultant, and Phil is moving from the Regional Director



Hestercombe House

role, having been appointed as Director of UK Services at DofE HQ in Windsor. We wish them both well, and look forward to welcoming Phil to Somerset events as a representative of DofE.

We have a handful of new centres opening in the coming months. I'd like to welcome Taunton YMCA, Bridgwater YMCA, Huish Episcopi Sixth Form, Somerset College and Bridgwater College at Cannington to the DofE community. I look forward to meeting new and existing centre leaders at district meetings, presentations and during centre visits.

You will no doubt have heard and read about the squeeze on public sector funding, and Somerset County Council's pledge to reduce the amount of money it spends on many services, as well as its plans to employ fewer people in the future. A review of the county's Integrated Youth Services (where DofE sits) took place this spring, and the implications for organisational structures and priorities will become clear in the next few months. I'll keep you posted as we learn more about what the future holds for us.

I wish you a successful and safe expedition season and look forward to hearing about your participants' exploits later in the year.

*Jeff Brown*

## EDOFE NEWS

On mid-summer's day Somerset celebrated it's first participants to complete their awards using eDofE with a special presentation. Harry Speedy and Rebecca Kinnear of Taunton School had completed their silver programmes earlier in the month. Taunton School have embraced eDofE and have 118 participants on the system over all 3 levels. Congratulations and thanks to the centre leader, Dave, who is becoming an eDofE legend.



Somerset's first eDofE award holders receiving their certificates

Early in the autumn term we will be holding a series of eDofE drop-in sessions across the county. These sessions are suitable for current users needing more information as well as those with no experience of eDofE. Dates and venues will be circulated during the summer. A demonstration of eDofE is available on the website at [www.eDofE.org/demo](http://www.eDofE.org/demo). When you reach the main page you need to hover over the icons for a description and then double click to see the demonstration.

Upon completion of an eDofE level an achievement pack, based on the evidence uploaded by the participant is prepared. A pdf version is available to everyone free of charge, while a printed, bound copy is available for £18 (leatherette version is £25). Sample copies have been ordered for the Field Officers so you should be able to see one soon. To make their achievement pack as representative of their experiences as possible, participants should be encouraged to upload good quality evidence and check any text for spelling and punctuation.

## EXPEDITION ASSESSORS

Somerset now has 36 assessors accredited through the new Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme, EAAS. Congratulations to you all. Many of you have completed the 1 day EAAS course and will be using this season's expeditions for your supported assessment; please remember to forward your EAAS/5 forms to the DofE Manager at Hestercombe House, for endorsement **before** they are sent on to the regional office.

Opportunities for supported assessments can be found on the 'notice board' section of the newsletter (page 4).

The next EAAS course will take place on 25th September 2010 in the Taunton area.

## 2009-10 ANNUAL RETURN



Jeff presents Paula with her programmes pack

The Annual Return strikes fear into most DofE co-ordinators and may seem like a pointless exercise, but it provides statistical information that is essential to DofE and it's future.

You will be glad to hear that one benefit of the eDofE system is that all the statistical information is available to DofE staff and that the information is input by the participants.

The Annual Return will be with us for a few more years (until all participants are on eDofE) but the end is in sight.

This year saw the biggest questionnaire return from Somerset centres so a very big thank you to everyone who replied. As promised 1 questionnaire was selected at random and the lucky centre received a new programmes pack.

Congratulations to Paula Bagshaw, Bruton School for Girls, who was presented with her prize at a recent South Somerset District Committee meeting.

[www.edofe.org/  
demo](http://www.edofe.org/demo)

*A fantastic  
resource and  
good overview of  
eDofE*



*Don't forget that  
most of your  
expedition equipment  
is available to hire  
through the  
Youth Equipment  
Store*

*Phone 01823 410131  
or email  
[yes@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:yes@somerset.gov.uk)  
for more details*

*A downloadable  
catalogue is available  
from  
[somersetyouth.co.uk](http://somersetyouth.co.uk)  
(click the link at the  
bottom of the page)*

## TRAINING NEWS

Congratulations to Trish Wedlake, Field Officer for the Mendip area and SCC's DofE Training Officer, who is now a Course Director for the Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme. This means we can run our own EAAS courses.

As in previous years the training programme will be offered throughout the autumn and early spring to avoid the busy expedition season. Spring dates will be confirmed soon.

We are keen to offer training across the county; if you have a suitable venue you could offer in return for free delegate places please let us know.

### Introduction to the DofE, ITTDofE

Saturday 9th October 2010, Yeovil. Cost £25

### Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme, EAAS

Saturday 25 September 2010, Taunton. Cost £25

### 16 hour Outdoor First Aid (delivered by Adventure First Aid)

Friday/Saturday 22nd/23rd October 2010, Taunton. Cost £100

For more details on any of the above courses, or to propose a possible venue contact the DofE Co-ordinator, Helen Watkins

### South West Mountain and Moorland Leader Training Scheme, SWMMLTS

SCC's Outdoor Education Adviser, Antony Reed, runs various training and assessment weekends. For more information and dates please contact Antony (details on back page) or visit [www.six.somerset.gov.uk/sccoea](http://www.six.somerset.gov.uk/sccoea) and click on the 'training' link.

Assessments can be achieved quite simply for anyone who has completed formal/certificated training with the SWMML scheme or the MLTE but has not yet got around to completing an assessment.

Assessments for SWMMLTS Summer Moorland Leader (+ Remote Camping Endorsement if appropriate) or Coastal and Countryside awards (+ Camping Endorsement if appropriate) can be carried out during an organised expedition. This will enable you to demonstrate first hand the required skills and knowledge working with your own groups.

Those of you who you require an assessment and will have an appropriate expedition please contact Antony with details and proposed dates to arrange the assessment.

If there are other training events you'd like, let us know and we'll do our best to help.

## ASSESSOR NEWS



A number of tick bites have been reported by assessors

Assessors from the Exmoor and Quantock Expedition Network have reported a number of participants suffering from tick bites this season.

Please make sure that all participants are properly dressed for expeditions and are aware how to remove ticks safely.

A leaflet on ticks can be downloaded from the Exmoor National Park website and tick removers can be purchased from most outdoor stores or via the internet.

[www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/tickleaflet.pdf](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/tickleaflet.pdf) .

DofE's approved outdoor equipment supplier is Cotswold.

## Price increase

*DofE has increased the price of Welcome Packs, with immediate effect .*

*New prices are:*

*Bronze £12*

*Silver £12*

*Gold £18*

*The price includes welcome pack, eDofE place, certificate, badge, and achievement pack pdf.*

*At Gold level the price also includes Palace Presentation*



## Read all about it!

*The next newsletter is due in the middle of the autumn term.*

*If there's anything you would like to see included, please let us know.*

*[dofe@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dofe@somerset.gov.uk)*

*01823 410132*

## Contacts

### Somerset County Council

Jeff Brown  
DofE Manager  
Tel: 01823 410167  
jbrown@somerset.gov.uk

Helen Watkins  
DofE Co-ordinator  
Tel: 01823 410132  
hwatkins@somerset.gov.uk

Anne Blight  
DofE Field Officer - South Somerset  
Tel: 01935 433008  
abligh@somerset.gov.uk

Jane Kearney  
DofE Field Officer - Taunton Deane, West Somerset & Sedgemoor  
Tel: 01823 410133  
jkearney@somerset.gov.uk

Trish Wedlake  
DofE Field Officer - Mendip & Training Officer  
twedlake@somerset.gov.uk

Antony Reed  
Outdoor Education Adviser - queries about EV3's or outdoor education training  
Tel: 01278 741943  
oea@somerset.gov.uk

Steve Dorral  
- queries about the EEC system or training  
Tel: 01823 355953

### DofE Regional Office

DofE—SW Regional Office  
Second Floor  
26a High Street  
Corsham  
SN13 0HB  
Tel: 01249 701000  
southwest@dofe.org

### Expedition Networks

Dartmoor  
Robert Steemson  
Tel: 01364 661202 (after 5.30pm)  
dexsec@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

Exmoor & Quantock  
Phil and Kathy Royle  
Tel: 01598 710418  
exmoor@dofe.org

## NOTICE BOARD

### EAAS Supported Assessment Opportunities

29/30 August 2010 - Bronze Horse Riding Expedition, Dorset area (you need to be comfortable around horses but do not need to ride)

3/4 Oct 2010 - Bronze expedition, Dorset area

Please contact DofE Co-ordinator if interested in either expedition.

### Old Style Record Book

We have a limited supply of the old record books at silver and gold level. Please order, as usual, via Field Officers.

### Open Expeditions

Somerset-based Wild Country Consultants are running open expeditions on our behalf. For more information call Chris or Jane on 01373 455668 or visit the website [www.wildcountryconsultants.co.uk](http://www.wildcountryconsultants.co.uk)

Training & practice Bronze expedition on Quantocks 13th - 15th August (start 12th for Silver)

Training & assessed Bronze expedition on Exmoor 17th - 19th Sept (start 16th for Silver)

## WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT... RESOURCES AND DOWNLOADS

Everybody knows that the website contains lots of useful information but not everyone has the time to explore it properly.

Each newsletter will focus on one part of the DofE or eDofE website and look in more depth at what it has to offer. This issue will concentrate on resources and downloads. Suggestions or hints for future editions are welcome.

From the home page at [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org), click on the 'leaders' heading (along the top under the logo) and then click on 'resources and downloads' (in the list on the left hand side). It is a big page so you will need to keep scrolling down to see all the resources.

After links to training resources and materials for OA's you can download logos or order a bespoke logo for your centre. The page then scrolls into expedition downloads; you will find Green forms, Blue forms, Variations forms, the 20 conditions and training downloads. The eDofE section contains leaflets, guides, forms and additional copies of the assessor pages from the Keeping Track booklet.

Ideal for assemblies or introductory meetings are the short slide show and PowerPoint presentation, and there is a PowerPoint to use with potential leaders. To help with planning activities or sessions you can download useful idea sheets. Replacement record book pages are available for participants not using eDofE. The list continues with 'old brand' materials and the latest version of the gold form. Templates for certificates are available but some centres have had problems with the alignment so please check first on a blank sheet. A little used resource is the 'you're great' postcard set which can be used to reward effort or achievement. At the end there is another link to the logos.

