

Summer 2023 Newsletter



Somerset
Council



D of E

THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD

**SOMERSET
COUNCIL**

Contents

- [Another record breaking year](#)
- [Exmoor National Park](#)
- [Expedition Changes Nov 1st 2023](#)
- [Keeping young people safe - DofE policies](#)
- [Incident Reporting](#)
- [Young Leaders Programme](#)
- [Leaders Meeting – Oct 12th Taunton Library](#)
- [CRPE – Congrats to Avalon and Foxes Academy](#)
- [Reptile Residential](#)
- [Freemasons Support for Bursary Fund](#)
- [Alternative DofE Programme Success](#)
- [Assessor Report - CRISP Update](#)
- [Coronation Concert – Volunteers Night Out](#)
- [Coronation Garden Party](#)
- [Penguin Watch – Online Volunteering](#)
- [Volunteers Week – June 2023](#)
- [Youth Volunteers](#)
- [Positive Venture](#)
- [GAP 2023](#)
- [Online Physical](#)
- [GEO Trackers](#)
- [Kilve Residentials 2023](#)
- [Dates for Diaries](#)

Another Record Breaking Year

[Read More Here](#)



Thank you to all leaders, helpers, assessors, volunteers – you all have a massive impact on these numbers



Here are a few highlights. In 2022/23:

- **323,676 young people started their DofE** – the highest in our 67-year history.
- **29.9% of 14-year-olds in the UK started their Bronze DofE.**
- **262 new secondary schools, 126 centres for young people with additional needs and 72 community organisations started offering the DofE**
- **537,759 young people were working towards a DofE Award** – up more than 10% on 2021/22.





EXMOOR
NATIONAL PARK

Exmoor is a fantastic location for a Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition as there are only a few places where you are further than 4km from a road, which allows easy access to your groups when remotely supervising. Our 'wilderness' area is not as extensive as other National Parks so it's worth considering whether you can plan a challenging 4-day Gold expedition without groups leaving the area or walking along the same paths. Bear in mind, though, there is such a thing as an 'Exmoor mile'; we specialise in deep, plentiful river valleys so a mile on the map may take you longer than you think!

Over 480km of our rights of way network are bridleways making us an ideal place to take part in horse riding or mountain biking expeditions.

There are many quiet roads on Exmoor, and two of the sustrans cycle routes (51 and 3) run west/east across the national park, making cycle touring an option. Bear in mind that our roads have some steep climbs and descents!

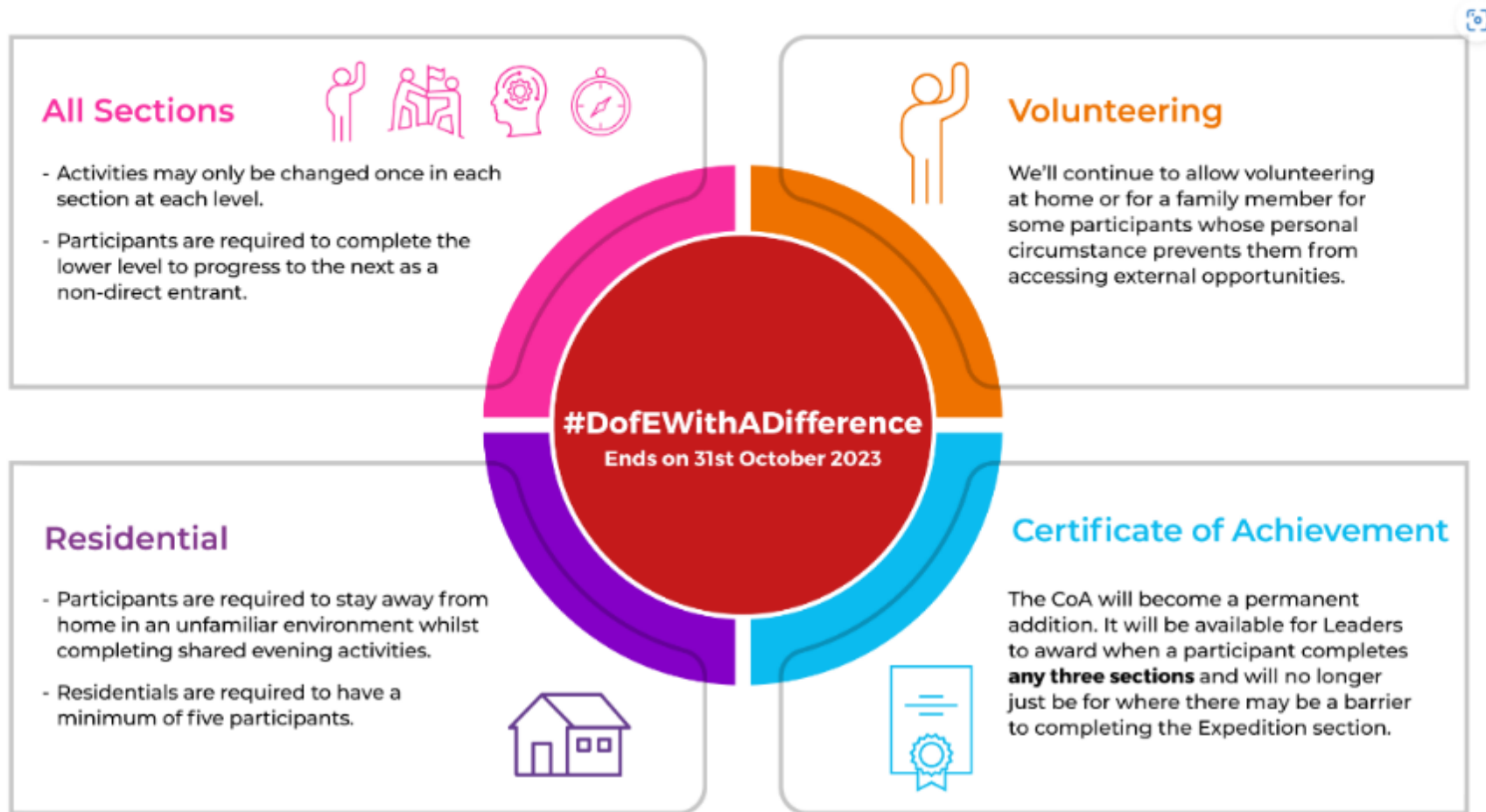


Exmoor – Expeditions and Groups

More Info [Here](#)

Programme Changes from Nov 2023

The infographic below gives an overview of the programme requirements that will be in place from November 2023.



Expedition Changes – From Now to 1st Nov



Expeditions from 2023

From NOW



Variation forms

The variations process has been removed – you are best placed to make expeditions flexible and accessible.



Team goal

Expedition aim is now called team goal – providing consistency across all sections and emphasising the collaborative nature of the Expedition section.

From November



Using an expedition for practice and qualifying

The temporary flexibility to allow Silver and Gold practice expeditions to count for the lower level qualifying expedition will end. Multiple expedition experiences allow for reflection and developing skills.

From November for SOME young people



Returning home to sleep

Going home to sleep allows young people to take part who previously would not have been able to access an expedition at all.

From November for ALL young people



Expedition requirements

New inclusive and accessible 'Expedition Requirements' replace the '20 Conditions'.



Reasonable gap

You (not us) are best placed to decide what is a reasonable gap between practice and qualifying expeditions.



Challenging expeditions

Whilst there must be progressive challenge, there is no requirement for all Gold level expeditions to travel to wild country.



New environments

Urban areas and restricted spaces allow for equally challenging and meaningful expeditions.



Expedition Assessors

Assessors can now be known to the group at all levels.



Motorised transport

Leaders can use motorised transport to pick up and drop off at start and end points, where required to support safe transit to camping sites and open up new expedition areas.

New changes in place and coming from Nov 2023

Check out more details

[Here](#)

Making DofE more inclusive, not everyone will need to use the changes, but for some centres they will make a real difference

For more information visit [DofE.org](https://www.dofe.org)

Keeping Young People Safe – DofE Policies



The Link to all DofE Documents listed below is

[Here](#)

As Licenced Organisations, you will have policies in place at your centres, as we do with at Somerset Council, but if anyone needs to view, please click the link above

Safeguarding Policy

This policy sets out the safeguarding expectations for all staff, volunteers, participants, partners and those working in and for LO's and AAP's when they are delivering DofE activities and programmes.



[READ MORE](#)

Safeguarding Procedures

This document sets out the steps to be taken by DofE staff in response to any concern that a child or adult at risk may be experiencing or is at risk of harm or abuse.



[READ MORE](#)

Safeguarding Statement

Our policy and code of conduct ensure the safeguarding of young people is at the heart of how we work at The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), and at the heart of how we work with others to deliver the DofE.



[READ MORE](#)

Incident Reporting

- The DofE charity collects information about incidents relating to the delivery of DofE programmes around the UK. It does so in order to:
- Identify common themes or trends and communicate these to the DofE network, helping everyone to better manage risk.
- Help the charity to ensure that Licensed Organisations and AAPs are complying with the terms of their operating licence.
- Help the charity to support and manage communications with all parties, particularly in the case of serious incidents.
- Help the charity to identify potential enhancements or changes to our adult training offers and DofE programmes.

It is important that we remember to report any incidents that occur to DofE - the type of incidents to report are listed [Here](#)

Link to Report Form [Here](#)

Please let Carol know for ref if any incidents are reported

Reporting an Incident

The DofE charity collects information about incidents relating to the delivery of DofE programmes around the UK.



[READ MORE](#)

**WELCOME TO OUR
DOFE YOUNG
LEADERS
PROGRAMME!**



Young Leaders

- If you have young people who are enthusiastic about DofE and want to help others at your centre – why not encourage them to become young leader – great for Golds that help deliver DofE for their volunteering section
- This is about developing young people in to leaders, if you have anyone interested – please contact Carol
- More Info - [Here](#)



Leaders Meetings 2023 – 24

As part of the license agreement, your Centre has agreed to attend at least one Leaders meeting during the financial year

Next Date Meeting

**12th October 2023 – 2.30 – 4.30 – F2F at
Taunton Library – with cake!**

Naturally, we would love to see you at all leaders' meetings – but please let us know if attending, so we can cater!



Congratulations Avalon School and Foxes Academy

Students at schools around Somerset have been cleaning up their local area as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards – and we think they are amazing!



We are very proud to team up with Somerset Duke of Edinburgh Awards and SEND schools in Somerset for a new and exciting phase of our #2minute litter pick project.

Over the winter, we handed out litter picking kits to Aurora Foxes Academy in Minehead and Avalon School in Street. Between them, they now have 32 young people doing regular litter picks for the volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. It certainly looks like they have had plenty to do!

Full article - [Here](#)





Gold Residential Idea

What a residential this could be – please can you print and add to notice boards.

Dates running are...

- 17th July - 21st July
- 31st July - 4th August
- 7th August - 11th August
- 21st August - 25th August
- 28th August - 1st September
- 4th September - 8th September
- 11th September - 15th September

Short video and more details

[Here](#)



Freemasons Support for Bursary Fund

Somerset Freemasons continue to be huge supporters of the DofE Bursary fund – without whom we couldn't offer such fantastic support to disadvantaged young people across the county. They recently match funded £5K from the Masonic Charity Foundation – giving us another £10K for a disadvantaged programme to start in October 2023. This alongside 3 charity bike rides raising further funds – means that we can help support SEN Centres and even more young people in 23/24. My heartfelt thanks go to them – for truly helping us make a difference across the whole county

Many thanks to King's College and Haygrove for being involved with the inaugural bike ride on 17th June – an amazing day for all involved

If you'd like to be involved in a bike ride in 2024 – please let Carol know





Alternative DofE Programme Success

This year we have run 5 DofE alternative programmes, with funding received from various groups including Crime Prevention Funds, South Somerset DC, Freemasons and DofE – we have had great success and got a number of young people through their full award and others their COA – we still have some to finish with ARK, so even more success to come. Pictured here from In The Mix and Carymoor – Great Results and conversations for Oct 23 have started to take place too!

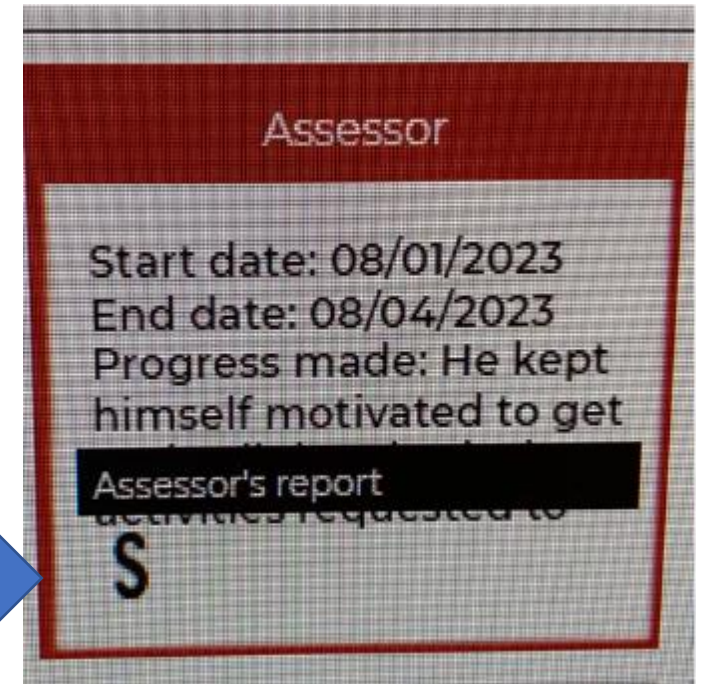
Assessor Report - Update

There is a new system in place for assessor reports in where they will run through a CRISP database first which looks for any profanities.

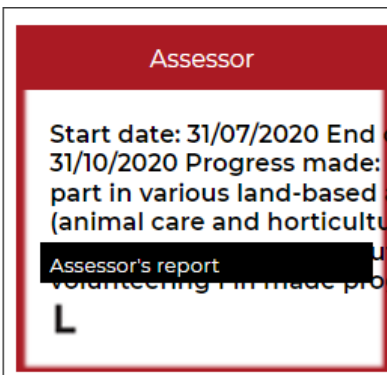
If the report is cleared by CRISP then it will directly go to the participants profile and will show as an 'S'.

If CRISP picks up any profanities then, like before, it will go to the assessors report section for the leader to check and approve


[Assessor's Reports FAQs - coming soon – DofE \(edofe.org\)](#)



With the new change, the Leader **will not be alerted** once a report has been submitted but will still be alerted to approve the participant's section. If the participant has not submitted their section for approval, the Leader will still get the alert via Directly approve. If the participant has submitted their section for approval, the alert will be under Manage alerts.



Remember Assessor Reports with an L – are uploaded through portal / Leader and are generally ok, but need a quick check to be sure that all requirements are met

Assessor Reports with a  have been uploaded by the young person and need extra checking for quality / details





Somerset DofE Volunteers Head to The Coronation Concert

Somerset DofE were given two pairs of tickets for our volunteers by the Lord Lieutenant. Catherine and Karen had an amazing time

What a night to remember - the sun setting behind Windsor Castle, an enthusiastic flag waving audience of 20 000 and an amazing line up of musicians, singers and performers, all there to celebrate the Coronation. Arriving in good time and after a lovely walk through sunny Castle grounds, we found ourselves in a great place, close to the sparkling stage. After a warm up session (including a quick practice of a chorus line led by Gareth Malone, one of my heroes!), we were ready for the party to start. The Royal Party took their seats, the countdown started and the next few hours passed in a happy blur - we danced, we sang, we waved our flags and arms lit up by multicoloured wristbands and how we cheered and whooped!

What an amazing opportunity - thank you DofE Somerset - quite a change from walking the Quantocks, supporting young people on their DofE expeditions!

Catherine C






*The Lord Chamberlain is
commanded by His Majesty to invite

Mrs. Carol Authery

to a Garden Party to celebrate the Coronation
at Buckingham Palace
Wednesday, 3rd May, 2023 from 4 to 6*



Coronation Garden Party

Following on from the very successful Somerset Jubilee Jaunts in 2022 with the then Lord Lieutenant – Annie Maw. I was lucky to receive an invite to the Coronation Garden Party.

Cath and I ditched our trainers, donned our posh frocks and headed to London, for an amazing once in a lifetime event.

Online Volunteering

Even though Covid Restrictions have now gone, there are still real opportunities On Line for young people to help support charities

For example

[Penguin](#)



[Seabird](#)



This may suit young people who don't have the confidence to go out and work with others, those that need support, or those that have busy schedules so fitting in time is difficult

Think outside the box – the opportunities are endless – but still very worthwhile

**DOFE PROJECTS
ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES**

Penguin Watch and Seabird Watch

Those two (online) citizen science projects have become widely recognised among DofE volunteers and leaders through the pandemic with hundreds of DofE volunteers by 2023. With reduced barriers to joining, this can be the perfect project for young people with less confidence or issues with mobility for example.

To know more visit Penguin Watch and Seabird Watch website or email contact@penguinwatch.org.

Volunteer Certificate
Recognising the contribution of
To
Seabird Watch
A Zooniverse Citizen Science Project on Seabird Ecology & Conservation

Volunteer Certificate
Recognising the contribution of
To
Penguin Watch
A Citizen Science Project on Penguin Ecology & Conservation



#VolunteersWeek June 1-7th



Thank you to all the Somerset DofE Volunteers, who have assessed / will assess this year and also helped at the Bath and West Residential. We really appreciate your continued support

Youth Volunteers

Working with Spark Somerset, we would love to share stories about Young People making a difference in their community , through their DofE volunteering section.

Please share any of note with Carol, so she can help get some case studies created – like the Amazing Abby as shown here

#DofE #Volunteering #MakeADifference



Spark Somerset @sparksomerset · 3h

“I have gained lots of new skills and the experience has broadened my horizons regarding my future studies and career.” @SomersetDofE student, Abby, shares her #volunteering story: sparkachange.org.uk/blog/abbysstory #VolunteersWeek #VolunteerInSomerset @HeadwayUK @victoria__park





Group Leadership Courses

- Summer Moorland Leader
- Coastal & Countryside Leader
- Group Leader CPD
- Bespoke Training

To find out more information and book your place go to www.positiveventure.co.uk

Training for schools, colleges and organisations who intend to lead and supervise groups in a coastal and countryside environment and those who wish to operate in more remote areas and involve camping.

There is also a large amount of information on their web site under 'Training & Development'.

[Here](#)

POSITIVE
venture^{LTD}
providing a way forward



Update to
**GOLD AWARD
CELEBRATION EVENTS**

I was lucky to attend the May GAP at Buckingham Palace, as a Mum and for DofE, meeting up with several Young People from Somerset. It was an amazing afternoon of celebration and fun. Congratulations to all those that attended from the county 144 during the week





Bath and West Gold Residential 2023 – An Amazing Group – Thank You SSE Outdoors for Running, #Fun #Laughter #Done



Online Challenges for Physical

Conquer Your Fitness Goals With Every Mile That You Do!

Spice up your motivation for running, walking or cycling (or any distance based exercise) by taking on one of our virtual fitness challenges.

Each challenge can be completed in the time-frame that suits you, either individually or in teams.

Connect your favorite fitness apps or manually log your running, walking, cycling etc, distances on our award-winning "The Conqueror" mobile app or through our website.



[More HERE](#)

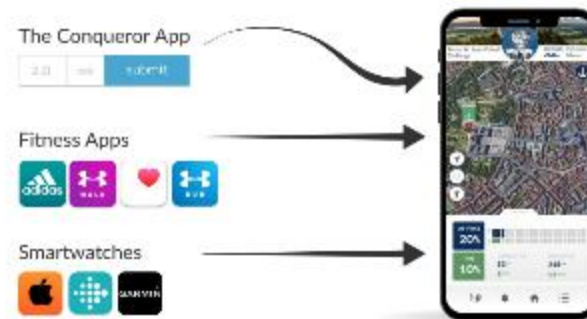


MAKE EVERY MILE COUNT!

You're no longer just going for a run, a walk, a bike or a swim, you're working towards conquering a SMART fitness goal.

[VIEW ALL CHALLENGES](#)

[THE LORD OF THE RINGS CHALLENGES](#)



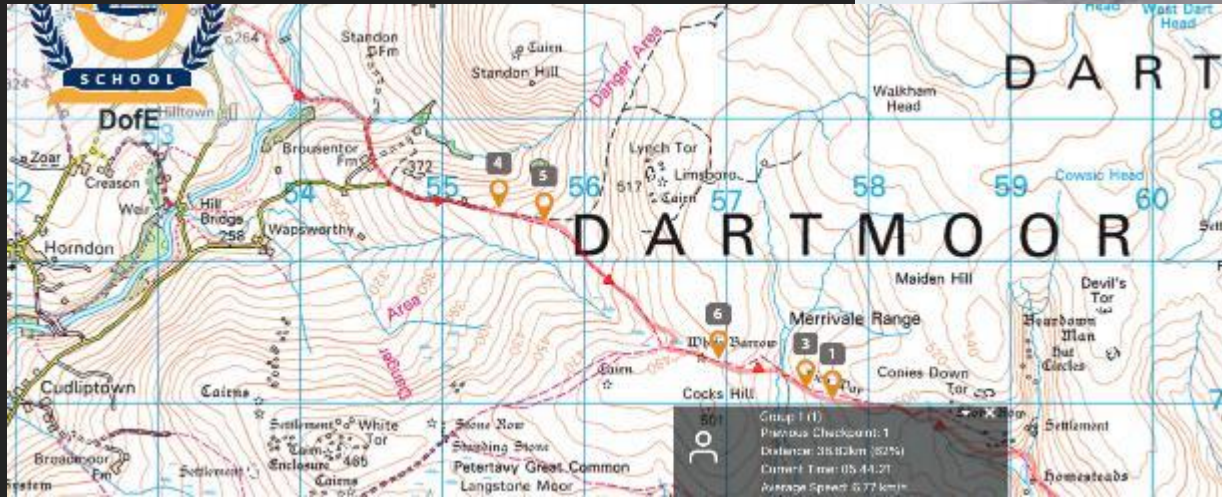
Track Your Progress

You can track all your miles (or kilometres) directly into our mobile apps (iOS and Android).

You can enter an activity into our app either by manually entering its distance or by syncing your activities from your favorite fitness tracker or smartwatch.



**DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD
GPS TRACKER HIRE**



Track or Not to Track Your Choice as Leaders



More Info - [Here](#)



DofE Gold Residential – Kilve Court
23th – 27th October 2023

£260.00

Add to cart



DofE Gold Residential – Kilve Court
7th – 11th August 2023

£260.00

Add to cart



Please share details with
your Golds - Posters
Attached for noticeboards
also

Kilve Gold Residentials 2023

Website [Here](#)

DofE Dates for your Calendar

Early July – Certificate run - pre holidays

7-11th August – Kilve Gold Residential

3rd October – Autumn Term Leaders Meeting – Teams 2-4pm

12th October - Leaders Meeting F2F Taunton Library 2-4pm

23-27th October - Kilve Gold Residential

Early Dec – Cert run

March – Cert Run

Social Media

Please follow us on

- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)

We would love you to share your DofE stories to our site and celebrate your success.

