

East Norfolk Natter – New Year Special

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025.

I hope you have enjoyed some down-time with family and friends over the festive period, I apologise that I have been a bit quiet over the last few weeks, I too needed a short break.

The last part of 2024 was extremely busy as we opened a record number of new sections, and Flags for these sections were presented at the Festive Event. What a great achievement for everyone involved and special thanks to Peter Thurston, our Local Growth and Development Officer for all his work to promote and support these great new Scouting opportunities.

Liam has led us through the Transformation of Scouting and the launch of the Membership System, and I would like to place on record my thanks to Liam for all his work on this project. Although I know many of us have (and still are) experiencing issues with some of the functions, I am confident that the new system gives us better vision to manage our own Scouting going forward, and HQ are working hard to solve the teething problems.

Census time is upon us, page 2 of the newsletter summarises the dates we all need to adhere to this year, but I would urge everyone who is completing the census to add as much information as possible, including ethnicity, religion and disability data as this is very important. It is not satisfactory to use the “prefer not to say” option as an across-the-board response. There is also information regarding Young Leaders on page 2 of the newsletter for you.

St. George’s Day 2025 will be a new format for us all as The Events Team are planning to provide an activity pack for all groups and units to run their own celebrations. This can be done at a date that best suits the sections as St. George’s Day falls around the Easter holidays, which would make a district event difficult for everyone to coordinate. More information will follow in the next few weeks.

On page 3 of the newsletter, there are some photographs from the Festive Event for you to have a look at this great occasion.

I wish you well as we start the Spring term, and I hope to see you soon as I visit meetings. Happy Scouting from Shelly, your D.L.V. (District Lead Volunteer).



Dedication of the new Flags at the Festive Event 2024.

Meeting Dates for 2025:

Coming Soon.

First Aid:

A course is booked for Saturday 25 January 2025, plus two more this year in March and October.

Invitations will be sent to those needing courses in priority order.

Save the Date in your diary...

**District Camp
22 to 26 May 2026.**

We will be holding a District Camp Together for all sections, from Squirrels to Explorers and all adults. This will be the first time in almost 20 years that we have had an all-section camp.

The camp will be held at Eaton Vale Scout and Guide Activity Centre, Norwich.

At the December meeting, all scout groups showed interest in taking part in the camp and so we have booked the site.

This will be a great opportunity to celebrate Scouting as a district, further information will be out in the summer of 2025.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM.

We are now fully up and running on the membership system to manage all Scouting in groups and units. Everyone should have received invitations to access the new system (with the exception of Helpers) and I would encourage those who have not yet done so to access the system, sign the declaration and check all personal details. The "sign in" can be [accessed here](#). Log in is via your membership number – if you need to be reminded of your number, do get in touch. It is really important that you start to access the system as all Learning, Permits and Night's Away Notification s plus other important information is only available via the membership system. There are lots of members of East Norfolk who are yet to access the system, please make it a new year resolution to sign in as soon as possible – thanks.

HERITAGE PROJECT.



The Heritage Project has now published the Look Wide book, and the Heritage Challenge and badge is live on the website for those who did not complete it at the Festive event in December.

The Heritage Trail Boards are available for groups and units to borrow to use at a meeting, and every group has been given 6 copies of the A4 Look Wide book to use too. A5 copies of the book are available for you to have a personal copy for a donation of £5.00. Our Heritage Team Lead, Andrew (Ferg) Farr, is now working to expand the information held about all district groups and sections. If you have photos or information that you want to share with Ferg, please email him at heritage@eastnorfolkscouts.org.uk

DISTRICT EVENTS AUTUMN 2024.

SCOUTING SKILLS ADULTS CAMP - 24 adults enjoyed two days of activities at Herringfleet Scout Camp.
TOP AWARDS - 50 young people's and adult's achievements were recognised at St. George's Theatre.
FESTIVE EVENT - Over 600 young people and adults joined the event at Gt. Yarmouth Minster.

DISTRICT EVENT PLANS FOR 2025.

LEADER'S SKILLS DAY – a day of workshops to support all adults in East Norfolk Scouts, leaders and trustees.
LEADER'S ASTRONOMY EVENING – a social event to star gaze with Teo
ST. GEORGE'S DAY – a different way to celebrate St. George's Day within Scout groups and units.
TOP AWARDS – a new way to recognise young people's achievement as the 2024 event was not well attended.

CENSUS.

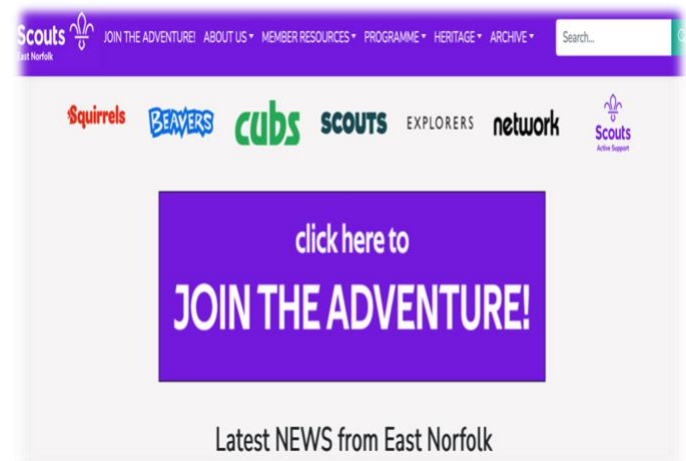
The site is open, and I would encourage all GLV's to be entering information as soon as possible please. I will as in previous years be reviewing all data and together, we must meet the following deadlines:
By Friday 31 January – Groups and District to complete entries onto system at the latest.
By Friday 7 February – Sign-off by District.
By Friday 14 February – Sign-off by County.
By Friday 21 March – All fees must be made (and bank cleared) to the District for payment to County by 1 April.
Remember that ALL members who will be Invested by 14 February must be declared on the Census.

YOUNG LEADERS.

33 Young Leaders were registered on the census 2024. From Census 2025 the subsidy will be staged to relate to the completion of the Young Leader training scheme modules as notified at the AGM:
100% completion of YL Belt = 50% subsidy by district.
Module A to 50% completion of YL Belt = 25% subsidy.
Scout Groups are asked to fund the remainder of the membership fee for Yls.
Remember: You need to register Young Leaders as soon as they start working with a section. YLs have five months to complete Module A and a YL should not work with their old troop for 12-months, but can work with other sections.

DISTRICT WEBSITE.

The District Website is a resource centre for all adults in Scouting in East Norfolk Scouts – click the image below.



Other areas of the website include:

[District Equipment for All](#)

Lots of equipment that groups can borrow to help with programme.

[Squirrel Programme Planning](#)

Programme plans for the Squirrel section.

[Heritage – History Mystery Challenge](#)

For those who want to earn the special uniform badge.

FESTIVE CELEBRATION AND HERITAGE EVENT 2024.



Over 600 young people and adults joined together at The Great Yarmouth Minster to celebrate at the Festive Event and launch the Heritage Project. Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and adults in Scouting took part in the “History, Mystery Challenge” and completed the Heritage Trail to earn the DLV Challenge Badge.

Presentations on the evening were made to The Network Team who completed their Explorer Belt Award in the summer of 2024 (pictured above) and four Local Commendation Awards were made to Gillian Mays, Phil Lynes, and Andrew (Ferg) Farr for their work on the Heritage Project and to Liam Segust for his dedication to the launch of Transformation in the district.

A collection of 400 tins and packets of food was made for The Pathway Food Bank in a replica trek cart that was built as part of the heritage project by our very own Cyclist Scout.