

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 468

<http://www.romsey-scouts.org.uk>

Dec 2008



**ROMSEY
DISTRICT
SCOUT**



**CAROL SERVICE
SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER
3PM AT ROMSEY URC
PLEASE JOIN US**

WOODSMOKE

Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th Jan 2009** please.

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CUBS SCRAPHEAP CHALLENGE

At the beginning of the November, Romsey District Cubs had their annual Scrapheap Challenge at 10th HQ. Teams from 1st, 4th, 6th, 10th(S), and 11th took part. Each team consisted of six Cubs with a total age of 54 years.

The afternoon started with inspection. Steve then read the Cubs excerpts from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', as the Cubs would base their models on this story. Then donning boilers suits, aprons etc to save uniforms getting too messed up by paint and glue, it was all go.

County Commissioner for Cubs, Vanessa Slawson was judge, with points awarded for teamwork, inspection and their models (especially if there were working parts). The teams worked tirelessly all the afternoon, planning, assembling, painting and gluing.



It never ceases to amaze us what can be achieved from scrap material to make such impressive models, and the Cubs being fully engrossed in what they are trying to achieve.

There was a twenty minute tuck break before the final hurdle to complete their models and tidy up the work areas. What a decision for Vanessa when all the models were ready for the final inspection and the floor space cleared of all rubbish. The judging was so close with only points separating all the Packs.

The winners were 9th West Wellow Pack, who with their leaders were stunned with surprise and very pleased. They will now represent the District in the County final at

Waterlooville. Good luck to 9th, have a great afternoon and enjoy meeting Cubs from all over the County.

ADC Janice Waterman thanked Vanessa for coming along to judge and to all the leaders for setting up and then clearing up afterwards. Lastly a big WELL DONE to all the Cubs who took part.

Jackie Betteridge

GOING TO THE BALL

The night was dark, the wind howled down the bleak street, and the rain slanted horizontally past the street lights that shone down and reflected from the streaming tarmac. It was a night for all good souls to be curled up in front of a warm fire and so it was a surprise to see signs of movement at the end of the street. A darkened carriage drew up by the end house and, as if by some hidden signal, a shadowy group of cloaked and masked figures hurried from the house to the vehicle. As soon as they were aboard it departed into the night. What was this mysterious enterprise; some illicit and nefarious scheme? Some illegal mischief about to take place? No, it was simply a group of enthusiastic Romsey Scouters leaving for the County Ball.

This was the third time that the county had organised a county-wide ball, and once again the venue was the home of Hampshire cricket at the Rose Bowl. Following the very successful event last year to mark the centenary of scouting, this year they decided to vary things by holding a masked ball. Most guests, as you would expect from scouting types, had entered into the spirit of this and so masks of every variety were on display, from elaborate professional items that looked straight from Venice to home made "here's one I saw on Blue Peter" creations. It all helped to give a fresh twist to the event.



An excellent well-served meal was followed by an evening of dancing to a lively but

noisy group, with other amusement for those wanting to sit out for a period. A cartoonist was on hand drawing sketches of willing sitters and he produced a fine set of Becky Williams and JP just in case their wedding pictures don't come out! The casino was again very popular except that my wife could not stop winning. If only it had been for real money!

A great evening, very well supported by Romsey who filled four tables for the evening. We hope this will encourage the county to continue the event into another year.

David Sutton
Vice President

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Halloween Mayhem in North Baddesley

On the Friday before half term, 15th N Baddesley and 10th Romsey (Sioux) packs held a joint pack meeting to celebrate Halloween at N Baddesley H.Q.

The hall was decked out with all manner of Halloween symbols, and Cubs and Leaders dressed as ghouls, Count Draculas, skeletons, ghosts etc. Well done to all who had dressed up for the occasion and what a decision for the judge. If that was difficult, it was even worse trying to sort out all the carved and decorated pumpkins displayed. Well done to everyone.



Now for the games—apple dunking and find the sweets in a large bowl of jelly (no comment, but very messy!). Everyone then enjoyed a great buffet supper prepared by leaders and parents to round off the evening.

Everyone had a great time—thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to make the party a success.

Jackie Betteridge

TYLER GAVIN 2000—2008

Mohican Cub Pack finished last term on a very sad note. Tyler Gavin, one of their Cubs, who suffered from cystic fibrosis passed away on Monday 7th July. Tyler had been an active member of Maple Beaver Colony and had recently moved to Cubs. He will be remembered for his positive, determined, cheerful attitude to life.

On Monday 10th November, the Pack held a 'Bring & Buy Sale' to raise as much money as they could for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Cubs, leaders and parents entered into this with much enthusiasm, and on sale were 'yummy' cakes, books, toys and bric-a-brac. At the end of the meeting, when all the money had been counted, there was over £100 and there could be more to come. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this event a success.

The money will be donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust as soon as possible.

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 Thanks to many of you for supporting the recent car wash to raise money for the Explorer's Suisse 09 trip. We had a good number of Explorers in action and took just under £400. We were pleased to undertake this activity in collaboration with the New Forest North Cerebus Explorer unit who will be camping with us and sharing catering in Switzerland. We first met them at H007 where we were both on the same sub camp and camped adjacent to each other. We are doing a joint bag packing activity with them in mid-December at Asda in Totton which they have kindly arranged. Our thanks to Andy Cherret for providing the resources for the car wash.

At the end of November we have Explorer and older scouts GPS trophy night hike which includes a series of bases with activities. This year it is based at Pinsent Scout Campsite near Winchester.

We are unfortunately still without an Explorer Scout Leader for the Apaches unit based at Wellow. I am running this unit temporarily with great help from Susa Dickerson the AESL, the network and others whilst we look for a new leader. Unfortunately this is not a

sustainable arrangement in the long-term, so if you know anyone who may be interested please do let me know.

The annual fireworks and bonfire evening organised for the Explorers by the Network was a huge success. This is the first year that the network members have done it and they did really well. The evening also included very welcome hot soup and rolls. Our very grateful thanks to them all.

Crusaders Explorer unit held a weekend camp at Lyons Copse campsite at the end of October half term week. The theme of the camp was to introduce a number of members who have joined from outside scouting to basic camping skills, whilst also undertaking some activities available at the campsite. The weather provided some very memorable experiences. The first night there was a frost



which meant that while we were putting up the tents the kit bags actually had frost on them. Saturday afternoon it rained really heavily which made getting the altar fires to light was a real challenge. I am sure the Explorers thought we would never manage it, we did of course, and

they went on to cook their tea on the altar fires.

Congratulations to John Papworth ESL of Tomahawks Explorer unit and Becky Williams Explorer young leader who are getting married at Romsey Abbey on the 22nd of November. Both have made a significant contribution to the success of Explorer scouting in the Romsey district and I know will continue to do so. We wish them every happiness in a future of married life.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Robin Taylor- Milton
DESC

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Romsey Scouts were this year asked to help with erecting the Christmas lights, in the town centre. When I visited to take an 'action shot', I caught one Scout up a ladder, while most had very important roles on the ground (holding the ladder, sorting the looms and drinking tea!). A very social morning, out in the community.



A Night to Remember

It was early evening at Fritham when 42 children from 1st and 4th wearing wellies and clasping their torches began to jump into as many puddles as they could find, which after the torrential rain the day before, there was no shortage of. Aided by around 20 adults we set off across the moor towards the woods and our destination of the Royal Oak Pub. There the adults relaxed with a small drink while the children sipped coke, crunched crisps and ran around wildly. After our break and group photos we all set off back through the woods in the dark, shining our torches into the trees and each other. We were a noisy and excited crowd splashing and getting stuck in the mud, the local wildlife may never get over the shock. The bridge of doom caused some adults to look concerned as the children swung across without a care, leaving them to balance less confidently and hoping not to fall into the massive chasm below. Finally we tracked our way back to the cars and went home feeling like we had had an adventure to remember.

Thank you 1st for joining us and making it one of our best meetings.

*Nikki and Louise
Beaver Leaders, 4th Romsey*



The Beaver Scouts are preparing for the District Carol Service on 14th Dec and they are coming dressed as Shepherds, Angels and Sheep to compliment the carol While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night.

Christmas Crackers - Every year at Romsey Show the Beavers run a very successful lucky dip. Due to the generosity of just a few people we have been able to re-stock after each show, however it is becoming increasingly harder to replenish our stocks of small toys, some of which are often found in crackers. If therefore you have any items from the insides of crackers, or are in possession of other small items that you think would be suitable for a children's lucky dip, please can you give them to your Beaver Leader or member of the District Executive.

Thank you, Sally (*ADC Beaver Scouts*)

Future Dates

Beaver Leaders Meeting Tuesday 3rd Feb, 8 pm at 15th Scout HQ
Beaver Scout Annual Party Saturday 7th Feb, Crosfield Hall, Romsey

District Diary Dates

Dec			
Thur 4th	Exec + District Management	7.45	10th H.O.
Fri 5th	Late Night Shopping		Romsey
Sun 14th	District Carol Service	3 pm	URC, Romsey
2009			
Jan			
Thur 29th	District Management	7.45	18 Cherville St
Feb			
Sat 21st	District Barn Dance		Crosfield Hall
Sun 22nd	Founders Day		

George O'Brien

Many people across the Scouting district are feeling shock and sadness at the sudden and untimely death of George O'Brien on 31st October at the young age of 17. Scouting had been a large part of George's short life and he had been a member of the 1st Romsey Group from the age of 6 when he first became a beaver. I understand that he joined even before his mother, Jane, who is known to so many throughout the district. George progressed through Beavers, then on through Cubs with Cub Leader Andy Webb, who described him as "a really nice lad. He was keen and enthusiastic about everything, and if asked to do anything he would always get stuck in without complaint".

George progressed naturally on to Scouts where he continued to be a keen and enthusiastic member. His Scout Leader, Phil James, remembers him as "a hard worker who would take part in anything. I could always rely on him to get a job done and he always had a smile on his face" said Phil. He attended all Troop camps and progressed to the level of a Patrol Leader. Phil remembers that he was such a friendly, uncomplaining chap. "At one camp when my son Morgan was about two years old I remember him happily lying on the grass while Morgan jumped all over him". He completed his bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and was working towards his silver award at the time of his death. As a part of his award he had returned to helping with the Cubs for his community service commitment.

Although Scouting was important in his life, it was by no means George's only interest. He was a keen footballer, played the baritone saxophone, and was a very talented singer becoming head chorister at Romsey Abbey in 2004.

The thoughts and prayers of her many friends in Scouting go out to Jane and her family at this sad time in their lives.

A Trust Fund is being set up in memory of George for the benefit of Choral Scholars at Romsey Abbey and our Carol Service collection will be donated to that.