

# WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 478

<http://www.romseyscouts.org/>

December 2009



## WOODSMOKE

Articles for the next edition to Claire Sutton by **15th Jan 2010** please.

18 Devon Drive, Chandlers Ford, SO53 3GN

Tel: 023 8025 1887 E Mail: [claire@devondrive.org](mailto:claire@devondrive.org)

Further information on any aspect of Romsey Scouting from

District Chairman: John Stevens 023 8077 2973

District Commissioner: Darren Reed 023 8042 8244

## DIGGERS DAY 2007

24 Scouts and 7 Leaders (including the District Chairman) left Romsey on a very wet Sunday morning to travel down to Priddy. We were off on an adventure to try something new. The aim of Diggers Day this year was to give Scouts and Guides in Romsey District an opportunity to try caving. Most Troops in the District were represented and all the young people who took part had a fabulous – if muddy – time! Thanks to all the adults who took part for giving up their time and to all the Scouts and Guides who took part for their excellent behaviour!

Diggers Day was fantastic! After a long coach journey, we arrived at the caving site. Immediately we kitted up and set off up the hill to the cave. We were in small groups of 4 or 5 and we quickly got to know each other.



The first cave was incredible, sometimes we were crawling through tight tunnels and other times we were playing on slides made completely of rock! My favourite part was when we all turned off our head torches and had to grope around in the dark.

Finally, after 3 hours of fun and filth, we emerged for lunch. After some sandwiches and hot chocolate we explored another cave that was just as exciting as the last one.

When we arrived home we were covered in mud, but everyone enjoyed it.

*Rebecca Weare,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey*

Diggers Day was a really good experience. I didn't know what to expect when I was asked if I wanted to do "caving" but



it definitely exceeded my expectations! I'm not very good with rock climbing, small spaces or big drops but the guides were great and I felt completely safe while having fun.

I really enjoyed Diggers Day – and would recommend trying caving!

*Lizzie Rowland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Romsey*

### **EXPLORER NEWS**

The six district Explorer Scout units have been active again this term. Each of the units has its own exciting programme, in addition there have been a number of joint unit Explorer events. The first was a very successful and well attended Uni Hock joint district Explorer activity kindly organised by Mark Bourne on behalf of the Crusaders Unit based at North Baddesley.

Our own Romsey Scout Network did us proud again with a fantastic firework display and bonfire as a joint district Explorer event. Again this was well attended and we were very pleased to welcome our new county commissioner Adam. I believe it is essential we encourage our old Explorer Scouts to move on to the Network and events such as this are part of that process.

As I write this I have just returned from a fantastic weekend with 16 of our Romsey Explorer Scouts on a district Explorer Scout activity in London for our biannual Monopoly competition. The Explorer Scouts in teams of four to five were provided with a one-day travel card and had six hours to photograph as many of the road names on the Monopoly board with their team in front of the sign as possible, extra points are awarded for houses and also for hotels in the picture. The trophy was won again by Tomahawks, well done. Thanks to Kirsty Holdsworth for organising the event for us, and to Darren, JP and Kirsty for helping over the weekend. Yesterday was extremely wet and windy but all the Explorer Scouts persevered and put up a very creditable performance.

We stayed overnight in the Lord Amory an ex Rotterdam pilot cutter moored up in London Docklands just at the back of Canary Wharf - a part of the Scout Docklands project. When we arrived yesterday there were waves in the enclosed dock and

the boat was bobbing up and down too. Fortunately this had subsided by the time we went to bed, as getting sea-sickness on a boat moored in a dock sounds a bit feeble. This morning (Sunday) we let the Explorer Scouts loose in the Natural History and the Science Museums. All had a great time, both the Explorers and the leaders.

There has been a lot of DoE expedition activity this term. With two groups completing their silver expedition on Dartmoor. They both coped extremely well despite a mixture of weather conditions, including fierce winds and driving rain the first night they arrived up at Princetown and the following morning, plus the mist on the last day. Fortunately their navigation was good enough to keep them out of HM prison otherwise they may have been detained under her Majesty's pleasure. In addition there has been a Bronze's final expedition in the Purbeck's.

We had four Explorer Scouts from Romsey and three Scouts shortly to be Explorer Scouts attend the 2011 Sweden jamboree selection weekend. The great news is that three of our Explorers have been selected: Jack Finch, Philip Sleath and Steph Wyant, very well done to all of you. I was pleased to be able to go along and help as staff at the weekend. Once again the Explorers persevered despite extreme weather conditions of high winds and very heavy rain on the Sunday morning when we all got absolutely soaked and the program had to be amended accordingly. Many thanks to the 15th group for loaning a set of patrol kit on behalf of Romsey district for this event. The patrol tents were so wet they took three days to dry! But that's why we go camping because we love drying tents out in between other activities in the HQ.

*Robin Taylor-Milton*  
*District Explorer Scout Commissioner*

## **BEAVER SCOUTS**

The Beaver Scouts are looking to buy an adult Beaver Costume to be worn at events such as their party and Romsey Show, this will amuse the children as well as, hopefully promote Scouting. The costume may have to be purchased from Canada or America unless someone reading this knows where one can be found in this country? Auditions for those who wish to wear this costume will take place in a Scout Headquarters near you "The Beaver Factor"!



The Annual Party is to take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February beginning at 2 pm in the Crosfield Hall Romsey. Some of you may have already noticed that this is the same day as the district barn dance, not a problem for those of us who have the stamina to attend both!

The Beaver Good turn for 2010 is going to be raising funds for George's Trust. I would think all of you reading this know that George was the much loved son of Jane and Joe O'Brien who sadly died last year. Since that time his parents, brother Henry and the rest of the family have been an inspiration to us all. Not only have they had to cope with a grief that has at times been so hard to bear, but they have put any energy they have left into raising funds in memory of George. Jane is a Beaver Leader and George was a Beaver Scout, so the leaders felt there could be no better or worthy cause to fund raise for. So if your Beaver Colony has a fund raising event for George's Trust next year please support them. For more details go to <http://www.georgetrust.org.uk/>

Also if you have any novelties from Christmas Crackers that you don't want to play with or keep! Please could you hand to your Beaver Leader as they are useful for the lucky dip at Romsey Show – thank you.

## **A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE FROM THE BEAVER SECTION**

*Sally Kerson  
ADC Beavers Scouts*

Next Beaver Leaders meeting will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> January at 10<sup>th</sup> Woodley H.Q. 8.15 pm.

## SCOUTERS AT WORK



It's that time of year again and the Scouts have been asked to help decorate the town for this festive season. We helped last year for the first time, and were very appreciative of the donation we received from the Chamber of Commerce. Clearly, they were impressed with the standard of our work and we have been asked again.

As you can see, it entails a tremendous amount of hard work—at least for the person up on the scaffold! Seriously though, a lot of work beforehand goes into making sure all the looms are working as are all the bulbs, and then the ladderwork getting the looms across the streets begins. Safety is paramount, not only for those aloft, but also ensuring pedestrians and cars negotiate a safe route for all concerned. It has yet to snow on them this year, but they have so far experienced everything else nature can throw at them. The result is something the whole town appreciates.

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## WELCOME

To the following nearing the end of the process of joining our District team

|                 |                                 |             |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| John Nailor     | Assistant Cub Scout Leader      | 21st Romsey |
| Louise Forgan   | Group Scout Leader              | 4th Romsey  |
| Georgia Harris  | Assistant Explorer Scout Leader |             |
| David Hutchings | Assistant Scout Leader          | 3rd Romsey  |

We hope you enjoy being a member of Romsey District and wish you many happy hours of Scouting.

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## FEBRUARY EDITION OF WOODSMOKE

This edition will be edited by Claire Sutton and all the deadlines remain unchanged. Please inundate her with editorial, so she doesn't have to make too much up herself! All information on the front page but her Email address is: [claire@devondrive.org](mailto:claire@devondrive.org)

## **The Monopoly Challenge**

The day started early and rather damp on Saturday 14th as we met at 8.45 at 10<sup>th</sup> Scouts HQ to get the mini bus to London. We were given our task on the way there, to visit as many places on the monopoly board in London and take a picture of us with the road sign using any mode of public transport; different places were awarded different amounts of points depending on how expensive they were in the original game and all in just 7 hrs. We had to start and finish at our boat “Lord Amory” where we were to stay over night in docklands.

After some hasty planning on the mini bus we arrived in London at the boat and all 3 teams were let loose in London – two teams from Tomahawks in Romsey and one from Crusaders from, North Baddesley. We made our way across London using tubes, buses or simply walking through the rain visiting a range of famous and less well known streets as well as some iconic sights including Trafalgar Square. At 6pm the two Tomahawks teams arrived back on time to hand in their photos and have their scores tallied. North Baddesley arrived 30 minutes late, forfeiting valuable points, rather weary but all three teams were still smiling even after the long day. We spent the evening relaxing on the boat awaiting our scores that were to be announced on Sunday.

On Sunday morning we were woken by music and the sound of breakfast being prepared. We packed up our things and took some last minute photos before the scores were announced on deck. In third place the Crusaders team, second Tomahawks team one, and with only about 100 points more in first place was Tomahawks team two. Both Tomahawks teams managed to beat the winning score of two years ago by nearly 400 points as well as retaining the prize until the next Monopoly Challenge. The winning team members – Pippa Keane, Jack Finch, Sarah Butler, Phil Sleath and Katherine Morris – collected their stunning trophy of St Stevens Tower and their prizes (they each got a mug from London to keep). Before we all piled on the mini bus and made our way to the Natural History and Science Museums for an educational morning. After lunch we returned, rather more tired than when we'd set out on the Saturday, to Romsey.

*Pippa Keane, Tomahawks Explorer Unit*

### District Diary Dates

|                     |                     |          |                |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>December</b>     |                     |          |                |
| Fri 4th             | Late Night Shopping |          | Romsey         |
| Sat 5th             | County Training     | 10.00... | Botley         |
| Sun 13th            | Carol Service       | 3.00     | URC            |
| <b>January 2010</b> |                     |          |                |
| Sat 9th             | Scout Leaders Mtg   | 7.00     | 4 Horseshoes   |
| Thur 21st           | Man Meeting         | 7.45     | T.B.C.         |
| Mon 25th            | Beaver Leaders      | 8.15     | 10th H.O.      |
| Sat 30th            | Modules 3 & 6       | 9.30...  | 1st H.O.       |
| <b>February</b>     |                     |          |                |
| Tue 2nd             | District Expl. Mtg  | 7.45     | T.B.C.         |
| Wed 17th            | All Leaders Mtg     |          | 6th H.O.       |
| Thur 18th           | Scout Exec          | 7.45     | 15th H.O.      |
| Mon 22nd            | Founders Day        |          |                |
| Sat 27th            | Beaver Party        | 2.00     | Crosfield Hall |
| Sat 27th            | Barn Dance          |          | Crosfield Hall |

**COME TO OUR**

**Barn Dance**

**ON**

**SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY**

**POGLES WOOD**

**DANCING TO**

**£10 inc**

**supper**