

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 488 <http://www.romseyscouts.org/> December 2010

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



TO YOU ALL
AND
HAPPY
SCOUTING
IN
2011

WOODSMOKE

Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th Jan 2011** please.

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District Chairman: John Stevens 023 8077 2973

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Putting them up

Some members of Romsey District Scouts have been busy putting up the Christmas lights, in Romsey Town centre, ready for the big switch on at the end of November. The weather has been kinder this year, than it was last, and all seems to have gone smoothly.

Our thanks must go to John Evans and his family, plus John Donovan and John

Pragnell for all the work they have done on our behalf. You don't have to be called John to get involved, but it seems to help!!

We hope for this good fortune to continue as they all come down again in January and anyone wishing to volunteer will be welcomed with open arms. They will be starting at the beginning of January 2011, please contact John Evans for details. Tel: 023 8073 1205 , Mobile: 07770 385881

29th January 2011

This extra quiz night in our calendar is selling out fast—more than half of the tickets have already gone, and it's too cold to spread out into the car park!

If you're hoping to come, as it's always such a good evening of fun and laughter, topped by an incredibly good value supper, we suggest you do not delay purchasing your tickets.

WALKING ALL OF THE TEST WAY FOR THE MARFAN TRUST

After months of planning and practise walks, Saturday 6th November dawned with dry but cloudy weather. As 9 walkers and two support drivers congregated at the top of the Test Way at Ink Pen Beacon, Berkshire, the magnitude of the challenge ahead started to dawn on us, 45.8 miles in just two days. At 8.10 we set off at a reasonable pace. Practise hikes had taught us not to start too fast. After passing through the campsite at Linkenholt it was on to Hurstbourne Tarrant. We stopped for a well earned lunch stop at St Mary Bourne. The pace slowed in the afternoon and the light soon started to fade, but we carried on into the darkness, through the occasional rain shower. We called it a night at Stockbridge at 20:40, where we piled back into the minibus to take us to King's Somborne Scout Hall, where dinner was being prepared.

After a good nights sleep and hearty breakfast it was time to continue; 24 miles down, 22 miles to go. With replenished energy and daylight we set off at 09:40 at a fast pace, and were walking through Romsey after only 4 hours. It was then on down towards Nursling and across the boardwalk, where the River Test meets Southampton water. The last 1.6 miles is through the paved streets of Totton and up and over the railway bridge, which after 45 miles is definitely not required! The finish line at Eling Tide Mill is not well marked, the Test Way signs just stop! But at 17:50 we finished the 45.8 miles. We finished just in time to attend the annual service of remembrance at the United Reformed Church for all families who had lost a loved one in the past year.

It was a moving service hearing Russell's name read out, but we hope that our efforts and everyone's generosity will help support further research into the cause of Marfan syndrome and ways of early diagnosis to try and prevent



any more sudden deaths.

Congratulations to the team of walkers: Phil Coles, Robert Link, Emma Rimmington, Dave Shill, Louise Beare, Robert Taylor, Jim O'Dowd, Bryony Knight, Craig Lees, Felicity Coles and Martyn Blake and many thanks to the support drivers Andy 'Chezzer' Cherrett and Tony Coles and to Fi Durrant who cooked dinner and breakfast.

Sponsorship can be donated at the following link, or in person at the Romsey District Scout Carol Service on Sunday 13th December, where the collection is going for research into Marfan Syndrome:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/philipcoles-marfantrust>

Martyn Blake, ACSL, 10th Romsey, Woodley & Crampmoor

Editors Note: Phil and Martyn completed the entire distance, with everyone else helping and supporting them and without whom it would not have been possible.



SCOUT AWARDS PRESENTED

At the beginning of November, the Council Chamber of Romsey Town Hall was packed for a mass presentation of certificates.

Town Mayor, Mike Curtis presented certificates to beavers Cubs and Scouts. This is a wonderful achievement for Romsey District, where parents and leaders work hard to encourage our young people to gain these awards.

After the presentation both the Town Mayor and Darren Reed, the District Commissioner expressed their gratitude to everyone who had encouraged the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to attain their awards.

Beavers – Bronze Award

1 st Romsey	Jamie Reid
4 th Bramshaw	Archie MacIntosh, Joe Oliver, Holly Peterson
10 th Woodley and Crampmoor	
Sequoia Colony:	Matthew Fraser, Luca Mavo, Michael Stewart, Alexander Watts
Maple Colony:	Andrew Hannigan, Ben Pearce, William Sturdy, William Whitaker
11 th Kings Somborne	Isobel Glenton, Ewen McClenaghan, Matthew Younger
15th N. Baddesley	Nathan Brett, William Hughes, Camren Marsh, Jay Newell, William Andrews, Mitchell Shepherd, Max Slater, Jack Turnbull, Sean

Wheeler

Cubs – Silver Award

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4 th Bramshaw | Ben Brown, Charles Davis |
| 6 th Lockerley | Ben Manning, Austin Shepherd |
| 10 th Woodley & Crampmoor | |
| Mohican Pack | Lewis Templeton |
| Sioux Pack: | Anthony Rutherford, Jimmy Coakley, Nicholas
comer, Robert Comer, Nick Evans, Charles
Fawbert, Adam Firth, James Lemon, Callum
Smith, Findley Summerfield, Ben Upfold,
Christian Watts |
| 11 th Kings Somborne | Sofie Barnard, Christian Beck, Isabel John-
son, Adam McClenaghan, Lydia Newberry,
Joshua Thomas-Buffin, Charlie Younger |
| 15 th N. Baddesley | Izaak Murray, Robert Sills |
| 21st Nursling & Rownhams | |
| | James Alexander, Keris Chalk, Nathan
Humphries, Daniel Lockhart |

Scouts – Gold Award

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 3 rd Braishfield | Chris Bright, Lucy Hamilton, Bertie Jowitt,
Isabelle lafferty, Rosa Naismith |
| 6 th Lockerley | Stephen Smith |
| 11 th Kings Somborne | Jessica MacBean, Thomas Rickard, Timothy
Riley, Nicola Waggott, Chris Waggott |
| 15 th N Baddesley | Liana Blake, Alice Evans |

While the Mayor was signing certificates, parents and leaders were taking photographs and the district team served very welcome refreshments to everyone present.

Jacky Betteridge, DCSL

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THANK YOU

10th Romsey Scouts have asked that I thank everyone who came along to their 'Affordabauble' Jewellery sale in the middle of November. No item was priced at more than £5.00 and many were less, but group funds have benefited by £740, of which £95 was made by the sale of cakes.

It seems there are very few things which cannot be sold for the benefit of Scouting in Romsey



**BARN DANCE**



**SATURDAY**



**26 FEBRUARY 2011**

**CROSFIELD HALL**



**ROMSEY**

## District Cub Scout Challenge Trophy

On the first Saturday in November, teams from 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – that is Cubs from Bramshaw, Lockerley, Woodley (Mohican and Sioux packs), Kings Somborne and Nursling & Rownhams – arrived at 10<sup>th</sup> HQ to contest the annual district challenge trophy, which this year was based on the training scheme.



Teams consist of six Cubs with a combined age of 54 years (2 x 8yrs, 2 x 9 yrs and 2 x 10 years). After inspection, Cubs visited each of the bases spending 12 minutes at each. Nature (tree identification), road safety sign (recognition), compass point pictures, tracking signs, map exercise and science (volcano).

A break for tuck and time for the Cubs to go out in the sunshine for 15 minutes to use up their surplus energy.

Back to finish the final bases. After the scores had been added up this had been an evenly contested activity. ADC Cubs, Janice Waterman called everyone into the circle to present the trophy to the winners – 21<sup>st</sup> (Nursling and Rownhams), by one point. Second were 4<sup>th</sup> (Bramshaw) and in third place, 10<sup>th</sup> Sioux pack (Woodley and Crampmoor).

Janice thanked everyone for coming and especially the leaders who had given up their afternoon. One of the Cubs led a big BRAVO to everyone. This was another District Cub activity enjoyed by everyone who attended.

*Jacky Betteridge DCSL*





**Romsey Town Mayor**

invites you to the

# **? Mayor's Quiz Night**

**The Crosfield Hall  
Romsey**

**Saturday 29 January 2011**

*In aid of the Mayor's Charities*

**Tickets available from  
Romsey Advertiser Office  
or The Town Hall**

**Tickets £12 includes a  
two-course supper.  
Teams of  
6 people (maximum)**

*Closing date for tickets Wednesday 26 January 2011*

## Romsey Remembers

For longer than I have been associated with the District, Romsey Scouts have taken part in the Romsey Town remembrance service. Part of our contribution is the cordoning off part of the Memorial Park and handing out orders of service. So it was this year; Darren, Robin Molyneaux, Martyn Blake and I set up the cordon and later we were joined by Terry for the handing out of the orders of service.

The park soon filled with people and the parade led by the Romsey Cadet Band who formed up around the memorial. Many with medals proudly pinned to their chests, the majority on the left side designating them as holders on the awards or on the right, like Robin and I, with medal previously awarded to parents or grandparents. They were followed by pipers leading the great and the good of Romsey.



All too soon the time for the silence had come and the distant sound of helicopter rotors hinted at things to come. At the end of two minutes there was a fly past by the army air corps historic flight of a Sioux (the mash chopper), an Alouette II and an

appropriately named Scout helicopters and a modern Apache long-bow attack helicopter.

However just before the start of the silence there was for me one of the most poignant moments; four swans were flying south, the powerful beat of their wings resonated around the Park. Their formation rapidly changing shape as a different bird took the lead. As **they passed over the memorial they had adopted a "V" formation**; one in the vanguard, two marking the left side and the forth at the back of the right hand arm. The missing man formation, pure coincidence of course but ...

*John Stevens, District Chairman*

## KUDU REPORT

Romsey as winners of last years County Kudu competition inherited the unenviable task of running this years 'night incident hike' for the rest of the County. Sensibly, they didn't enter a team this year (you can't win if you don't enter) but many of the potential participants were involved in the organisation.

Below is a report from our Vice President, David Sutton. When retirement from full-time employment looms, just bear in mind you can stand alongside our VP, and enjoy spending a night in October running a base in an isolated spot in the New Forest!

**‘Hallow’een.** A time of witches and ghouls and things that go bump in the night. So I guess it made complete sense to hold Kudu on 30 October so that anything going bump in the night did not cause undue alarm. Romsey were organising the event on behalf of the county and 16 teams of Explorers and Network members set off around a challenging course in the New Forest at night. Starting **from Harry’s Island camp site they had to navigate themselves** in the dark to a given grid reference where they would be faced with a challenge which they had to accomplish. Points were allocated for teamwork, and success in meeting the challenge, and all was done against a time schedule before they were required to move on. Once completed, a new grid reference was issued and the team had to **calculate the best route to get themselves to their next ‘adventure’**. For many of the teams from all parts of Hampshire, the New Forest was for them ‘new’, so it presented a real test of their scouting training.

My minor part in this adventure was that I had been asked to staff one of the bases with Tris Harris where we devised a gun run for them to complete. Using the guns from 1<sup>st</sup> Romsey, the teams had to run round a course that we had laid out, stopping at one point to dismantle the gun which had to be lifted over an obstacle consisting of a horizontal bar about 1.8 metres above the ground. Some were slightly disconcerted to find that they also had to pass over the beam themselves, but almost without exception they rose to the challenge and to the beam, assisting one another where necessary. The team, but not the gun, then had to crawl under a tarpaulin, before hauling their gun back to the finish. One of the hardest parts was dismantling the gun in the dark without losing any of the bits

## District Diary Dates

### Dec

|          |                        |             |                  |
|----------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Thur 9th | District Management    | 19.45—22.00 | 18 Cherville St. |
| Fri 10th | Late Night Shopping    |             | Romsey           |
| Sun 12th | District Carol Service | 15.00—16.00 | URC, Romsey      |
| Mon 20th | Carols in Market Place |             | Romsey           |
| 27—2 Jan | Explorers Winter Trip  |             | Kandersteg       |

### 2011

### Jan

|          |              |  |                |
|----------|--------------|--|----------------|
| Sat 29th | Quiz Evening |  | Crosfield Hall |
|----------|--------------|--|----------------|

### Feb

|             |                                |               |                   |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Sat 5th     | Explorers GPS Trophy           | Early Evening | 9th H.O.          |
| Tues 8th    | Explorers—Playzone             | Portsmouth    | 19.30—21.00       |
| Tues 15th   | District Explorers Leaders Mtg |               | <b>19.45.....</b> |
| w/e 18—20th | D of E Exped Training          |               | 6th H.O.          |
| Tues 22nd   | Founders Day                   |               |                   |
| Sat 26th    | Barn Dance                     |               | Crosfield Hall    |

### Mar

|          |                   |           |             |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Wed 16th | Explorers—Bowling | Millbrook | 20.00—22.00 |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|

### April

|         |           |  |                |
|---------|-----------|--|----------------|
| Fri 1st | Gang Show |  | Crosfield Hall |
| Sat 2nd | Gang Show |  | Crosfield Hall |

and pieces.

I was impressed by the high spirit of most of the competitors, despite many hours in the dark and cold, and occasionally wet conditions. Much credit is owed to the Romsey team that staged the event, ably led by **David Shill**.”

*David Sutton, District Vice President*

And from Hants County Scouts

Congratulations to Romsey Network led by Scout Network members Robert Link, David Shill and Fiona Durrant and supported by Romsey District and Scout Network members from other Networks and Spearhead's event communications on an excellent and very smooth County Kudu this year. The atmosphere was great at the presentation very early on Sunday morning, and everyone had enjoyed themselves. These events don't run themselves and require a lot of planning, teaming, and sheer hard work. Thanks to everyone who made it happen. You are all a credit to Scouting.