

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 474 <http://www.romsey-scouts.org.uk> July 2009

LEADERS CAMP, JUNE 2009

There was an air of relaxed, quiet calm when I visited the camp on Saturday afternoon, not at all what my experience of Scout camps is. It's amazing what a difference having children on site makes!! When actually involved, one never has the opportunity to see what everyone else is doing, so it all felt very different.



The request from the attendees had been traditional camping and Claire Sutton (DDC) had put together an interesting and varied programme. Saturday morning was a very good introduction for all into food hygiene and the current rules and regulations. This was very well done by Sarah-Jayne Croft, light-hearted with practical examples and team work. It is now felt that this would help everyone camping to cater in a safer environment, so we shall be rolling out a programme of training, as part of our on-going learning.

Also on offer were taster sessions with the ambulatory GPS systems, archery, Beaver Crafts, Shooting and Pioneering (see photo!). Everyone cooked supper, backwoods style (i.e. in

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

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hot embers, using no pans) which included; stew in foil, fish in a bag, roasted stuffed tomatoes, eggs in potatoes and baked apples and bananas.

For relaxation on Saturday evening, they were to try African drumming and on Sunday, Scouts Own, followed by "Strictly Romsey's got X Factor, (not on ice)". As this had all still to happen when I visited, I am

EXPLORER SCOUTS

There has been lots of activity going on at Explorers again recently. The latest district joint Explorer activity involved groups of Explorers using their pioneering skills to build a bridge across the river - the aim being to get their whole team across the river without touching the water whilst crossing. One of the 2 teams succeeded in this! Needless to say there was a great deal of getting wet in the process of both building and using the bridges and we were lucky that it was a really warm summer evening. Thanks to Ross Edwards and Kathryn Power for organising it.



Congratulations from the Explorer Scout section to Fudge and Becky McKay who got married a few weeks ago on a beautifully sunny day. This provided a slight diversion to their main activity of the year as joint organisers of the county Explorer and Network Suisse 09 trip. 32 Romsey Explorers, and 6 Romsey leaders are going on this, with our Explorers plus another group of Romsey leaders as members of the County Staff team including, Tris Harris, John and Becky Papworth and Alan Digby. Our thanks to them for all the work they are doing and will do in the future. There is loads of planning activity for our own Explorers and leader team who are firming up their personal programmes to include over night stays in mountain huts, dawn hikes, glacier hikes, white water rafting, service activities on the site, climbing and snow and ice activities.

Unfortunately we have sadly lost Dusan Gemersky as an Assistant Explorer leader from Apaches Explorers based at Wellow. Dusan has decided to return back home to Slovakia with his wife Monica, but may come back to the UK one day. He will return to being involved with Scouting again in Slovakia. He is very happy to be a contact for Scouts wanting to camp in Slovakia and I have his contact details. We wish them both well for the future.

We held the District Explorer of pushball competition again this year. It was hard fought, but won in the end by Lockerley explorers. This was a well supported event with over 40 of the district explorers present. Well done Lockerley and thanks to JP for organising it.

A group of explorers successfully completed their DoE silver training expedition on Exmoor in May. Thanks to Mike Baxter and Mel for supervising them.

Robin Taylor-Milton, DESC



BEAVER SCOUTS

We are planning on ending our Summer Term with a "Railway Riot"! This is an event to which all colonies in Romsey District will take part in and is to be held at Eastleigh Lakeside on Saturday 18th July. The day will include activities in the arena and also rides on the miniature railway.

Our last Railway Riot was held in 2001 so as some of the Beaver Leaders haven't as yet experienced such an event, it's about time they did! We know the Beavers will thoroughly enjoy the day.

There is a fair amount of equipment needed for the day including tentage for shelter, either from the sun or rain! Therefore, if anyone can help us to set up in the morning and come back later to take down it would be much appreciated, please contact me if you are available.

Jack's Place - Beaver Good Turn - At present the amount raised is nearly £600, not all colonies have completed their fundraising events yet, hopefully I will be able to give a full total in the September edition.

Sally Kerson, ADC Beaver Scouts

4th Romsey Cub Scouts —A Family Affair



Eve White is the Cub Leader at Bramshaw, her daughter Lucy Roper the assistant Cub Leader and her Daughter, Ella, a Cub. Here are the three generations pictured in Romsey, for the St George's Day Service and Parade. Clearly, Scouting runs in their family!

ANOTHER CENTENARY!

2009 marks a very special year for scouts in Braishfield as it will be one hundred years since a troop was first started up in the area. Baden Powell's idea to start up a youth organisation for boys in 1907 was very popular and the idea caught on quickly amongst the young population of the Test Valley. Today there are nearly 800 young people in Romsey Scout Groups and 400,000 young people aged 6-25 enrolled in scouting in the UK.

The roots of the 3rd Romsey Scout Group can be traced back to 1909 since when the troop has provided a great opportunity for boys and more recently girls to enjoy the principles of scouting and adventure.

To celebrate this momentous occasion 3rd Romsey Scouts will be holding a centenary event on the weekend of 5th/6th September. Events on the afternoon of the first day will include commemorative tree plantings in Braishfield and Timsbury followed by an open air service of rededication for the Group flag and an evening b-b-q.

The centenary celebration will be a great opportunity for scouts young and old to get together and enjoy the fellowship of this great organisation. If you are an old Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer, Wolf Cub, Venture, Rover or Senior Scout, a member of the Exec Committee or a Leader from the 3rd Romsey Group you will be most welcome to come along and join in the fun. Perhaps you have a relative or friend who you know was once a part of the Braishfield Group and would like to catch up with the progress of today's scouts.

There will be photographs and scrap books on display charting the last 24 years of scouting in Timsbury and Braishfield. If you have any pictures or memorabilia it would be wonderful to include this in the presentation. Scouting is about the great outdoors and so there will be an informal camp overnight on the 5th September for those who would like to stay over.

To find out more about this event there is a special e-mail address which is scouts3rdromsey@hotmail.co.uk . To register your interest in the Centenary Celebrations simply send in your details to receive further information. Don't forget to look out those old photographs!

Contacts for 3rd Romsey Scout Group:

Scout Leader – Sarah Beaman 023 8081 4295

Exec Committee Member – James Lafferty 01794 523400

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Sleepover to Remember

This year 4th and 1st Romsey Beavers joined forces to have a joint sleepover at Ferny Crofts. 24 children and 5 adults had an action packed day beginning with orienteering around the site. We then ate a quick lunch so we were ready for the off again with the children being split into two groups; one group set off to the climbing and abseiling tower while the others played Frisbee golf, they then swapped around. While dinner was being prepared we played parachute games, the favourite being the 'washing machine'. Martyn joined us for dinner and helped us to build a campfire, then donned his cape and penguin hat to lead us in the best singsong since the district event. The children were so tired at this point that some were asking to go to bed, so after hot chocolate and bed time story they quickly settled in and had a good nights sleep. A 6.30 awakening was a wee bit early for a Sunday morning, but there was breakfast and fun still to be had, plus packing up. 1st had to be away promptly after inspection to attend a special service in the Abbey, 4th played a couple more games and went a little later.

We all felt it was very successful and have planned a repeat event next year. This article would not be complete if there were not a few comments from the children themselves.

Nyah loved the abseiling the best, the worst bit was the midges. Theo loved the climbing and the Frisbee golf (his first throw was into the bog, tee hee)
Eddie could not believe how many activities he took part in, he especially

Scout book helps crack bank fraud

Fraudsters who tried to steal £1.2m from a bank were caught out after police used a scouting handbook to decipher the code, a court has heard.

Ansir Khan, an employee of Carter Allen Private Bank (CAPB) in Sheffield, accessed customers' details from the computer, Nottingham Crown Court heard. To avoid being caught, he wrote down their details in a complex code.

Det Con Chris Stephens, a former district commissioner in the Scouts, used the handbook to crack the code. The officer used the Scoutmaster's A to Z, which was first published in 1958, and then paired the symbols up with the details of customers who had been defrauded.

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## **10<sup>th</sup> Romsey Celebrate their Birthday in Style**

Months ago, I was asked by a leader at 10<sup>th</sup> Romsey (Woodley & Crampmoor) if I would like to help out at their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp, which my sons had attended many years ago, both ultimately earning their Queens Scout. The camp would be at Linkenholt, the fairly remote village, which has just been sold for £25million, over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.

The village I didn't visit, but the site was stunning - in a valley, with wooded hills and fields of sheep and lambs. Red kites were constantly circling overhead, although any prey would surely have abandoned the site, without delay, at the arrival of more than 100 excited, noisy children.

Two colonies of Beavers arrived on Saturday, the majority being day visitors, and there was an exciting array of activities for all to enjoy, including archery, circus skills, water cannon, aerial runway, climbing tower etc. We were very pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Test Valley, Councillor and Mrs Ian Hibberd, who stayed for several hours, seeing and occasionally joining in with the young people as they moved around the activities.

The twelve Beavers who had stayed the night were collected by their parents on Sunday morning and we settled back into what was our routine. It was a very hot afternoon, so the water slide was set up, and after several test runs by leaders, deemed to be safe. After a couple of hours of incredibly busy activity, a participator managed to cut his leg. Appropriate first aid was applied by the supervising Scouter, and an ambulance requested. Within minutes, the Air Ambulance had arrived and landed near to the site of the accident. Those present were congratulated by the paramedics for having acted correctly, and

the lad was soon winging his way to hospital, having first circled the site so he could wave to everyone. Three Scouters also raced to Winchester Hospital to provide support until his parents arrived. After some stitches he returned home, adamant that he wanted to continue his camp. His parents brought him back in time for lunch on Monday and to enable him to set everyone's minds at rest and wish his fellow campers an enjoyable half term holiday, before we all packed up and came home.

On Sunday evening we had also been visited by Reverend Tim Sledge, the Vicar of Romsey for our final Scouts Own and camp fire. He was presented with a group anniversary neckerchief before leading the prayers.

The whole weekend was fantastic. The weather during the day was fabulous although it was very cold at night. We were well fed, (catering for 140 - 150 is no mean feat) some of the children had their moments, as children do (especially at 4.30 in the morning) and I discovered that rural idylls are unbelievable noisy. At 3.30 am the pre-dawn birdsong was absolutely deafening, the pheasants raucous and the sheep and lambs constantly chatting. Romsey Town centre is much quieter!

At the final flag down, Ian Moore, the Group Scout Leader, thanked everyone for coming and all the leaders/helpers who had made the whole thing possible. He especially thanked the casualty for joining us, wishing him a speedy recovery, commenting that he had probably just experienced the most exciting day of his life, something he will still be repeating, in years to come, to his grand children.

*Liz Holloway (Editor)*

#### **NOTE**

The Rotary Club of Romsey Test are selling raffle tickets to raise money for the Hampshire Air Ambulance. Super prizes, including a weekend in Padstow with a meal at Rick Steins restaurant and an afternoons cookery lesson with him.

Contact: David Sutton, 01794 502817

or Graham Hollier 01794 322828 for tickets/details

| <b>District Diary Dates</b> |                                   |        |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| <b>July</b>                 |                                   |        |                 |
| Fri 3rd                     | District AGM                      | 7.30   | URC Hall        |
| Sun 5th                     | Mayor's Picnic                    | noon   | Memorial Park   |
| Mon 6th                     | Musketeer walk                    | 7.00   | 10th Car Park   |
| Thur 16th                   | Mod 1 Training                    |        | 1st H.Q.        |
| Sat 25th                    | Explorers to Switzerland          |        |                 |
| <b>August</b>               |                                   |        |                 |
| Mon 3rd                     | Musketeers Social                 | 8.00   | Sun Inn         |
| Sun 9th                     | Explorers return from Switzerland |        |                 |
| Tues 11th                   | District Exec                     | 7.45   | 10th HQ + field |
| <b>September</b>            |                                   |        |                 |
| Mon 7th                     | Musketeers Social                 | 8.00   | Sun Inn         |
| Sat 12th                    | Romsey Show                       |        | Broadlands      |
| Tues 15th                   | GSLs Mtg                          |        | 15th H.Q.       |
| W/e 19/20                   | Survival Skills                   | County | Pinsent         |
| Mon 21st                    | All Leaders Mtg                   |        | 11th H.Q.       |
| Mon 28th                    | Musketeers AGM & Skittles         |        | t.b.a.          |

**MISSING!!**



One of 10th Romsey's orange Vango Force 10 tents failed to return home after a camp. Did it hitch a lift with you to dry out? Has it prolonged its holiday in your garage, loft or camp store? If you find it, please return it to 10th where its siblings are pining for it!!

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**LOST PROPERTY**

One black waterproof was left in Lortemore Place Car Park after St George's Day. Sarah Beaman has it. She can be contacted on [sarahdiddy@thebeamans.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:sarahdiddy@thebeamans.freeseve.co.uk).