

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

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Queen's Scouts Parade, Windsor

Windsor Castle is the home of Her Majesty The Queen and it is a great honour to the Scout Association that each year the latest Scouts to earn the Queen's Scout Award are invited to parade there before the Sovereign's representative. The honour was bestowed



on us in 1934 by King George V and has been continued ever since.

New holders of awards are also invited to witness the ceremony,

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Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **12th June 2008** please
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and Romsey was extremely fortunate this year to have four new award holders present on this special day. Jean Beauchamp, Janice Waterman and Bob Garlike were joined by Vice President David Sutton at this spectacular event.

The day dawned bright and clear and remained that way throughout the day. Entry to the Castle involved an airport style security screening which is now a familiar part of all our lives. Award holders were invited to join the Chief Scout, Peter Duncan, at morning service in St George's Chapel. Sitting in the magnificent nave which has barely changed in 500 years is a memorable experience in itself and to see a congregation in such a place dominated by scout uniforms is truly moving. The congregation all stood for the entrance of the Military Knights of Windsor followed by the clergy. The service was accompanied by the acclaimed choir of St George's Chapel who are renowned for the quality of their singing.

The sermon was by the Reverend Canon Dr Heuston Finlay who took as his theme the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. He worked round to the point that the rich man had not listened to the teachings of the prophets on how to lead a goodly life and the message for others was 'Be Prepared'.

In the afternoon we entered the great quadrangle of the castle through St George's Gate to see the magnificent lawn surrounded by the imposing tower and ancient stonework of the castle walls. After a short wait in the sunshine the band of the Coldstream Guards marched in and took up position on the lawn. The parade of Queen's Scouts followed to line up along either side of the lawn in double rows. They were followed by an excellent band from 17th Tonbridge Scout and Guide Band augmented by the Corps of Drums from the 3rd

Davyhulme Scout and Guide Band. Finally the colour party with the King's Flag (presented by George V), the Flag of St George, and the Scout Association Colour took up position in the centre of the lawn.

Major General Sir Michael Hobbs KCVO CBE, Governor of the Military Knights of Windsor, representing the Queen then entered the quadrangle. Accompanied by the Chief Scout he proceeded around the lawn to inspect all the Queen's Scouts, while the Coldstream Guards and the Scout Band alternated in providing a musical accompaniment. Finally Major General Hobbs took the salute on the dais with the Chief Scout as all the company marched past. The parade left the quadrangle again through St George's Gate to make their way to St Georges Chapel for the National Scout Service which all new Queen's Scouts may attend.

A tremendous honour and a truly memorable day.

*David Sutton
Vice President*

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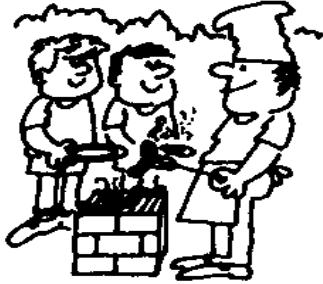
### **CUB SIXERS DAY**

After the threat of inclement weather, the annual Sixers Day turned out to be just right for all the activities planned for the day – sunny but very windy.



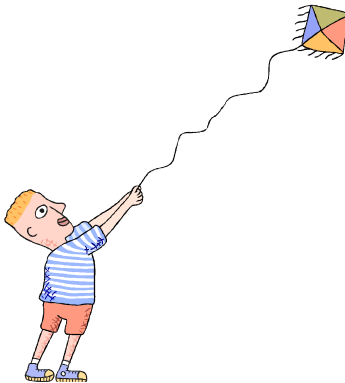
The leaders arrived early to pitch tents and set up the morning session of training bases of knotting, road safety, tracking, compass, maps and tent pitching. At around 9.30, the Cubs began arriving and by 10, ADC Janice Waterman organised the

Cubs into 6 working groups for the morning sessions and by 10.30 it was time to stop for much needed refreshments!!



At lunchtime, the Cubs had a demonstration of cutting turf to prepare the fires to cook their lunch. Under the supervision of leaders, sausages, jacket potatoes, baked beans, ice creams and chocolate biscuits and drinks were enjoyed by the Cubs. Now it was time to clear up, wash up and leave the site as it had been found.

At 2 o'clock, the fun bases started with archery, water rockets, kites, shooting, box stacking and gun carriage races. There was a short tuck break mid afternoon, then at 5, the Cubs flew their kites, something we've not been able to do in recent years, but with a near gale force wind, all the kites took to the air. By now parents had arrived to see a colourful spectacular kite display. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and Cubs and parents soon departed. All the leaders and helpers pulled together to strike tents and activities and clear the site.



There are lots of 'thank yous' - to Janice for organising the day and to all the leaders and especially the young leaders and explorers who came along and helped. As they say, many hands make light work and this was very true. We all look forward to Sixers Day 2010.

For those who stayed, John and Pete served up a roast dinner, with trifle to follow. They had worked tirelessly all day, preparing food, jacket potatoes and drinks for tuck. Thank you to you both.

*Jacky Betteridge DCSL*

## **WELCOME**

To the following new members of the team

|                    |                         |            |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Frank Aburrow      | Scout helper            | 9th Romsey |
| Vivien Smith       | Beaver Scout Leader     | 6th Romsey |
| Sarah– Jayne Croft | Explorer Scout Leader   |            |
| Dusan Gemersky     | Explorer Unit Assistant |            |

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

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### **Ex Scout Wins 'Worlds Best Job'**

Ben Southall, a former Scout from Petersfield has beaten over 34,000 applicants to become the new caretaker of an Australian tropical island. The six month position was the first prize in a competition launched by Tourism Queensland in January. Ben's new job will require him to live and report from Hamilton Island on Queensland's Great Barrier Reef.

The 16 finalists were invited to Hamilton Island to spend 4 days going through a selection process involving snorkelling, barbecues and time at a spa. They also had to display their writing abilities, take part in a swimming test and sit through an interview. Ben said he felt it was a great honour to be

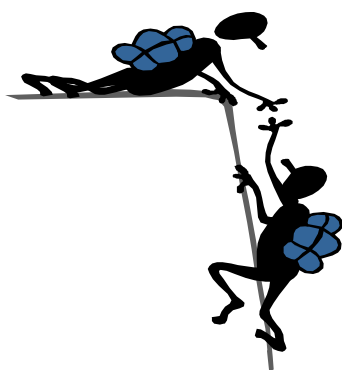


chosen and he hoped to be able to fill the boots as much as everybody expects. His swimming is hopefully up to standard and he is looking forward to all the new roles and responsibilities that the task involves. Including a £74,000 salary, the role also comes with a three bedroom beach home, swimming pool and golf cart. The job description requires Ben to 'explore the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, swim, snorkel, make friends with the locals and generally enjoy the tropical Queensland climate and lifestyle'.

*Scout Association Website*

## BEAVERS BURROW TOGETHER

On the 9th/10th May we went to Ferny Crofts Scout Camp for our Beaver Sleepover. we joined Bramshaw Beavers and stayed in the Croft Hut. I really enjoyed myself and we did lots of things. My favourite was playing Frisbee golf in the woods, which was great fun. Our frisbees flew all over the place, Archie was the worst though, he took 32 goes on one whole! Badger and Squirrel thought we would never finish! We also went on the treasure hunt and wall climbing/abseiling.



On Saturday evening Martyn from 10th Romsey came and sang camp-fire songs with us, which was great! 3 of our Explorers joined us some of the time and helped make the camp-fire. At bedtime we all had hot chocolate and tried to settle down, but Siddhant seemed to keep coming in to say hello. In the morning we woke up early and Archie sang the plastic bag song at

5.30 am! We had breakfast and said goodbye to Bramshaw Beavers and headed back to Romsey in our Minibus.

We then went to Church at the Abbey to say goodbye to Rev. Tim Harling who was leaving to start a new job in Peterborough. Thank you to Badger, Squirrel, Nikki and Louise from Bramshaw and to Martyn from 10th for a great weekend.

*Nicholas Riley  
1st Romsey Beavers.*

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Since I wrote last there has been loads of activity with the district Explorer Scouts. This has included a camping Duke of Edinburgh expedition training weekend based at Lockerley in preparation for both bronze and silver practice expeditions and final expeditions during this Summer and Autumn.



We were pleased to make an Explorer contribution to the Gang Show which a great demonstration of Romsey Scout district all working together, to produce an exceptional outcome.

Many of you will know that the Romsey town mayor junior mace bearer has traditionally been provided by scouts, a tradition initiated by Lord Mountbatten. I am pleased to announce that Alex Hide from Apaches explorers based at Wellow has been selected by us for the next year commencing immediately. Our thanks to Rob Finch from Tomahawks Explorers who has performed the role for the last two years.

Lockerley Explorers joined the Lockerley group and local guides at their group camp again this year, taking a very active part including building an assault course for the other sections to use.

We are very grateful again to Howard Row for organising another joint district Explorer activity for us which included the infamous Bramshaw bog trot, rifle shooting, a barbecue and traditional sawing activity safely using an old two-person blade with huge teeth.

This year in March we undertook our 3rd Romsey Explorer District trip to the Brecon Beacons taking 21 Explorer Scouts from across the district staying in luxury bunkhouse accommodation. The activities were a days hiking in lovely sunny weather on the summits of Bannau Sir-Gaer, the Black Mountain, half a day caving provided by the Hampshire Scout County Caving Team and half the day rock climbing in the indoor Llangorse Centre. The hiking weather made a pleasant change as last year we had high winds, sleet and rain!



Last weekend we had a contingent of explorers at the County Explorer camp at Ferny Crofts where there was a whole series of fun activities for them to undertake including half a day as a team on the 'its a knockout' competition. There was a whole range of other individual and team activities for them to undertake including inflatable games, bushcraft, laser quest and the climbing tower. Everyone had a great time.

Our summer trip to Switzerland is getting in place and recent activity has included a training and teambuilding weekend at Ferny Crofts for all the participants. We are very grateful to the core team for all that they are putting into organising this, especially to Fudge and Becky McKay, of course from Romsey district, who are coordinating the whole event in addition to getting married this year - some achievement.

Robin Taylor-Milton
DESC

District Diary Dates

June

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Mon 1st | Musketeers Social | 8.00 | Sun Inn |
| Wed 10th | Launch of George's Trust | | Town Hall |
| W/e 12/14th | Leaders Camp | | 6th H.Q. |
| Thur 18th | Management Mtg | 7.45 | Kernow Hse |
| W/e 19/21st | Pulborough Trophy | | 6th H.Q. |

July

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 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 | | |

August

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------|------------------------|
| Mon 3rd | Musketeers Social | 8.00 | Sun Inn |
| Sun 9th | Explorers return from Switzerland | | |
| Tues 11th | District Exec | 7.45 | 10th HQ + field |

BEAR GRYLLS—OUR NEW CHIEF SCOUT

Bear Grylls will be the new Chief Scout of the UK Scout Association. The famous adventurer takes over when the current Chief Scout, former Blue Peter presenter, completes his five year tenure in July.

When asked why he chose to volunteer for the UK's largest mixed youth movement, Bear said: "In short, because I love adventure and I love hanging out with good friends. For me this is what Scouting is about".

He first got involved in Scouting aged eight as a Cub Scout. Bear attributes this time as part of the inspiration behind his adult adventures, presenting TV shows such as Born Survivor: "So much of who we are as an adult is formed when we are kids", said Bear. "What Scouting says to people is: "it's okay to go for it in life".

"Every child has a right to have an adventure. Life is about grabbing opportunities. The prizes don't always go to the biggest, the best, the strongest—they go to those who persevere. These are the simple life lesson that Scouting teaches people".

The Chief Scout provides inspiration for the 100,000 volunteers involved in Scouting across the UK.

Working in partnership with Bear will be Scouting volunteer Wayne Bulpitt, who takes on the new role of UK Chief Commissioner. Wayne will focus on providing leadership to all volunteers within scouting. Like Bear, Wayne's Scouting began when he joined as a Cub Scout.

Scout Association website.