

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

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It pays to advertise...!!

Whilst we would not dream of telling you where to buy your groceries, Romsey District would like to ask people to pop into Waitrose Romsey during November if they can!



Why? Romsey District Scouts have been selected as one of the three charities in Waitrose' charity donation scheme for November.

How does it work? Shoppers are given a small plastic token at the checkout. Near the door are three large collecting boxes, each with the name of a local charity above it, and shoppers can then 'post' their token into the box of the charity of their choosing. At the end of the month, the tokens are counted and £1000 is shared out between the three charities; the organisation with the most tokens receives £600, the other two get £200 each. So it's worth having!

So, a big thank you to Waitrose for including us and please encourage everyone to pop in and support us! (Of course, the ideal supporter would be someone who keeps forgetting things,

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Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th Nov. 2008** please.
18 Cherville Street, Romsey, SO51 8FD
Tel: 01794 514597 E Mail: liz@lizholloway.f2s.com
Further information on any aspect of Romsey Scouting from
District Chairman: John Stevens 023 8077 2973
District Commissioner: Darren Reed 023 8042 8244

so pops back in several times, thus making more trips through the till and collecting more tokens – but you didn't hear that from us!!)

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### **CUB SCOUT CHALLENGE TROPHY**

I foolishly admitted to Janice Waterman (ADC Cub Scouts) one Friday evening when she telephoned, that I had nothing much planned for Sunday, "Oh good" she said "you can judge the Cub Cooking Competition!". A few details and 36 hours later, I was off to Lockerley headquarters, in the pouring rain.

Each team of three Cubs (total maximum joint age 27 years) had to bring aprons, a 2 ring gas cooker plus gas, cooking utensils and ingredients for the meal for 4 (themselves plus one leader, not from their pack). They were to cook sausages, potatoes and peas or beans (using a potato peeler), plus a pudding of their own choice, finishing with a hot drink. Points were awarded for menu, costings, team work, presentation and clearing/washing up. Their appointed leader was there to supervise and ensure everything was done safely, his reward being a superb, freshly cooked lunch.



I have to say I was very impressed with the way all the Cubs worked in what I thought was quite a challenging competition. Because of the weather, all six groups were inside the HQ, which didn't give them

much space, and grass is so much more user friendly to the odd spillage! It is also not easy to get three elements of a meal ready and hot at the same time, on two burners, but they managed very well.

The winners were 11th Romsey (King's Somborne), their team being Becky Jarvis, Joseph Rickard and Adam McClenaghan, but it was very tricky judging, as they were all so good.

Thanks to all the leaders who gave up their Sunday, plus Janice herself, John from 6th and Steve, our first-aider, who fortunately was not really called upon to demonstrate his skills! The lesson I learned was to say "why" before agreeing I was "free", but it was an entertaining few hours, and encouraging to see youngsters doing something worthwhile. Well done to you all.

*Liz Holloway (Editor)*

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## **Thank You**

Have you ever thought how often we say those two little words and more importantly to whom we say them? The person who serves us in the supermarket, the paper shop or the garage as we pay for the fuel in our cars, but who else?

We offer our thanks to those who help us for a one off event or evening, but when was the last time you said thank you to the person who has helped for a long time and have become part of the team that leads the section, committee or group?

I, like everyone else are grateful for all you do in support of Scouting, be it an occasional hour or years as a leader, you all deserve our heartfelt thanks.

I also get to say thank you on behalf of the Scout Association every now and then, when I visit the various sections across the District, presenting Leader Training Awards or Good Service Awards to the likes of :-

|                |                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Ann Bourne     | Award of Merit                          |
| Sue Edwards    | Award of Merit                          |
| Angela Evans   | Chief Scouts Commendation               |
| Nikki Moxey    | Woodbadge for Beaver Scouts             |
| Jean Beauchamp | Woodbadge for District Cub Scout Leader |
| Sarah Beaman   | Woodbadge for District Scout Leader     |

These are just the latest people we have thanked for not just the time they offer to Scouting but also the commitment and enthusiasm they bring to us all.

Thank you!!!

*Darren Reed  
District Commissioner*

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**FAREWELL TO WENDY**



By the time you read this, we shall have bade the final farewell to Wendy Bryant, Cub Leader (Akela) at 10th Romsey (Mohicans) for more than 20 years. She started, as most of us do, because her son said they needed some help, or the pack would close. She agreed to go along for a short while—and stayed for 22 years, over 20 of which were as Akela.

For those of you who didn't know Wendy, she neither sounded nor looked like what one would expect. She sounded quite posh and she certainly wasn't slim, but she was FUN. She had the most delicious sense of humour and really didn't mind making a fool of herself, even managing to encourage some of the current leaders to appear on stage in the most bizarre outfits, in Group entertainments. On one occasion, she had her assistant leader painting dozens of rubber gloves green, so the Cubs could dress appropriately for the 'Frog Chorus', with the gloves on their feet.

Only Wendy could have got up in the night to use the loo at a leaders camp in Lockerley, and have the tent blow away whilst still enthroned. At one pack camp, she strode off to tackle a number of uninvited visitors to the Merdon Castle site, forgetting that she was dressed as Robinson Crusoe, complete with plastic parrot on her shoulder, nodding in time to her wagging finger.

She had not enjoyed good health for the last few years, but Ken, her long suffering husband, continued to support her to the end. She may no longer be with us, but the memories will live on.

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**STOP PRESS**

Hampshire Printing Services have a large quantity of wooden pallets, if anyone would like them, for fire-lighting etc. They will need to be collected from them, at Moorside Road, Winnall and give John Donovan a ring to arrange on 01794 521793

## **What's in a Name**

I didn't go to Grammar School and in the third year of my Secondary School my English teacher, Mrs Lawley, told us one day that the Government had said that she wasn't to teach grammar anymore; so that was that. So I spent the rest of my youth not really bothered about sub conjunctives and past participles and used the language in a way that I was comfortable with and could make myself understood.

However as I grow older I notice that our language, that has 500,000 words at its disposal, is being rapidly diluted; the accuracy and precision that those ancient grammar scholars longed for is diminishing fast. The cornucopia of descriptive and colourful words available is rapidly disappearing from common usage; I blame the media!

I become speechless with rage when a radio reporter barely old enough to be in Network describes the QE2 as "parking" at the Mayflower Terminal; ships dock or berth. The Captain doesn't "drive" the liner; he steers it or navigates it. A ship has a funnel, not a chimney; I could rage on but what am I on about?

Well, when I was a Scout we would practice pioneering, our regular project was for each patrol to build a Catapult. Several Scout staffs lashed (badly) together with sisal in the shape of a triangular based pyramid with a frying pan steer lashed to the catapults arm and the over optimistic aim of propelling a ball across the Church Hall. We were never very successful, either the frying pan would fall off at launch or, after we had learnt to tie a highwayman's hitch, the Catapult would explode into its component parts scattering staffs, sisal, pan, ball and members of the patrol to the four corners of the hall.

As many of you will recall I left Scouts in 1969 and only returned to the movement when the children joined Beavers and Rainbows, and it was only in 1992 that I became reacquainted with the pyramid shaped projectile hurler that was now called a Ballista.

This confused me somewhat because a Ballista was a heavy duty Roman cross bow. Occasionally firing small rocks but mainly used for launching fearsome heavy weight javelins into the hordes of advancing Gauls. A useful gadget at camp for pinning down washing up defaulters but not a practical project to demonstrate in

a Scout Hut - unless it punched a hole through the wall and eliminated the local ne'er do well in the process.

Ballista is a much more imposing word than Catapult but whether you call it a Ballista or a Catapult it still explodes into a dozen pieces when you fire it. So let me introduce you to another word; a Trebuchet.

Now there's an impressive siege weapon; in June and July of 1191, Richard the Lionheart laid siege to the city of Acre as part of the medieval Crusades. Richard concentrated on constructing siege machines and using the trebuchets, which translates as stone hurlers, to devastating effect. They would hurl not only rocks but burning straw bails and dead animals. It was hoped that the dead animals would spread plague and pestilence throughout the besieged city.

This effective weapon is of simple design and could easily be constructed using pioneering techniques. For its power it relies on a counter weight, perhaps a five gallon water carrier attached to a firing beam and mounted on a frame, see below.

Instead of a frying pan to hold the projectile, some versions have a shallow hook to which you attached net, a bit like grannies string shopping bag, which acts like a sling shot giving the projectile additional range.



There are many websites devoted to the Trebuchet on the internet, including [trebuchet.com](http://trebuchet.com) and this picture came from that site. So why not try building one this autumn. In future I look forward to seeing a projectile rocketing towards the end of your HQ and not bits of the Trebuchet.

The only thing that worries me is that you'll still call your infernal machine a Ballista!

*John Stevens  
District Chairman*

## Explorers

It was a great pleasure to be invited to Dave Shill's Duke of Edinburgh Gold award and Queen's Scout Award presentation. Dave gave a presentation of the activities he'd undertaken to gain his awards. Dave has such enthusiasm for scouting and is a great ambassador of the movement.



He has done service with both the Cubs and Scouts at the 10<sup>th</sup> and on Brownsea Island for the national centenary celebrations. Dave is currently an Assistant Explorer Scout Leader with the Tomahawks Explorer Scout unit, as well as being a member of the Romsey Scout Network. Dave did his DoE Gold final



expedition in very wet conditions in the Yorkshire Dales, I know, as I was there too as one of the supervisors. Those of you who attended the national centenary scouting show at the Dome would have been lucky enough to see Dave leading the Brownsea team and the whole audience for one of the songs. Dave progressed through all sections at the 10<sup>th</sup> Romsey and eventually became a Tomahawks Explorer Scout. It was great to see many of his leaders who guided him through his scouting at his presentation. I know his achievements will be an inspiration to the Explorer Scouts he leads at Tomahawks Explorer Scout Unit.

Thanks to Network for organising a very successful unihock tournament as a joint district Explorer activity. Network have also been providing valuable and much appreciated support with leaders at the Apaches Explorer unit based at Wellow as we are without an Explorer Scout leader there at the moment.

All the 32 Explorer Scouts and six leader from Romsey District who are going to Switzerland next summer attended a briefing day which provided useful information to enable them to plan their own program. There is a huge range of activities on offer.

Coming up in November we have our trophy night hike for Explorers and older Scouts (age 13 or over).

*Robin Taylor-Milton  
DESC*



**G'day, Romsey!**

Did you know there is a Romsey in Australia?



1<sup>st</sup> Romsey Scouts (the other 1<sup>st</sup> Romsey!) are part of the Macedon Ranges District, about 40km north of Melbourne, in the state of Victoria. They have recently celebrated 50 years of Scouting there and were pleased to send this Romsey District their congratulations on our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Cub Scout leader, Heldi, originally came from Bournemouth, UK, but has lived in Oz for many years, and sent over photos and some badges (their name tapes are dark blue not green!) along with their best wishes. Romsey (UK) leaders have been asked if any of their young people would like a Scouting pen friend in Romsey (Australia) so we can start to establish some links. And just think of the possibilities – that would be a great international camp!!



**HELP**

John Evans (15th) has been asked by the Chamber of Trade (for a donation to Scouts) to erect (and ultimately remove) the Christmas lights in Romsey. Please contact him on 023 8073 1205 ([john.evans@ampfieldelectrical.co.uk](mailto:john.evans@ampfieldelectrical.co.uk)) if you can help. If lots of you volunteer, it shouldn't take too long.

# NETWORK

**Pirates SNU** (District Scout Network Unit)

**[www.romsey-snet.co.uk](http://www.romsey-snet.co.uk)**

Co-ordinators : Georgia Harris (07752 01323) and  
Andy Cherrett (07760 241033)

A year or two ago the Network started varying their meeting night and place because those members who help run other sections were always missing out on Network activities. If you want to come along and need to know when and where we're meeting, please call one of the co-ordinators or email [info@romsey-snet.co.uk](mailto:info@romsey-snet.co.uk). We try to keep the programme on our website up to date, but plans sometimes change with just a few days notice and there isn't always time to update the website before the event!

I am pleased to say that Romsey Network is still going strong; our numbers are ever growing as are the number of Queen Scouts we have coming through. Recently we have done some recruiting from Winchester, and have created a joint Network between the two Districts, which has given us more members and thus more enthusiasm!

This summer many of us have helped out on different group camps, and have also done a couple of camps as a unit.

As the rest of the year passes, we have several events which see us getting involved with sections, another couple of trips planned, and a full and healthy programme.

As always we are willing to try and help out where we can; recently I have run a number of circus skills evenings in the Romsey district.

If you do want to get the Network involved in something, book me to help with Circus skills or anything then please get in touch, my contact details remain the same as ever,

(Mobile: 07760 241033 E-mail: [chezzerz@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chezzerz@yahoo.co.uk))

and Claire or Darren have these if you don't.

Next year brings many of us Swiss '09, but also a few of us are conspiring to set up some other stuff, including a heavy focus on cycling, as it is a great passion of several of the Network.

Please watch this space!!

*'Chezzer'*  
*Joint Co-ordinator*

## 10th ROMSEY WALKS

The 10<sup>th</sup> Romsey Scout Group was represented by 19 walkers, including some Mums and Dads, at this years 'Walk the Test Way' for charity. Three started from St Mary Bourne 26 miles, five from Stockbridge 13 miles and eleven from Stonemmarsh 7.5 miles.

The day started by registering at the Crosfield Hall then being bussed out to the various starting points. Those walking from St Mary Bourne had to register at 7.00am!!, Stockbridge 9.00am and Stonemmarsh at 9.30am . The weather was fine, perhaps a bit too mild and a bit humid due to the mist that seemed to stay with us until after midday. The group from Stockbridge actually caught up and overtook those that started out from Stonemmarsh at the 4 mile point. They must have been going at some pace!

The "Stoney" group, which included me, stopped for lunch at the entrance to Squab Wood, where we ate, followed by a performance of the "little green frog" song. Then it was on through Squab Wood and down to the fields, which turned out to be a bit on the moist side, as boots sank almost to ankle deep. On passing Saddlers Mill we broke into singing "Everywhere We Go" which resulted in cheers as we entered the Memorial Park.

We collected our certificates, got an ice cream and had a bit of a rest before finishing off with a game of frisbee. A big thank you to all the organisers, sponsors and of course to the participants, well done.



Some of the 10th Romsey walkers—not pictured, 1 Beaver who walked 7½ miles, 1 Cub who walked 13 miles and the 3 adults who completed the whole 26 miles.



## 4th Scare Crows

Scarecrows, scarecrows everywhere, at least there were plenty of scarecrows in Landford. The village took to making scarecrows as part of their Autumnfest in a big way. The final count was around 100 and that of course included a Beaver scarecrow up a tree and a leader scarecrow looking on in horror.

The colony also got involved in making plate gardens they were really good, we also entered into the pram race. It was a very hot day as Louise (Wombat) led a team of 5 beavers round a long uphill course dressed up as North American beavers. They wore fur capes, masks and pushed a toy dressed as a beaver scout winning a tin of sweets for the best costumes.

We loved getting involved and will certainly do so again.

Nikki and Louise  
4<sup>th</sup> Romsey Beavers

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## MEMORIES

I have just read the October issue of Woodsmoke, and I have to say that your Explorer News took me back - just a year or two!

In 1952, my 18th birthday happened when I was on a fortnight's Youth Hostelling trip in the Lake District. I think we must have visited about twelve Hostels in that time, and they were all, fortunately, fitted out with Drying Rooms. We made very good use of these, as we were confronted by horizontal rain on just about all our hikes between Hostels. Indeed, I recall that we took pleasure in walking up the beds of streams, just to get a change of water in our shoes! Hiking boots? - unheard-of!

Many thanks for having brought back memories of happy times - we four boys particularly enjoyed ourselves, as we were accompanied by 16 girls (ten of whom were American)! Unfortunately, one of the six Brits was my 22-year-old sister, so I couldn't get up to too much mischief.

*Mike Lund Yates.  
(ex District Treasurer/Secretary)*

### **District Diary Dates**

|                       |                          |      |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------|-----------------|
| <b>Nov</b>            |                          |      |                 |
| Sat 1st               | County Ball              |      | Rose Bowl       |
| Sun 9th               | Remembrance Day          |      |                 |
| Thur 13th             | District Exec.           | 7.45 | 6th H.O.        |
| Mon 17th              | Training Drop In (Mod 1) |      | 11th H.O.       |
| W/e 21/23             | PLs Training             |      | Lyons Copse     |
| W/e 21/23             | Scout First Aid w/e      |      | Fernycrofts     |
| <b>Dec</b>            |                          |      |                 |
| Thur 4th              | District Management      | 7.45 | 18 Cherville St |
| Fri 5th               | Late Night Shopping      |      | Romsey          |
| <b>CHANGE OF DATE</b> |                          |      |                 |
| Sun 14th              | District Carol Service   | 3 pm | URC, Romsey     |
| <b>2009</b>           |                          |      |                 |
| <b>Jan</b>            |                          |      |                 |
| Thur 29th             | District Management      | 7.45 | 18 Cherville St |
| <b>Feb</b>            |                          |      |                 |
| Sun 22nd              | Founders Day             |      |                 |

### **WELCOME TO NEW LEADERS**

The following new leaders have recently joined the 'team'. We hope you all enjoy your time working with the youngsters and have as much enjoyment as they do.

|                 |                                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| John Heagren    | 4th Romsey (Bramshaw)<br>Assistant Scout Leader          |
| Mrs Amanda Lees | 10th Romsey (Woodley &<br>Crampmoor)<br>Colony Assistant |
| Paul Havill     | 3rd Romsey (Braishfield)<br>Assistant Scout Leader       |
| Wendy Clack     | 4th Romsey (Bramshaw)<br>Assistant Cub Scout Leader      |