

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 476 <http://www.romseyscouts.org/> October 2009

Subject: A New Era for Hampshire Scouting

Dear Fellow Scouters and Scout Supporters

One of my best experiences in Scouting was to watch the sunrise from the top of a Swiss mountain with my Unit. We woke up at 3am, climbed the mountain in the darkness, brewed a cup of tea at the summit to warm up, and watched the sunlight flood the whole of the mountain. We felt on top of the world at having achieved a challenging activity together.

My name is Adam Jollans, and I've been asked to be the new County Commissioner for Hampshire. My background is as a Queen's Scout, Cub Instructor, Assistant Scout Leader and Venture Scout Leader. I've also held a number of Assistant County Commissioner roles in Hampshire, and most recently I was the volunteer lead nationally on the PR and marketing for Scouting's Centenary celebrations.

Together, we can take Hampshire Scouting into a new era of amazing adventures for even more young people. I'm passionate about enabling us all to achieve this, and on my first day as County Commissioner, I wanted to share with you some initial thoughts.

Firstly, Scouting is fundamentally about field leaders like you enabling young people to experience adventures. Whether it's a Beaver cooking

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

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Further information on any aspect of Romsey Scouting from

District Chairman: John Stevens 023 8077 2973

District Commissioner: Darren Reed 023 8042 8244

twists over an open fire, a Cub camping out overnight for the first time, a Scout stepping out on stage in front a theatre audience, an Explorer completing a sailing expedition, or a Network member climbing Everest, young people learn and develop through new experiences and fresh challenges. Adventure is why young people join Scouting and why they stay, and I want to encourage a million more adventures in Hampshire Scouting.

Secondly, my role, and the role of everybody else in County, District and National appointments, is to help the leaders in the front line of Scouting deliver great adventures to young people. We're going to be taking a fresh look at what value Hampshire Scouting already provides, where we should be focused going forwards, and what more support we can offer to you and to young people in Hampshire.

Lastly, Scouting is a values-based organisation. This means that trust, loyalty and friendship are important. Helping other people matters, showing respect for everyone else matters, and meeting our responsibilities as leaders matters. Everything we do, everything we say, and the way we work together as teams (especially when the going gets tough) influences young people in Scouting just as much as the practical skills we teach - and we need to put our values into practice.

These are three of the principles that I believe in, but I also want to understand what really matters to you as well. Along with my team, I'm going to be spending the next few months travelling around the County and meeting with as many people as possible, young and old, and listening to what you have to say.

In the meantime, you can email me at: adam.jollans@scouts-hants.org.uk or phone me on 01256-763421, and I'm going to be twittering at www.twitter.com/ccscoutshants. Or grab me when you see me at an event, share with me the great things you and your Scouts have done recently, and tell me what you would do if you were County Commissioner for a day.

Together, we can take Hampshire Scouting into a new era of amazing adventures for even more young people.

Adam Jollans

County Commissioner
Hampshire Scouting

**LOCKERLEY SCOUT GROUP
BARN DANCE
SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
TICKETS £10 inc SUPPER
TICKETS FROM JEAN BEAUCHAMP**

Pulborough Trophy

An excellent turn out!

Sixteen teams from Romsey District met at Lockerley on 19th – 21st June to take part in the annual Pulborough Trophy Patrol Camping Competition.

The “marking out” team including Jackie & Peter Betteridge, Howard Chandler, Sheila Caine, Mike and Randall McKay arrived just after two to set everything up. Andy Pudney and his team again did the catering for the weekend to keep everyone fed and watered.



Judging starts on Saturday morning, with inspection of site lay-out and general camping techniques, including tentage and food storage. The first judged meal is Saturday lunch. Judges also scrutinise the Patrols menus and programme of activities.

This years camp included a “raft race” on the Saturday evening from recycled items for something a little bit different – most patrols entered and it took nearly 20 mins for all the rafts to get along the river from one end of the field to the other!

This was followed by a campfire on the Saturday evening, lead by Martyn Blake, assisted by Judith Houghton and various other leaders. The weather stayed fine all weekend which was a blessing!!

During the evening Sheila Caine both celebrated her birthday and officially retired from warranted Guiding Service which was celebrated with a cake and some flowers. Mike Baxter and Sarah Beaman were presented with Guide thank-you certificates for all their help running joint activities.

The Iain Grainger Pioneering Trophy challenge this year was to build a camp shower. There were some really varied entries ranging from a plastic bag you punctured holes in with no privacy to extravagant designs including

controllable flow, cubicle and places to hold your shower kit and towel! The winners of the best Camp Shower was 4th Stag Patrol.

The Pulborough Trophy itself was won by 4th (Bramshaw) Stags, with 929 points, followed by Lockerley Guides “Teddy Bears” with 825 points and



21st Pegasus coming as runners-up with 789 points. The winning teams plus 6th Lockerley (who were the 3rd Scout Patrol) will be attending the County Emlyn Trophy later in September.

Congratulations are due to all the teams who took part – and particularly to the many Scouts who had never camped before, let alone entered the Pulborough Trophy!

The weekend couldn't have happened without a huge number of people. Thanks are due to the leaders and judges who gave up all or parts of their weekend. The various leaders and parents who helped their Scouts transport, pitch and strike all the equipment are also due a very big vote of thanks. Finally, thanks to Lockerley Scout Group for allowing us to use their field again this year! We're looking forward to next year's event already!!

*Mike Baxter
Camp Leader*

3rd Romsey Scouts, Ashanti Troop – Centenary Event – 5/6th September 2009

Did Baden Powell smile...?

...I think he must have, as scouts from 3rd Romsey Troop old and new gathered at Mottisfont Village Hall to celebrate 100 years of scouting. It all started back in 1909 when a group of boys in Braishfield decided to look for adventure and a bit of fun by setting up their own scout troop. The spirit of that troop has lived on and to its credit continues to inspire young boys and girls in their quest for life.

With the dust from the New Forest summer camp barely cleaned off the mess tent it was shaken into action again as a centre point for the camping weekend. There were quite a few families gathering to join in the celebrations, some more practiced in the craft of camping than others (my back still aches..!)

On Saturday afternoon we gathered for a flag rededication service, led by Rev Terry Hinks. With readings and prayers offered by current and past members of the troop appetites soon became keen to fire up the BBQ and start the evenings celebrations. There were t-shirts everywhere, strung around the hall and mess tent all collected by troop members from the many camps and events they have shared in. There was also Tris's camp fire blanket fantastically covered in hundreds of badges denoting his scouting accomplishments. More badge than blanket really...

Other historical records included the large collection of scrap books and photo albums on display in the hall together with a rolling presentation of slides from camps in recent years up to and including this summer.



And the fire. A starry night made for a perfect back drop but the late summer temperature made sure everyone was drawn up close. There was no singing as I recall but plenty of chat, which kept many from their beds (bags) until the small hours.

It was a great event and a marvellous opportunity for scouts and families to spend time together reflecting on the achievements of the troop. Let's hope we don't have to wait another 100 years before it happens again!

James Laffeaty, Exec Committee Member

Romsey Show

For once the weather co-operated with Romsey Show this year and once more Scouts were on hand to publicise Scouting and give children a brief glimpse of the fun and excitement they could expect in Scouting. Leaders spent a full day on the Friday before putting together the assault course ready for the start of the show on Saturday morning. Their



efforts were rewarded when 384 children went over the course on Saturday. Thanks to all the Scouting support which turned up to staff the site on the day, and to the chefs who made sure that the 'staff' did not go short of sustenance to keep them going. Regular supplies of tea or coffee and occasional bacon butties or beef burgers kept up

the energy levels despite the warm day.

For the second time, we were awarded The West Cup for voluntary youth activities, which we previously won in 2007—its first year.

The Romsey Show committee kindly allow us to have a site on the showground provided we assist with tasks to help the event and as usual we were on hand to clear litter around the fast food area. It is one of those jobs which if you do it well no-one notices, but if you do it badly it is apparent to all. While I was walking round the site picking up litter a man recognised me came over and spoke. It took me a second or two to place him but he and I had worked together in 1960! Its amazing who you meet at Romsey Show.

*David Sutton
Vice President*

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Can you help?

Lockerley Scout Group has had all their Gas Cylinders stolen from their metal cage. We are asking if any group has too many cylinders & could donate one to us either Propane or the Blue ones before having to buy new ones. If you have, please contact Jean Beauchamp. Thank you.

Several incorrect stories have appeared in the media this week reporting a knife ban in Scouting.

In fact, Scouting's rules on the subject have not significantly changed since the late 1960s. Knives may still be used by young people and adults during supervised camps and other outdoor activities. Scouting encourages young people to learn to respect knives, and use them sensibly to learn outdoor skills such as fire lighting, shelter building and backwoods cooking. The Scout Association does not condone young people carrying knives on their person as a matter of course, unless there is a specific need for one. Scouting recommends training in the handling of knives not only for young people, but also for their adult leaders. This is part of regular advice and guidance offered to the Movement since the wearing of a knife with uniform was discontinued in the late 1960s.

A leading outdoors expert recently commented on knives in Scouting: "When we give knives to young people, we tell them they are being entrusted and that responsibility is one of the most important parts of their education."

Scouting clarifies implications of Independent Safeguarding Authority regulations

The Scout Association is aware of recent stories in the media highlighting the new regulations designed to protect young people that will come into place over the next 18 months. These procedures are being moved forward by the newly created Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). For many months we have been working with the ISA and the Home Office to make sure this scheme, which is designed to protect young people, is implemented in an efficient manner. Indeed many of the recently revised appointment processes have been designed with this new system in mind.

Impact on Parents

A number of media reports have suggested that parents who make arrangements with their neighbours to drive children to Scout meetings will need to register with the scheme. **This is not true.**

The facts are these:

- Currently there is no change from the system we operate where all adults who work on behalf of the Movement and have unsupervised access need to complete a CRB check.
- Registration will take place from July 2010 for new volunteers to the Movement. At this stage it is anticipated that existing adults working with the Movement will have 5 years to register.

- If a parent or other adult who has regular contact with a Scout Group (e.g. Occasional Helper) has contact with our Members they will need to be registered with the scheme.
- The ISA has defined what this type of contact means. Specifically it is:
 1. More than once a month
 2. Three or more occasions in a 30 day period(e.g. at one specific event)
 3. Overnight (which means between 02.00 and 06.00)
- Parents who make informal private arrangements with their friends and neighbours to take their children to Scout meetings in their own cars are specifically excluded from this scheme.
- All adults in Scouting who have unsupervised access to youth Members are currently required to undergo a CRB records check and hold a valid disclosure certificate.
- This ISA registration process will be free for volunteers. It is likely that the new registration process will be very similar to the current process of obtaining a criminal records disclosure.

We are working with the ISA to implement this scheme over the next 18 months. More detailed information will be published in 2010. A separate but aligned scheme is being set up in Scotland.

For further information please contact the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.

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SUISSE 09

By 2 Explorer Scouts (ages 14—18 years)

Our Suisse 09 adventure began in the car park of Rownhams service station alongside the M27! The journey was uneventful, long and at times tedious but spirits lifted considerably as the view from the coach windows changed as we neared our destination. The dramatic scenery was stunning and it was interesting to see the reaction of friends who had never seen mountains that big before.

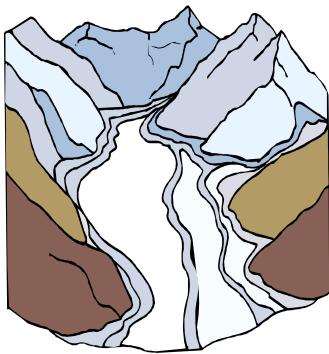
On arrival we had to help pitch the Mess Tent and Dining Tent and then pitch our own sleeping tents. By the time we had unpacked and got changed it was time for our welcome barbecue.

At first two whole weeks seemed like plenty of time to fit everything in but boy the time flew past and by the end we all agreed it went too quickly. I and my friends had chosen a packed schedule of activities

which included a day hike, a dawn hike, two overnight hikes (one of which was the Glacier Workshop), river tubing, white water rafting, a day trip to Berne and swimming in the village pool. There was always an evening activity which varied from International Speed Dating to a Swiss Culture Night and from an International Barbecue to a Movie Night. We also gave half a day of community service to the site (which consisted of repairing fences by digging holes for the posts and creosoting the panels) and in our sub camp we had to wash up the cooking equipment and our plates and utensils after meals.

The Dawn Hike came as a bit of a shock. It was our first hike and we were woken at 12.30am and left camp an hour later. We hiked for hours and many of us found it hard work on our lungs and our muscles. We arrived in time to sit and wait for the sun to come up. It was a beautiful sight, worth all the suffering and the subsequent hikes were a walk in the park by comparison.

The river tubing was very peaceful. It was a couple of days before we left and it was nice to relax and just drift with the current of the river for something like 20km.



The Glacier Workshop/overnight hike was awesome. We learnt how to set up an emergency pulley system, how to rescue someone who had fallen down a crevasse and how to stop ourselves from falling using an ice pick. I got to climb down a crevasse, roped up and using ice screws and pulley systems. It was my most favourite activity.

I had a fantastic time and although I was utterly shattered by the time I got home because my timetable was so busy I am so pleased that I made the most of my time there and all the brilliant activities on offer.

Needless to say it was a much quieter coach ride home!

*Eleanor Snowdon
Lockerley Explorer Scout*

AND

What isn't there to say about such a great lifetime experience? Doing such great activities like glacier walking, hiking up stunning peaks, and

even meeting people of all cultures, nationalities and backgrounds. Everyone had such a great time and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders for their planning and supervision during the event. I now have a small idea of what is involved in taking 50 teenagers abroad for 2 weeks and how much work is needed to achieve this. I would jump at the chance of going again on such a fantastic experience.

*Adam Grimes
Lockerley Explorer Unit*

157,788,000 Seconds, it sounds a lot?

What could you do with One Hundred & Fifty Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty Eight Thousand Seconds?

If it take less than 10 seconds to run 100 meters in 157,788,000 seconds you could travel 1,577,880,000 meters or 1,577,880 km that's 39.373 times around the earth or the distance to the moon and back more than TWICE.

If like most of us you walk, cycle or take the car the distances vary, but 157,788,000 seconds is just that or is it?

In 157,788,000 seconds you could proudly watch the presentation of 3 Queen Scout Awards, present over 15 Leader Training Woodbadge's, Long Service Awards totalling over 1,000 years and over 15 Good Service Awards, not including sleep, work, eating, etc. and that's just for starters.

You are now probably wondering what he is going on about and some of you may have already worked it out, but just in case you haven't

I have also had the pleasure of camping with over 450 of you last year in Broadlands, approximately 4,000 Cubs, Scout, Explorers, Network and Leaders at New Park in the New Forest in 2007 and recently help cook for almost 50 Explorers (and their Leaders) for almost two weeks in Switzerland.

These are just a few of the things I have had the pleasure of doing with you, the members of Romsey Scout District and the Groups within it over the last 5 years that I have been District Commissioner.

Now all of this is not down to just me, but the leaders and young people that make up that thing we call "The District" and for their help in the last five years I would like to send you all a great big **BRAVO!!!**

So the next time someone asks if you have a few minutes to spare, remember you can do a lot if you have the time, don't hold back it's worth it.

*Darren Reed
District Commissioner*

ROMSEY DISTRICT SCOUTS

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 31st October

7.15 pm

Crosfield Hall, Romsey

£10, to include a 2 course supper

Maximum Team Size 6

Tickets Available from
John Stevens 023 8077 2973, Darren Reed 023 8042 8244
Jean Beauchamp 01722 712251, Liz Holloway 01794 514597
or via Section Leaders

District Diary Dates

October			
Sun 4th	Cub Challenge		Salisbury
Sun 11th	Walk Test Way		
Thur 15th	District Management	7.45	18 Cherville St
Tues 27th	Module 1 Training	7.00.....	10th H.Q.
Sat 31st	BIG QUIZ	7.00	Crosfield Hall
November			
Sun 1st	Diggers Day		Caving
Tues 10th	Training drop in	7.00...	1st HQ
Thur 12th	District Exec		
Sat 14th	Mod 3 & 6 training	9.30	1st HQ
W/e 20/22	County PLs Training		Lyons Copse
December			
Sun 13th	Carol Service	3.00	URC

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN EDITOR

Being editor of Woodsmoke gives one the opportunity to participate in other Scouting activities, which if I can, I willingly agree to. So, when Jean Beauchamp asked if I would organise dinner on the Saturday night of her Family Camp, I said yes, and asked Maureen Dainton to help. I think we catered for 51 people, 29 of whom were children, and although Jean and John had planned for certain activities, it of course all depended on the weather, which that weekend was perfect. The families catered for themselves, although they used the HQ kitchen for washing up and hot water, and we just provided the Saturday evening meal, which was eaten communally in the hall.

It was a very successful weekend, if the feedback from the parents was anything to go by. Quite relaxed, with the parents taking responsibility for their own children. I didn't see too much of what was going on, but each family was asked to bring a trek cart, which were raced, following the judging by the kitchen staff. I hadn't realised how varied the trek carts would be and also how competitive some of the Dads are, but it was all good fun. We also judged the rafts, which were made during the afternoon, the only remit being that they float down the River Dun, which borders the field, carrying a lighted tee light, after dark. As they appeared round the bend of the river, the effect was quite magical. They were followed by John, with his legs wrapped in cling film, making sure none went astray.

All in all a successful weekend. Everyone appreciated the opportunity to socialise with the other families, and the planning was such that it made for a very relaxed camp. The weather on Sunday also ensured that everyone was able to strike their tents and put them away dry, ready for next season.

