

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 486

<http://www.romseyscouts.org>

October 2010

SCOUTS ON SHOW AT ROMSEY SHOW

For a number of Scouting folk, this starts first thing on Friday morning, gathering all the pioneering equipment (poles and ropes) together, transporting them to the site and spending the afternoon and evening putting together as much as possible. By starting again at 7am on

Saturday, everything is ready for the start of the show. Personally, my field of expertise isn't required until after 9am, so I have time to leisurely read the paper before cycling across. We tend not to have too many early customers, as we are so far from the entrance, and this year was even slower, as the cloudy, drizzling weather encouraged everyone else to read their papers too.



Fortunately, by lunchtime the weather had improved and we had queues, which varied in length throughout the afternoon. One young Scout from 15th, whose parents were helping, was set a couple of challenges to give purpose to his day. He persuaded three members

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Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th Oct. 2010** 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



of the constabulary and our MP to tackle the Assault Course – their enthusiasm and conviviality was to be commended.

Dismantling all at the end of the day is much quicker and doesn't require so much expertise, but nevertheless, our Vice President wasn't back home until nearly 9pm,

having started at 7am for the second day in succession. Scouting clearly keeps one young!

Our thanks to everyone who helped and also to everyone who came and participated. The little games organised by the Cubs and Beavers raised £82 and the Assault Course £390, all of which will be used to continue supporting our young people, in Romsey District, through Scouting.

Liz Holloway (editor)

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**EXPLORER NEWS**

The late summer has been a busy period for Duke of Edingburgh (DoE) award expeditions. One group of 6 from Tomahawks and Draco Explorer units successfully completed their Gold expedition in the Yorkshire Dales with Bob Garlike. Gold involves 4days and 3 nights of activity. I went along to help as a supervisor too. The actual guidance says to go through the mountains but all the groups chose to take in some of the peaks and our Explorer group did all 3 high peaks: Pen Y Ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough. A great achievement with 4-day packs on. The weather was a mixture of sunshine and showers so they had an experience of real mountain weather. The whole group did extremely well being ahead of their schedule most of the time and very slick with their navigation. Well done to all the leaders who trained them over the years. Each expedition has





to have an aim/project, and the group are making a presentation on their aim this week, which was to look at the impact of humans on the areas they walked through.

This last weekend we had a Bronze DoE practice expedition in the New Forest consisting of Explorers again from Tomahawks and Draco Explorer units. These were a team of 5 boys and girls out over 2 days and 1 night. Their final expedition will be in the Purbecks this late Autumn, a bit more hilly but easier to navigate in.

I am delighted to welcome several new leaders to the District Explorer Team. Andy Sillence takes over as ESL at Lockerley replacing Ross and Kathryn Edwards who are taking a break due to impending parenthood. Andy is a former Venture Scout leader. Paul Fenton has joined us as an AESL at Crusaders based at N. Baddesley. Paul is a former Scout Leader and has recently moved to the area and works in the outdoor retail industry. Ed Norton will be the ESL at Kings Somborne when a new Explorer unit based there opens in January 2011. Ed has been helping with the Scout troop for some time and will be assisted by Tim Waterman. Hooray, we are making great headway with the list of Explorer leader vacancies, but still need AESLs for Lockerley and Tomahawks based at Woodley.

*Robin Taylor-Milton, DESC*

## ROMSEY/HANTS BADGES



Barbara Knight, the District Badge Secretary, is very pleased to let everyone know that the new supply of Romsey/Hants badges are now in stock. The new badges, whilst looking the same have been made by a different, cheaper, process, and will cost 30p each. The previous badges were 38p

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### **The Latest News**

At last. Something was happening!

After years of talking, planning, committee meetings, fund-raising, etc., at last something real and visible was going to take place. Exciting? I could hardly wait.



The consultants advising on this project to create a new district scouting centre and headquarters for 1<sup>st</sup> Romsey wanted some trial holes on the site to examine ground conditions in order to calculate the needs of the foundations. As one who grew up with digging wet pits and latrines I thought nothing of a few trial holes. Get a few Scouters together with shovels and it would be a doddle.

“How big and how many holes?”, I asked.

“Just four”, they replied, “1.2 metres square and 1.5 to 2 metres deep.”

Gosh! Not quite what I had in mind. This was serious stuff. We would need a digger. A few hasty phone calls and we tracked down a friend of a friend who would loan a digger for a small donation. Now who do we know who could drive it? Some more enquiries and Andy Pudney (10th Romsey) turned out to be the skilled man required. So digger and Andy came together one Thursday evening recently and hole digging commenced.

Darkness fell long before we could finish so we reassembled on Friday morning. Sadly it quickly became apparent that the ground was far tougher than the little mini digger, which could not get below about ¾ metre. Nothing for it but to hire a bigger one. We managed to get delivery of a 2-ton digger that morning, but by then Andy had to go to work. Briefly I felt we were in trouble.

“Can you teach me how to drive it before you go?” I asked. Well what else do you do? It is often said that when you are in a hole, stop digging. Well on this occasion we wanted to go on digging, urgently. The holes got dug, inspected and back-filled, and all was completed.

When the DC appointed me Vice President I asked what duties he had in mind for the role. “We’re working on it,” was his enigmatic reply. And so it came to pass that the Vice President can now add ‘Plant Operator’ to his CV.

Exciting to see things start to happen at last.

Watch this space!

*David Sutton, Vice-President and Plant Operator!*

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**CHRISTMAS IS COMING**



If you're stuck for ideas, how about a Romsey Commemorative mug, or a framed copy of this Rob Johnson picture or a Pete bear? The bone china mugs are available from Photoflair, Church Street, and all are available via a District team member.



## BEAVERS SUPPORT GEORGE'S TRUST

George's Trust was the Beaver Scout Good Turn for 2010 and the colonies in Romsey District managed to raise a grand total of just over £1,000. The cheque was handed over to Jane O'Brien, George's Mum and 1st Romsey Beaver Leader at the Romsey Show by Bertie Beaver.

Thanks go to everyone who supported this worthwhile charity, especially the Beavers for their hard work and enthusiasm. It was good to remember George in this way, especially as he had been a Beaver Scout.



*Jane receiving the cheque for £1098.75 from Bertie, at Romsey Show*

Bertie Beaver was the 'brain wave' of Luke Aris from 10th Romsey. It was during Romsey Show last year that he said it would be a good idea for someone to dress up as a Beaver to promote Scouting. The costume was purchased at the beginning of the year and is now regularly seen at events.

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## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN ROMSEY

We shall probably be erecting these on all the Saturdays in November, more details to follow next month, but please keep the dates free. We obviously do a good job, because we've been asked again: it raises the profile of Scouting and makes money for your group!



**ROMSEY DISTRICT SCOUTS**  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
**Saturday 23rd October**  
**7.15 pm**  
**Crosfield Hall, Romsey**  
**£10, to include a 2 course supper**

**Teams of 6 (Max)**

**Tickets available from:**

**David Sutton 01794 502817**

**Claire Sutton 023 8025 1887**

**John Stevens 023 8077 2973**

**Liz Holloway 01794 514597**

## District Diary Dates

### Oct

|                                        |                                  |                              |                       |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| w/e 2/3 <sup>rd</sup>                  | County Youth Council (Exp & Net) |                              | Ferry Crofts          |
| Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>                   | GSL/DC Regional Conference       |                              |                       |
| Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>                   | Walk the Test Way                |                              |                       |
| Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>                   | Dist Exp Leaders Mtg             | 20.30                        | 15 <sup>th</sup> H.Q. |
| Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>                   | Cub Scrap Heap Challenge         | 13.45                        | 10 <sup>th</sup> H.Q. |
| Thu 21 <sup>st</sup>                   | Dist Management Meeting          | 19.45 – 22.00                | 18 Cherville St       |
| Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>                   | District Quiz                    | 19.15                        | Crosfield Hall        |
| w/e 30/31 <sup>st</sup>                | Kudu Competition (Exp & Net)     | 18.00 – 10.00                | <b>Harry's Island</b> |
| w/e 30 <sup>th</sup> /31 <sup>st</sup> | Expl & Scouts Caving             | County - Green Ore, Somerset |                       |

### Nov

|                      |                            |               |                       |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>  | County DC Conference       |               |                       |
| Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Cub Scout Challenge Trophy | 13.45         | 10 <sup>th</sup> H.Q. |
| Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>  | First Aid Training         |               | Poulner               |
| Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Cub Leaders Camp Review    | 20.15         | 11 <sup>th</sup> H.Q. |
| Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> | TA Meeting                 | 20.00 – 22.00 | Copythorne            |
| Thu 11 <sup>th</sup> | First Aid Training         |               | Romsey                |
| Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> | County Cub Challenge       |               |                       |
| Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> | Remembrance Sunday         |               |                       |
| Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> | District Exec Meeting      | 19.45 – 22.00 | 11 <sup>th</sup> H.Q. |
| Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> | County i-scout conference  |               | Thornden School       |
| Sat 27 <sup>th</sup> | Lights switch-on           |               | Romsey                |
| Dec                  |                            |               |                       |
| Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> | District Carol Service     | 15.00—16.00   | URC, Romsey           |

## THE MISSING LINK

*For those of us who pay attention to such things, this edition of Woodsmoke is No 486, which means No 500 is not that far away (relatively speaking). I therefore decided to look back at the first edition, only to discover it was not among those in my possession. My collection started at No 51, January 1969, but the missing 1—50 have been discovered in the District store and will soon join the rest in my cellar. I will then have a complete set, apart from No 393, November 2000. If anyone has loitering in their cellar or shed a copy of this edition, may I please have it, or a copy of it, so the district record is complete, and all will be stored in the new Dr Peter Centre in the very near future.*

*Snippets from the past will I hope make for interesting reading!*

Liz Holloway, Woodsmoke Editor