

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition No. 475 <http://www.romsey-scouts.org.uk> Sept 2009

SCOUTING FOR BUOYS!

What do you get when you put together a Troop of Scouts, a forest full of wooden poles, a barrel or ten and 30 assorted lashings? Could it perhaps be two beautifully designed rafts and a well-constructed bridge? Well, not always and maybe it's just as well as it wouldn't have been half as much fun for the spectators if those rafts hadn't disintegrated just as they reached the centre of the lake!

If you'd been down to the woods on Tuesday, you'd have seen the 9th Romsey Scouts testing their knotting skills to the limit (and as it turned out, somewhat beyond!). It was a truly balmy (as well as barmy!) evening following the hottest afternoon of the year so far, so well done whoever planned that. It all started very dry and controlled, but once the rafts were launched, it wasn't long



before out popped a few barrels, followed closely by several of the scouts in lifejackets. Much whooping and splashing ensued, until, in the end, there was not a dry child on board, it was more off-board to be exact.

WOODSMOKE

Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th Sept 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

I watched the construction of the bridge with interest, not quite sure how it was ever going to resemble anything I'd dare to cross. In fact, on completion I'd have to have been chased by some very wild elephants to try it, but then I'm not a scout! It was more of a "hanging bridge", hanging on tight was definitely a good idea if you were to avoid undesirably close contact with the very wet river below. There were some very gallant attempts and even a few who made it to the other side without falling in. The rest enjoyed the swimming! The many supervising adults enjoyed the entertainment.

The whole training exercise was a huge success and there's nothing like practical experience to teach the importance of what to do next time. Many thanks to Ian Nelson of Kings Farm (Sunnyfields Organic Farm) for allowing us to sink in his lake.

From the intrepid Mum who can now tie knots and lash: *Sarah Scrase.*

BEAVER SCOUTS “RAILWAY RIOT”

On a blustery July Saturday about 70 Beaver Scouts from all over the district descended on Lakeside Country Park in Eastleigh to enjoy a day of fun activities and rides on the



miniature lake-side railway. The morning started early for the leaders at 8.30 am when they moved on to the amphitheatre, a vast grassed area in a dip at Eastleigh lakeside under the control of

Eastleigh Borough Council and available to hire. The Scouting Leaders set up gazebos for shelter from sun or rain, an impressive assault course was erected by Howard and his gang together with many games and activities. The Beavers arrived

at 10.00 am and joined the leaders for the start of the “Railway Riot”. Every 20 minutes they moved on to a different base and filled their time with such activities as decorating biscuits, playing frisbee golf, making camp gadgets, sending water rockets up in the air, parachute games, making sun visors and much, much more, including the amazing assault course. There was also a chance to have rides on the Lakeside miniature railway which again was organised to a very precise timetable, and leaders walked with the Beavers over the short distance to the station and were allocated a special train just for them. The main thrill of the train ride was the tunnel, when screams of delight were heard as they went into the dark hole. The day ended with all the Beavers gathered together in a circle in the middle of the amphitheatre to give their thanks to all leaders and helpers who had put so much work into the event. Fortunately for everyone the rain held off until everything was packed and just ready to leave site. It has been seven years since Romsey District Beavers had held their last Railway Riot and so it was good to go back and enjoy the beautiful setting of Eastleigh Lakeside and take advantage of the facilities that it affords.

The following email was sent to Nikki (Badger) the leader of Bramshaw Beavers:

Dear Badger

Thank you for helping with the railway riot. I would like it if you would send my thanks to all the beaver/cub leaders for everything and in particular the train!
Signed Peter



BEAVER GOOD TURN – JACK’S PLACE

The Beaver Scouts are delighted to announce that they raised £619.89 for Jack’s Place a new building beside Naomi House

especially for the older children. Jack's Place is due to be opened in the Autumn.

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### ROMSEY DISTRICT AGM

This was held at the beginning of July, where the Annual Report, including the accounts, was available. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Sandra Gidley M.P., Councillor John Ray, Romsey Town Mayor, Bill Brown and Bryan Young, Hampshire County Scouts, together with numerous friends and supporters.

The Chairman, John Stevens, kept the meeting short and succinct and the District Commissioner, Darren Reed, presented awards to Sheila Caine, Simon Pethick, Jean Beauchamp (her 5<sup>th</sup> Woodbadge!), whilst Bryan Young presented awards to Janice Waterman and David Sutton - everyone else having received their awards at prior occasions.

All the current executive members had previously agreed to stand again and there were no nominations from the floor.

The Chairman then gave a short presentation on how he thought the District should run with more emphasis being given to the sections feeding into the Executive their requirements, support and needs. This was the 99<sup>th</sup> AGM for Romsey District, so next year we plan to organise something really special.

Tea and coffee had been served before the meeting, so those wishing to could adjourn to the Memorial Park to enjoy the latter part of the 'George's Trust' concert.

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the Annual Report & Accounts please contact Mike & Diana Axford on 023 8026 8475

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### WELCOME

To the following new leaders:

|               |             |                         |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Lucy Roper,   | 4th Romsey, | Assistant Cub Leader    |
| Sean Cairns   | 21st Romsey | Assistant Cub Leader    |
| Kerrie Bowers | 21st Romsey | Assistant Beaver Leader |

We hope you enjoy your Scouting with us in Romsey.

## MAYORS PICNIC 2009

This year we had perfect weather for the Annual Mayors Picnic held in Romsey Memorial Park on the first Sunday in July and organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test. Their idea is to organise an event, enabling local charities to come along and raise some money and for the local people to have a good afternoon out, without it costing a fortune. This year they succeeded on all counts.

There seemed to be much entertainment for all to enjoy, some of which was free and everything else very reasonably priced. There was the most fantastic turnout, which made this the most successful picnic ever.

Romsey Scouts were a major part of the event running three 'games'. The Cubs organised Dino Racing, for which they charged 20p a go, and every contestant won a prize! They raised £47.50 for district funds - there were an awful lot of races! 4<sup>th</sup> Romsey organised a Trolley Run, which looked great fun and raised £125.45 and as usual we had the Assault Course, which ran for 270 minutes and 278 youngsters went over it in that time! A 'kid-a-minute' to raise £278.16 which is not bad. Just over £450 was raised for District Funds. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way. This was a magnificent amount to make in an afternoon.

In addition the Scouts ran an extremely popular barbeque stall selling bangers and burgers to hungry visitors. They also provided a major display with a 'gun run' with teams having to race their gun through an obstacle course, taking it apart en route and reassembling it by the finishing line. It attracted a good crowd to watch the fun.

To anyone reading this who has never come to the Mayor's Picnic, we look forward to seeing you next year. It's great fun, entertainment is provided and if you picnic, a very cheap afternoon out.



## **2 weeks in Switzerland WHAT A HOLIDAY!**

It was 3pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July and I had just left work heading for Dover and the pleasures of the M25. The radio burst into life and gave me the good news that P&O Ferries were having trouble with their computer check-in system, leading to queues back along Dover front. Just what I wanted, but I still had time to make the 6:15pm ferry or so I thought, when the Sat Nav said that there were traffic problems on the M3, M25 and M20 more good news! After battling around the motorways of south England I made Dover check-in at 6:35pm, not bad I thought considering the reported problems, but I should not have worried as the ferry I was booked on was due to sail at 7:20pm, time for a quick coffee. By 9:15pm when I boarded the ferry I was hungry and really looking forward to the crossing and the hour long drive on the other side to Lille where I was booked into a hotel for the night or what would be left of it. After booking in at 1am I was starting to think what a bad idea it was to drive to Switzerland and that I should have taken the plane.

I finally arrived in Kandersteg at 6:20pm on the Saturday night in time for dinner with the core team, the first and one of only a few meals that would be cooked by others for the next 2 weeks.

I had foolishly agreed to help with the catering for our sub-camp (Romans) as part of the Suisse Adventure 09 expedition to Kandersteg along with Ann & Pete Bourne and Angela Evans cooking for a total of 46 Explorers and Leaders. So all we had to do is provide 598 Breakfasts, 506 Evening meals and 644 pack lunches for our Explorers and Leaders, easy I hear you say! Well on first viewing it is, but then the activity programme means that the Explorers needed breakfast any-time from 7am to 8:30am and evening meals from 6:30pm to 8pm depending on the return time from the days activities and the start of the evening activities, excluding the dawn hikers who took breakfast with them made the night before as even I have my limits at making breakfast at 2am!!!

The main suppliers to mention were the Butcher, Baker (no not the candlestick maker) and the CO-OP without whom shopping would not have been such a pleasure. The butcher who thinks 5 kg of mince is normal, the baker who asks "is that all?" after ordering 14 kg of bread and the CO-OP for having almost everything we needed (except canned pulses) in Frutigen. So after 2 weeks and all those meals the sub-camp was eating its way through over 12kg of bread, 1 kg of

cheese, 9 litres of Milk and enough chocolate spread to satisfy any chocoholic every day!

The main event of the trip is Suisse National Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> August which just happens to coincide with the birthday of Scouting, so where better to remember why we are all here than on an International Scout Centre in Kandersteg in Switzerland. The whole camp (some 1,200 Scouts and Guides) assembled on the playing field representing over 30 countries from around the world and paraded to the village centre where the Mayor greeted us all and recognised the impact that the Scouts have on the village who more than double the population at this time. Fireworks and a bonfire followed the speeches and music playing by the local villagers as part of the celebration.

Following the festivities I also had the pleasure of investing a number of Scout Network members into Romsey Pirate's and the event was captured with photographs of the group around the Network flag (*but not in Woodsmoke!*).

My thanks to all of the Explorers for eating everything we put in front of them and to the catering team for working under what was from time to time intense situations just at the point of serving dinner for all and my thanks to all for letting their DC cook and ensure they were where they needed to be at the right time.

I'm sure everyone had a great time and some even learnt more than they expected on Glacier workshops, environmental activities and gaining the high adventure award.

So the next time someone asks if you would like to help cater on camp, please remember this event only happens every 4 years on average so jump at the opportunity offered, it's great fun!!!

Darren Reed.  
Head Shopper, Assistant Cook and Dish Washer

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WHERE DID YOU BUY YOUR SCOUT UNIFORM?

Did you know that Oasis Christian Centre in Romsey stocks uniform for all the sections and also the leaders. Neckers and other group specific items are also available, as are books such as the Beaver Log Book, Cub Powerpack and Scout Handbook. They are able to order anything from the Scout Catalogue including tents, sleeping bags, cooking gear in fact almost anything anyone involved in Scouting might need. Items not normally carried usually take about a week to arrive.

Scout's bravery recognised by The Scout Association

Scout Peter Cowe has been awarded the Silver Cross, one of The Scout Association's highest honours for bravery. Peter used his Scouting knowledge to help save a motorist suffering from a heart attack.

Last November, 38-year-old Peter was travelling to work on the A167 near Sunderland when he spotted a driver in distress in the car behind. Using his own car to stop the other, Peter staged an amazing rescue that saved the semi-conscious driver and his 11-year-old daughter.

Peter told the Sunderland Echo about the incident, 'I heard a crash and saw the Toyota Landcruiser behind had bumped another car. The driver seemed out of it and his daughter was screaming and crying. I decided to let the Toyota crash into the back of me to get it to a standstill. It was really difficult because the car kept pushing mine forward, but eventually I got the parking brake on and brought it to a halt'. After calling an ambulance Peter went to assist the driver, who was struggling to breath. Using skills he'd learnt through Scouting, Peter administered first aid until the ambulance and police arrived.



Hunting the Dawn

One of the joys of camping, especially in the summer, is the opportunity it affords for hunting the dawn. These are much more common than town dwellers often realise, although country folk have long known of their beauty. In towns the clutter of buildings and the hectic pace of life mean that they are often missed even when they do occur.

If you have not tried this before you should take the opportunity next time you are in camp. To be successful you must get up early even before it is light. There have been no reported sightings of a dawn later in the day. It is a non-hazardous occupation and no special equipment is required although in wooded areas people have been known to trip on tree roots or walk into low branches in the dark. Stout footwear and a torch is all that you need. Some experts find it useful also to carry a compass as the best sightings have all been in the east.

If you have a choice, move to higher ground with a clear view as far as possible towards the horizon. Then sit down on a convenient log or rock and wait for a dawn to appear. You will not be disappointed. Sightings have occurred in all weather conditions, but the best usually happen on sunny days with some cloud around and this has the added benefit of making it much more pleasant than having to sit around in the rain waiting for one.

Good luck with your hunting, and if you manage to get a good picture of a dawn please send it in to Woodsmoke for us all to enjoy.



David Sutton, Vice President

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**Scouting's fun.  
Follow Bear Grylls and get involved.  
[www.romseyscouts.com](http://www.romseyscouts.com)**

## Scouting Awards Presentation

The Council Chamber of Romsey Town Hall was packed for a mass presentation of Scouting certificates in June. Town Mayor, Councillor John Ray presented 37 Beaver Scouts with their Chief Scout's Bronze Award, 28 Cub Scout with their Silver Awards and 4 Scouts with the coveted Gold Award.

District Commissioner, Darren Reed thanked Councillor Ray for presenting the certificates and he also expressed his gratitude to the leaders, parents, grandparents and head teachers, who had played their part in encouraging the youngsters in their efforts. This was the first time that Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had had a joint presentation and although it made for a packed hall, everyone present was in agreement that it had been a success.

Each Beaver Scout had to complete 4 challenges and those receiving their bronze awards were:- Nicolas Riley, Archie Mackintosh, Georga Forgan, Edward Davis, Hal and Alexia Cross, Nathan Beckett Halman, Corey Hill, Henry Walvin, Max Marshall, Thomas Croft Baker, Dylan Lewis, Alex Mills, Charlie Teal, Joe Madigan, Jared Meade, James Garland, Max Vennick, Jake Keane, Robyn Grace, Hanna Welby, Sophie McCloughlan, Amy Ball, Callum McBean, Charlie Younger, David McFaul, Marcus Smith, Ethan Lloyd, Matthew Housego, Nathan Blake, Bradley Beard, Andrew Parker, Ben Philips, Anna Hines, Hollie Bowers, Drew Hickman, and Colin McCann.

The Cub Scouts had to complete 6 challenges and those receiving their Silver Awards were:- Richard Olley, Jack Williams, Felix Martin, Sam Barcia, Joshua Stace, David Forgan, Matthew Gilbert, James Manning, James Wood,



Hugh Davidson, James Weare, George Vincent, Christopher Ward, Ned Smith, David Ross, Jack Naismith, Mackenzie Melling, Matthew Lockhart, Samuel Kemp, Samuel Hirst, Ewan Campbell, Henry Baker, Becky Jarvis, Liyana Pape, Emily Grace, Charlie Wilson, Luke Bowers and Fraiser Hines.

The Scouts had 8 challenges to complete for their Gold Award and the Scouts present were:- Mhairi Cameron, Helena Weare, Sally Aston and Tom Spicer.

Congratulations to you all.

**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

### September

|                  |                                                         |               |                     |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Thur 2nd</b>  | <b>Scout Leaders Mtg</b>                                |               |                     |
| <b>Mon 7th</b>   | <b>Musketeers Social</b>                                | <b>8.00</b>   | <b>21st H.O.</b>    |
| <b>Wed 9th</b>   | <b>Cub Leaders Mtg</b>                                  | <b>8.15</b>   | <b>6th H.O.</b>     |
| <b>Sat 12th</b>  | <b>Romsey Show</b>                                      |               | <b>Broadlands</b>   |
| <b>Tues 15th</b> | <b>GSLs Mtg</b>                                         |               | <b>15th H.O.</b>    |
| <b>W/e 19/20</b> | <b>Survival Skills</b>                                  | <b>County</b> | <b>Pinsent</b>      |
| <b>Mon 21st</b>  | <b>All Leaders Mtg</b>                                  |               | <b>11th H.O.</b>    |
| <b>Mon 28th</b>  | <b>Musketeers AGM &amp; Skittles</b>                    |               | <b>4 Horseshoes</b> |
|                  | <b>book your place/food by 21st via Claire on Email</b> |               | <b>Nursling</b>     |

### October

|                  |                          |                  |                       |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Sun 4th</b>   | <b>Cub Challenge</b>     |                  | <b>Salisbury</b>      |
| <b>Sun 11th</b>  | <b>Walk Test Way</b>     |                  |                       |
| <b>Tues 27th</b> | <b>Module 1 Training</b> | <b>7.00.....</b> | <b>10th H.O.</b>      |
| <b>Sat 31st</b>  | <b>BIG QUIZ</b>          |                  | <b>Crosfield Hall</b> |

### November

|                |                    |  |               |
|----------------|--------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>Sun 1st</b> | <b>Diggers Day</b> |  | <b>Caving</b> |
|----------------|--------------------|--|---------------|

## MODULE 1 TRAINING

According to Scout policy, ALL Fellowship AND Exec. members (group & district) are required to do Module 1 'Essential Information' of the Scout adult training programme. Many of you are already Leaders so will have this covered but those of you who are not covered elsewhere may be interested to know Romsey District are running a FREE Module 1 training course on Tuesday 27th October (that's half-term so no excuses!!) from 7pm at 10th Woodley HQ. (November date/venue to be confirmed). It's quite straightforward - a series of short films and a chat - and we might even run to coffee and biscuits too!! Anyone is welcome - just send Claire Sutton an e-mail to book your place!!

Claire Sutton, 023 8025 1887; [claire@devondrive.org](mailto:claire@devondrive.org)  
*(same details for Musketeers AGM on 28th Sept—see above)*