

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 485 <http://www.romseyscouts.org/> **September 2010**

😊 **THANK YOU FOR CAMP!!!** 😊

I know that everyone claims to have said thank you at the end of camp, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the leaders and supporters who have given up their time to take the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers away over the summer.

The parents I'm sure are very grateful, but I would like to add my personal thanks as I know you have all given up some of your allocated holiday from work, sacrificed time with the family and generally spent many evenings and time organising all of the paperwork, equipment and food shopping to make this happen.

All of this for absolutely no financial reward, in fact I'm sure it cost you more than just the food you have consumed, but it was worth it—wasn't it?

So on behalf of all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and the parents—Thank you!

Darren Reed, District Commissioner



WOODSMOKE

Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th Sept. '10** 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



21stRomsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout and Draco Explorers Summer Camp

This year, for the first time, our summer camp took us to Biblins – a Forestry Commission youth site, in a fabulous location on the banks of the River Wye, near Symonds Yat. Some of our usual activities, such as pioneering and cooking on fires, were put on hold as we maximised the time spent hiking, kayaking and rock-climbing.



Two leaders from the District kayaking team joined us for the first half of the week, enabling each of the young people to kayak downstream to Monmouth and to test themselves against the rapids at Symonds Yat.

Midweek we tried out a local ropes course, with some taking the “leap of faith” to its maximum limit and another showing a great deal of agility and balance by beating the “crate-stacking” record.

With the weather remaining dry, we finished off the week with a couple of days rock-climbing near the famous Yat rock. Climbing was led by one of our own instructors and an old friend, an ex Romsey Scout, Mark Tarry, who was recently appointed as Deputy Chief Commissioner of Scouting for England.



Having completed an action-packed week the Scouts deservedly achieved their Adventure Challenge Awards and their Climbers’ badge, returning home exhausted but in high spirits.

Battery Recycling Challenge

Have you ever wondered what to do with your old batteries, did you know they contain precious metals and can be recycled?

4th Romsey now recycle all their old batteries. This does not include large batteries. After all there is not a lot you can do with an old battery, certainly not junk modelling. Some supermarkets have recycling bins and you can take them to the tip, but how often do you go and do you remember to take them with you when you do?



So why not join in this easy recycling method and contact Battery Back at www.batteryback.org for free collection and recycling.

All our members get a small reward for each 10 batteries they bring in for recycling, quite an incentive as the first week we had 97 batteries and that was from just from three children.

Remember **Recycle, Reuse, Reduce**

Nikki Moxey, BSL 4th Romsey



ROMSEY DISTRICT QUIZ
Saturday, 23rd October, 7.15 pm
Crosfield Hall, Romsey
SEE YOU THERE

WALKING THE TEST WAY **10th OCTOBER 2010**

What would your Group do with an extra £1,000?
How long would it take to raise that sum?
Would you believe you could do it in one day?
Well you can.

Walk the Test Way is a sponsored walk organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test to enable charities to raise money for themselves without having to do any organisation. £100,000 has been raised in this way over the past 7 years and has benefited many charities including some of our Groups. If you have not been part of this yet, this might be the year to start.



There is a choice for how far you walk; anything from 2 miles up to a marathon 26 miles for the fittest walkers. Register to walk on the website walkthetestway.co.uk and get your sponsors. Then turn up on the day and enjoy a pleasant walk. Starting from Romsey's Crosfield Hall you will be transported to your chosen start point from where you walk back to Romsey. Fully marshalled and signed routes, and first aid cover are provided, as well as water and toilets en route. Refreshments are available at the end.

If 50 people from your Group, your parents and friends, and your supporters each got sponsored for £20 and enjoyed a day out together you would raise £1000 in one day. Of course, much more is possible!

David Sutton, Vice President

10th Romsey, Sioux Pack, Camp **Linkenholt 24th – 31st July 2010**

There are times in your Scouting life when the memories will live with you for ever, whether it be completing your first night away, gaining your Queen's Scout Award or completing that challenge that has been defeating you for a while. For me, Cub Camp 2010 will be one of those Scouting memories I will always remember. 10 days before camp I had a call from Akela. He was in a lot of pain and had a swollen leg. Rest and antibiotics was the order of the

day and we hoped that the infection would clear up so that he could come to camp, the highlight of any year. The days ticked away and it slowly became clear that the infection was not going to clear up without a fight. On the Wednesday before camp, Akela was admitted to hospital. There was nothing for it, “the camp must go on” but Akela must get better soon as well.

After some quick ringing around we found that we had all of the necessary permits and adults to run camp. All we needed was some good weather!

On Saturday the adults met at the hall to load the vans and trailers, with enough kit and food for 29 Cubs and 9 leaders for a week long camp. After pitching the tentage and laying out the basis of the assault course it was time for a rest. Fish & chips and a nice relaxing game of cards were just what we needed. On Sunday morning, after a hearty breakfast, the Cubs started to arrive. Some must have been eager to get to camp as they arrived nearly an hour early! With the Cubs settled into their tents, it was time to start the Sunday Challenge. A team challenge, with a series of different tasks to complete. The bridge and blind trail were followed by the assault course. Next were the ball pass and the water tower. Oh what chaos! Finally the quoit hoopla. Well done to all of the Cubs as teamwork showed through in each six. Many congratulations to Blue six, who won the Sunday Challenge Trophy.



I have been told that “The first night is always the worst” Well I certainly agree! There were a lot of excited Cubs, who did not want to go to sleep, still chatting at gone midnight and then awake and chatting again, before 6.00am. We must do a longer evening walk next year!

Monday was our activity badge day and we started out with the athletes. This was completed just before lunch and then we ran out of time to do the Naturalist. At 3pm the Beavers started to arrive for their afternoon visit. They were shown around the site, played on the assault course and then joined in with wishing Hathi (James Snape) a Happy 17th Birthday. The afternoon finished with various

heats of dinosaur racing. The three finals, Beaver, Cub and adult were hotly contested. Well done to Danny Batelaan (Beaver), Christopher Ward (Cub) and Mike Hannigann (Adult) who were all presented with winners medals.

We were joined at our evening campfire by members of the Group Executive committee and Romsey District Scout Commissioner, Darren Reed, who had come along to present long service awards to Carolyn and Peter Finch and a Scout Association Thanks badge to Carolyn. The Cubs, Beavers and visitors were all in fine voice and we finished a lot later than planned.

We were up bright and early on Tuesday to walk to the end of the track to catch our coach to The Hawk Conservancy Trust at Weyhill. WOW! what an amazing day out. We hardly had time to stop. The Cubs enthusiastically collected the stamps on their passports in between the wild bird feeding, the three flying displays and vulture feed. The main display was just amazing. Vultures flying just over our heads, the Peregrine Falcon chasing the pigeon and the Bald Eagles coming home after a two and half mile flight up the valley. Judging by the number we had to wake up after the

coach journey home, everyone had had a great day.



Wednesday would be the last day with everyone on site as the first time campers would leave later in the evening. We spent the morning doing craft activities and taking things at a much slower pace. The Cubs could choose from glass engraving, T shirt

painting, pebble painting and soap engraving. The 1000 piece jigsaw was completed and a mural was started. In the afternoon we paid a visit to the village shop. Such a small shop, but so many sweets to choose from! At flag down we said goodbye to the 12 first time campers. The Best Camp Six Shield was awarded to Blue six. Well done on achieving “the double”. The first time camper award is awarded to a Cub who is on their first camp. They will have knuckled down to camp life and tried their best at everything that was put in front of them. This year it was awarded to Daniel Braybrook. We also made a special award to Matthew Fraser for his enthusiasm and resilience.

On Thursday we stepped up a gear and tried to give the older Cubs a bit more adventure. We started with the campers badge and took down the tents vacated by the younger Cubs departing the day before. It was then on to lunch with the Cubs preparing and cooking their own of Digby's and baked apples, all cooked in the fire embers. What a success! There was nothing left and they wanted to do it again. I'm sorry to any parents who have had to dig holes in the garden for the fires!

By Friday we were all starting to feel the effects of being at camp for 6 days, but we still managed a 7 mile hike up to Coombe Gibbet. The Cubs did exceptionally well and were very impressed that we walked past the radio mast that can be seen in the distance from the campsite.

The time had come to start taking down camp and so the marquees were taken down, but not before we had the final evening party. With the marquee decked out with streamers and set with napkins and masks, it made the final evening meal just a bit special. The party



poppers and background music added a little something, before we turned up some favourite party tunes after we had finished the washing up.

I awoke on Saturday to the sound of rain! It had not been booked, but fortunately the rain stopped and the wind picked up. This allowed the canvas to dry off by the time we needed to strike camp.

Akela joined us for final flag down, with his leg severely strapped and bandaged, having left hospital the previous Saturday. It is an Akela's privilege to present Chief Scout's Silver Awards and so Ryan awarded badges to Robert Comer, Nicholas Comer, Nicholas Evans and Ben Upfold. Well done. The experienced camper award was presented to Samuel Kemp, who showed great leadership and teaching skills to many of the other Cubs over the week. Well done Samuel, a future Queen's Scout I am sure.

We also took the opportunity to say thank you to all of the people who helped with camp. Running a week long camp for 29 Cubs is

not achieved by one person in a few hours. It takes months of planning which then has to be executed by the team, and what a great team we had. My thanks go to our van drivers Adrian Hargreaves, Jim Upfold, Gerry Parsons and Nigel Aris, Ruth Blake and Mary Orgill for all of their help in the days leading up to camp, Adrian and Jo Hargreaves, Ros Comer and Carolyn Ward who joined us on our day trip to the Hawk Conservancy, David Sutton "Silver Wolf", our District Vice President, Colin Knight "Grizzly Bear", Janice and Tim "King Louis" Waterman, Tony Moles "Scary Baloo!", Suzi Beare "the other Chil", Jane and Harriet the Beaver leaders at 1st Romsey, Julie and Sue who came all day on Monday when the Beavers visited, James Snape "Hathi", Rob Taylor "Jacal" and Dan Orgill "Hawk" our Explorer helpers, Luke Aris "Badger" an escaped Beaver leader who can't keep away, Phil Coles "Chil" and Rob Link "Baggy" who joined us when work allowed, Jacky Betteridge "Jacala" and Liz Holloway "Kaa" who kept us fed and watered and Pete Betteridge who just keeps going. Akela also deserves a special mention as he spent months planning for a camp that he was unable to put into practice. I was able to pick up the plans and hopefully carry on as he would have wanted. I must also say thank you to the parents, firstly for allowing your Son to come to camp, it would be a bit dull without any Cubs, but secondly for your help with moving and packing kit, providing such lovely cakes and helping with the clearing of the site.

I also had the responsibility of saying thank you, on behalf of Crusoe Troop and Sioux Pack, to Luke Aris "Badger" who is moving with his extended family to Devon in early September. Many thanks for all of your help over the years. We will certainly miss Luke's and his family's commitment to Scouting.

Final flag down is usually done with mixed feelings as you feel the sense of joy that a warm bath and a comfy bed is just around the corner, but sadness that the village that sprung up from nowhere a week ago has been taken down and everyone will be leaving. However, at the end of my first camp as leader, it was more than that. It was the joy of knowing, by the smiles on 17



young faces, that they had enjoyed themselves, while also learning some life skills, mixed with the sadness that the fun, friendship and adventure of camp was over.

The day after camp was the 103rd Birthday of Scouting, we must be doing something right as all of the Cubs want to do it all over again next year!

Martyn Blake "Baloo"

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## **A NEW EXPERIENCE!**

When you have been in Scouting as long as I have it is not so often that you do something for the first time. It was therefore a rather unusual occasion when I did two things for the first time at the same time. I was invited to join the 10<sup>th</sup> Sioux Cub Camp at Linkenholt, which was the first time I had camped with 10<sup>th</sup> and the first time I have visited Linkenholt. Both experiences were very pleasant.

Linkenholt, famous after last year for the visit of the air ambulance, is a lovely setting in which to camp. It is reassuring to know that there are still some remote parts of Hampshire left unspoilt by the onward rush of development. Set in a valley surrounded by woods and fields, and passed by the Test Way, there is little to see which will have changed in hundreds of years. Most of the time there are no man-made sounds to be heard, and we were able to enjoy the screech of a family of buzzards calling each other, and to watch red kites circling the sky as they looked for lunch. Owned by a Charitable Trust, the site provides a good central building with excellent kitchen, and they were just completing a new toilet and shower block while we were there.

My Scouting 'at-the-coal-face' was done with the scout section so it came as a pleasant change to be in camp with Cubs. Many were camping for the first time and all showed lots of enthusiasm usually accompanied by lots of noise! Although I was only able to stay 3 days I saw them tackle an assault course, compete for their athletes badge, go on a country walk and enjoy a camp fire. They also endured the 'Invasion of the Beavers' when the youngest Scout section from 10<sup>th</sup> came out for half a day to experience the joys of camping.

Congratulations to Martyn Blake who ran a splendid camp, made more difficult for him by the fact that his Akela went sick just before the start and could not attend. Many others helped him, of course, but someone always has to lead. Not least among those helpers was your Woodsmoke editor and Jackie Betteridge who made sure everyone was well fed, always important in any camp. Overall an experience I would not have missed.

*David Sutton*



*Vice President*

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**Invitation to: Open Meeting - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
7.30 – 9 p.m.**

**King John's House, Romsey**

**Re: Arts and Climate Change Event - Romsey Arts Festival 2011**

As part of the 2011 Romsey Arts Festival, and with the support of the Arts Festival Committee, Transition Town Romsey Arts Group is proposing to hold an Arts and Climate Change Event – a highly visual display that celebrates and shares the opportunities, challenges and changes that climate change offers to our community. We are particularly keen to involve as many local youth and community groups as possible, as well as schools and individuals throughout the town, and this letter is to invite your group to make its own unique contribution.

For three months prior to the final event, during April, May and June of next year, we envisage a variety of workshops, including dance, music, storytelling and drama as well as carnival costume-making and a range of other visual arts, taking place in groups and schools across the town and surrounding area. The aim is to explore the themes and positive solutions at the heart of the Transitions Town Movement, helping all those involved to share their ideas and skills to help build, through the arts, a better, more sustainable community.

The workshops will culminate in the Climate Change Festival Day on the last Saturday of the Arts Festival, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2011. We envisage all those who have taken part will be able to share their ideas, stories and creations with each other and the rest of the town, linked by a loose, narrative structure leading up to an outdoor finale (led by the playwright Karl Hibbert).

We would like to invite you/your representative to attend a specially arranged Community groups' Meeting to take forward these ideas on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. at King John's House, Romsey.** This will also be an opportunity to meet Karl Hibbert and talk to him directly about how your group can become involved.

This is a new, exciting and creative project for Romsey within the context of the triennial Arts Festival. If you would like further information about Transition Town Romsey please visit our website: [www.transitiontownromsey.org.uk](http://www.transitiontownromsey.org.uk).

Please contact me at: 5A The Causeway, Romsey, SO51 8HF, Tel: 01794 515529, Email: [mavis.sawdy@gmail.com](mailto:mavis.sawdy@gmail.com) to let me know whether or not you are able to attend. Feel free to pass this invitation on to other groups or individuals who might also like to take part.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Mavis Sawdy,  
TTR Arts Group Co-ordinator*

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6th Beavers Support George's Trust

6th Romsey
Lockerley
Beavers
welcomed 1st
Romsey Beaver
Leader, Jane
O'Brien to their
meeting on
June 29th to
give her a



cheque for £69.60 for George's Trust. Jane, who teaches some of the Lockerley Beavers talked about her son, George, in whose memory the Trust was founded and the many inspiring fund raising activities that she has been involved in.

Lockerley Beavers raised money by making a Good Turn Tree and then made leaves for the tree. Over the spring half term, they did a variety of jobs for parents and relatives. These included cleaning cars, washing up and looking after pets. They then wrote down what they had done and the money earned on their leaf and pinned it to the tree. They worked really hard and parents were very supportive, some even referred to it as "Bob a Job Money".

Editors Note:

All the Beavers in Romsey District have been raising money for George's Trust this year.

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SNORKELLING

Further funding of over £900 has been received from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation to enable further purchase of equipment for this new activity within Romsey District.

The initial award (together with donations for the District and other Romsey Scout Groups) enabled the purchase several sets of basic equipment, plus a set of open water gear. This was used during 9th Romsey summer camp in Dorset at the beginning of August. As part of a full activity week, everyone of the 23 Scouts on camp experienced the open waters and underwater marine life on Kimmeridge Bay in favourable conditions. The experience was preceded by a talk from Carol Milner, Marine Biologist from APEM who volunteered to give the talk and took the trouble to snorkel herself prior to the session with the Scouts. They all loved the experience and are now extremely keen to go in the water again to develop their knowledge and skills.



Three other Scout Troop from Romsey District have already expressed a desire to start the pool programme this autumn, so it is hoped soon all troops will be availing themselves of this new activity.

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“Letter Home from Scout Camp”

Dear Mum

Our Scoutmaster told us to write to our parents in case you saw the flood on TV and got worried. We are OK. Only one of our tents and 2 sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily none of us got drowned because we were all up on the mountain looking for Adam when it happened.

Oh yes, please call Adam’s mother and tell her he is OK. He can’t write because of the cast. I got to ride in one of the search and rescue jeeps. It was great. We never would have found Adam in the dark if it hadn’t been for the lightening. Scoutmaster Ted got mad at Adam for going on a hike alone without telling anyone. Adam said he did tell him but it was during the fire so he probably didn’t hear him. Did you know that if you put gas on a fire, the gas will blow up? The wet wood didn’t burn, but one of the tents did and also some of our clothes. Matthew is going to look weird until his hair grows back.

We will be home on Saturday if Scoutmaster Ted gets the bus fixed. It wasn’t his fault about the crash. The brakes worked Ok when we left. Scoutmaster Ted said that with a bus that old, you have to expect something to break down. We think it’s a super bus. He doesn’t care if we get it dirty, and if it’s hot, he sometimes lets us ride on the bumpers. It gets pretty hot with 45 people in a bus made for 24. He let us take turns riding in the trailer until the policeman stopped and talked to us.

Scoutmaster Ted wouldn't let me go diving off the rocks because I can't swim and Adam was afraid he would sink, because of his cast (it's concrete because we didn't have any plaster) so he let us take the canoe out. You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood.

I have to go now. We are going into town to post our letters and buy some more beer. Don't worry, we are fine. See you Saturday.

WELCOME

To the following new leaders:

Louise Jenkins	10th Romsey	Colony Assistant
Terry Elliott		Romsey District Unit Assistant
Louise Beare	21st Romsey	ACSL

We hope you all enjoy your time with Romsey Scouts and get as much enjoyment from it as we do.

The following have also changed roles within the district

John Heagren	now Scout Leader, 4th Romsey
Howard Chandler	now Assistant Scout Leader, 4th Romsey
Nicola Moxey	now Beaver Scout Leader, 4th Romsey
Susa Dickerson	Unit Assistant, 9th Romsey

Thank you to you all for the time you are continuing to give to the young people in Romsey District.

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

Mon 6th	Module 1 Training	21st H.Q.	19.30—21.30
Thur 9th	Dist Man Meeting	18 Cherville St.	19.45
Sat 11 th	Romsey Show	Broadlands	
Wed 15 th	All Leaders Meeting	TBA	
Mon 20 th	10 th Romsey A.G.M.	10 th H.Q.	20.15
Wed 29th	Arts Festival Mtg	King Johns House	19.30—21.00

OCTOBER 2010

Sun 10th	GSL/DC Regional Conference		
Sun 10th	Walk the Test Way		
Thur 21st	Dist Man Meeting	18 Cherville St	19.45
Sat 23rd	District Quiz	Crosfield Hall	19.15.....
w/e 30/31	County Kudu	Harry's Is	18.00—10.00
w/e 30/31	Exp & Scouts caving	County—Green Ore, Somerset	

DECEMBER 2010

Sun 12th	District Carol Service	U.R.C.	15.00—16.00
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JANUARY 2011

Sat 29th	Quiz Evening	Crosfield Hall	
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DIGGER'S DAY 2010

A great evening was had at Mountbatten School in July by everyone taking part in the Scout X-Games. There was trampolining, cyler cross, street surfing and last, but definitely not least, rocketball! Most troops in the district were represented and everyone there had a great time. Huge thanks to Donna and her team for organising the evening, all who helped supervise and those who took part—it was a fun evening for organisers too!



A quick reminder to all attendees, you can collect your badges from your leaders in September and they can be worn on your uniforms above the left shirt pocket from now until 31st December 2010

Sarah Beaman, DSL