

# WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 477 <http://www.romseyscouts.org/> November 2009

## 10th FUN DAY

The Scouts at Woodley ran a very successful fun day to raise money for the Hampshire Air Ambulance.

Regular readers may remember that there was an accident at their anniversary camp in May, and owing to the isolation of the camp site, the Air Ambulance attended. This photograph is of the Akela of Sioux Cub Pack—Ryan Orgill—and he joined many others for a stint in the



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

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stocks.

They were lucky as it was a lovely sunny day. The Leaders, Scouts, Explorers, Network and other Supporters were at the Hall throughout the morning organising the activities which included the very popular aerial runway, an obstacle course, skittles and 'Soak the Leader' - another popular activity though one can't imagine why!!! For the less energetic there was the human fruit machine, a treasure hunt, roll-a-penny and a raffle. The Scouts pitched camp and provided tea and cake during the afternoon and further refreshments in the form of hot dogs, cake and drinks were on sale at the kitchen.

They were pleased to welcome Tony Humphrey, a representative from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance who set up his stall with information and items to buy. He liked the photographic display of the Group Anniversary Camp as there were a number of pictures of the visit of the air ambulance.



From 2 pm there was a constant stream of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their families trying out the activities and helping them to raise in excess of £400, a very commendable sum!

**Congratulations** to the winners of the Skittles.

There was a tie in the Under 11yrs and Adult sections. Names were drawn from a hat and the winners were as follows:

Under 11yrs:	Michael Stickle	8 skittles,
11yrs-16yrs:	Andrew Harris	9 skittles,
Adults:	James Horne	8 skittles.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the afternoon:- to Mr & Mrs Tweedle who loaned them the stocks, to those who helped set things up and run the activities, donated raffle prizes and cakes and brought the family along to support.

## **ROMSEY DISTRICT WEBSITE**

**<http://www.romseyscouts.org/>**

The address of our website has changed a little and the link from the old to the new will not be there forever. Put the new address into your favourites and remember that all the information about what is going on in Romsey District is there, including the latest Woodsmoke, plus quite a number of past issues. Comments are always welcome, but please direct them to those who can do something about it (ie not me!). Webmasters are Mike Baxter, Claire Sutton and Paul Bourne.

### **Fundraising for the Group? It's a doddle.....**

.....when it's August Bank Holiday, you have beautiful sunshine and the location is Nomansland Green in the New Forest. Every year 4<sup>th</sup> Romsey (Bramshaw) hold one major fundraising event to keep our coffers topped up and this year was the best yet. We made £3,300 which is shared between us and the Nomansland Sports Association.

It is pretty hectic on the day and the run up can be interesting but the result is worth it. The Splottery is always top of the bill – Mike Smales of Lyburn Cheese brings a cow onto the green, puts her in a pen and yes, we wait until she “performs”! There are strict rules – the grid is numbered randomly by computer, and a certain size of “performance” is required before we declare a result! We have been there until 11pm but fortunately The Lamb Inn is close buy and there is never a shortage of volunteers for that duty.

There is a great dog show, cheese rolling, tombola, tea tent, Scouting Activities ( Howard Chandler and John Heagren at their best) and for the first time this year a BBQ run by Mike of the New Forest Butchery in West Wellow which raised £370 alone.

A great day for all – time to start planning next year.....

*Louise Forgan*

*GSL, 4th Romsey, Bramshaw*



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### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Pete and Jacky Betteridge on the safe arrival of a grand-daughter (Layla) on 12th October weighing in at 6lbs. Mum Aimee and Dad Ian are said to be coping well and Jimi (aged 3) is delighted with his new baby sister.

## **DISTRICT COMMISSIONER**

The District is very pleased to announce that Adam Jollans, the new County Commissioner, has confirmed Darren Reed's continuation in this role. It is not clear how Darren has responded to this accolade, but he has confirmed that it does not mean he will be in post for another five years!

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## **THIS IS WHY I AM A SCOUTER**

**(sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body")**

I went along to Scouts just to help them out one day  
I must have done a decent job as I was asked to stay,  
I really didn't have the time to do the job just right,  
But the Scouters all assured me that it only took one night.

*Chorus:*

*This is why I am a Scouter*

*This is why I am a Scouter*

*This is why I am a Scouter*

*Cos' the others all assured me that it only took one night.*

The District meeting came along and I was asked to go,  
It's sad to say the treasurer was ill and didn't show,  
So I was asked to do the job and I replied I might,  
Cos' the others all assured me that it only took one night.

*Chorus:*

One day the new Commissioner saw me put up a tent,  
He said with great relief, "Praise be, you must be heaven sent!  
I need a camp adviser and I know your time is tight,  
But I really do assure you that it only takes one night.

*Chorus:*

I've been so long in uniform, my blood is navy blue,  
My friends and neighbours think I'm mad and maybe so do you,  
But I'm so proud and happy I'd complain with all my might,  
If my many jobs in Scouting really only took one night!!!

*Chorus:*

*Cribbed from camp, earlier this year. Ed*

## **SUPPORTERS' CLUB SMALL GRANTS FUND**

The District raises money by way of the Supporters' Club and it was decided two years ago that some of that money raised should be available to Groups for any project they would like to receive financial assistance for. A condition of the grant would be that those in receipt of it would publicise the support received.

This fund is held by the District Treasurer for use by any Group for any project, they would like financial assistance with. There is no means testing of the 'applicant,' which means any group can apply. We ask that you at least match the amount you are requesting, we don't need a lengthy submission (a maximum of one side of A4) and any project will be considered.

There is now several hundred pounds in this fund and we would appreciate more applications please. The forms are available on the District website (address on Page 1 of Woodsmoke) and more information can be obtained from Alan Willsher (Club Organiser) or Graham Hollier (District Treasurer)

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## **DUDLEY DAINTON FUND**

This is also another fund managed by the District Treasurer. The money arose following Dudley's untimely death nearly 18 years ago and has of late been under-used. Grants are made at the discretion of the Trustees to anyone encountering difficulties in being able to afford to attend camp/activities or buy uniform.

The fund is there for both adults and young people, as a lack of resources should not be a bar to anyone fully participating in Scouting. Details of this fund can be obtained from David Sutton, our Vice-President, who is a Trustee of the fund. The Trustees consider all applications and will advise the outcome of their deliberations

## WALKING THE TEST WAY

Scouts, their families, friends and supporters were much in evidence walking the Test Way last Sunday. The walk is organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test and walkers are bussed to their chosen start points, whence they walk back to Romsey. The walk is marshalled throughout, with all the appropriate backup and is an ideal medium to raise money for your Scout Groups.

I saw Scouts from 9th (West Wellow) and 10th (Woodley and Crampmoor), but there may have been others. There were sterling efforts by some walking the full 26 miles from St Mary Bourne (Mags & John Cantello, Alex Prinset, his parents and sister and Daniel Kibby and his father). Several did the 18 miles from Wherwell, and many more walked from Stockbridge - a mere 13 miles—quite an

achievement if you're a Cub Scout with short legs!

Congratulations to everyone who walked for Scouts and made the most of the opportunity presented. The Rotarians were very pleased with the turnout (50% more than last year) and the atmosphere surrounding this entire, well organised event was fantastic. It was great to be a part of it.



## **HERE'S A USEFUL GADGET.....**

I like gadgets, don't get me wrong if it's the latest "must have" or "be the first kid on your block to ..." or "be the envy of your friend"; I don't want to know. To me a gadget is something that makes things easier or saves me time but I have to be completely convinced before I put my hand in my pocket. I'm not an impulse buyer when it comes to gadgets, so if it's a great new tool or new piece of software you won't find me in the queue to buy the latest release. It actually was a whole year before I finally decided to buy the laptop computer I'm writing this piece on.

Once I have purchased my gadget, I won't be without my mobile phone, the GPS for my car, this laptop and my cordless drill. My cordless drill, which uses battery technology developed for lunar exploration, is easy to use and allows me to do those little jobs quickly and easily; if I remember to recharge the battery!

We have gadgets in Scouts but they are not as high tech or need recharging like the gadgets I use. Scout gadgets are as old as Scouting itself and probably had their origins in the field kitchens that Baden Powell knew so well in his army days. Gadgets are devices or pieces of kitchen furniture that make the camp kitchen easier, safer and healthier to work in. They were a regular feature of camps until the mid 60's, when camps were for several weeks and there weren't the range of exciting activities we have today. We still use gadgets at camp and they are an essential part of Pulborough and Emlyn camping competitions; worth 50 marks.

Why do we still include gadgets in the marking system for a competition camp? Constructing a gadget requires research, planning, pioneering skills and team work; all skills essential for good, safe and healthy camping. It is apparent in recent years that several Pulborough patrols have not put sufficient thought or effort into their gadgets. With a little imagination and application these are 50 easy marks.

Yes there is the usual crop of an impractical dresser, a single wash stand and something to keep your boots dry on but that's about it. There is plenty of information out there, most Groups have dusty corners where earlier editions of "Scouting for Boys" or some of the camping guides or pioneering booklets that were so popular in the '60's. These are a treasure trove of ideas for different gadgets. Some Groups are lucky enough to have handbooks from other Countries, the Americans, Australians and Canadians are into Scouting and camping in a big way and their handbooks, publications and websites have

| <b>District Diary Dates</b> |                     |         |                |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------|
| <b>November</b>             |                     |         |                |
| Sun 1st                     | Diggers Day         |         | Caving         |
| Mon 2nd                     | Beaver Leaders      | 8.00    | 9th H.Q.       |
| 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    |
| Sat 29th                    | County AGM          | 10.00   | Thornden Sch   |
| <b>December</b>             |                     |         |                |
| Fri 4th                     | Late Night Shopping |         | Romsey         |
| Sun 13th                    | Carol Service       | 3.00    | URC            |
| <b>February</b>             |                     |         |                |
| Sat 27th                    | Barn Dance          |         | Crosfield Hall |

ideas for gadgets not even seen in this country. I know that in this year's Emlyn final, one patrol made a gadget they found in an Australian Scout handbook and was new to most of the patrols taking part.

So you've done your research and selected about 10 gadgets to use in your camp kitchen, what do you do next? Draw a scale plan and check that they'll all fit in to your allocated space. Try building a scale model of each gadget using dowel or canes and twine. First try a model of 10<sup>th</sup> full size i.e. 1cm on the model equals 10cm in real life, see how it works, does it stand up, was it easy to make and what and how much wood and rope do you need to build for real? Then, if you've been bitten by the modelling bug, try making a model of your entire camp site. For this model you might try using 30<sup>th</sup> scale i.e. 1cm to 30cm. This is not too far from the 32<sup>nd</sup> Scale used for readymade model farms and soldiers, so if you have some of these figures you could use them to give realism to your model.

So good hunting, good modelling and good luck!

*John Stephens (District Chairman)*

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**District Barn Dance**  
**Saturday 27th February 2010**  
**Crosfield Hall, Romsey**