

## District Diary Dates

### April

Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Roverang Gang Show	7.30pm	Nuffield Theatre
W/e 9/11 <sup>th</sup>	DoE Training (Exp)		6 <sup>th</sup> H.Q.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	First Aid	9.30 - 4.30	9 <sup>th</sup> H.Q.
W/e 16/18 <sup>th</sup>	County Explorers Camp		
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sixers Day		6 <sup>th</sup> H.Q.
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup>	District Man Meeting	7.45pm	18 Cherville St
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St George's Day (rehearsal)		Romsey Abbey
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	St George's Day		

### May

Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SAS - Social/family day	walk/pub lunch/picnic	
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> AGM & BBQ		9 <sup>th</sup> H.Q.
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Canoeing Fun Day	afternoon	Lakeside, Eastleigh
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dist Explorer Leaders Mtg	8.00pm	21 <sup>st</sup> H.Q.
Thur 20 <sup>th</sup>	District Exec	7.45pm	9 <sup>th</sup> H.Q.

### June

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> District Leaders Day & BBQ

### July

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> 100th District AGM

## SCOUT & GUIDE COOKING COMPETITION

I entered the cooking competition with two other scouts from Ashanti Troop. We were not allowed to use any cooking utensils and the theme was Backwoods.

We cooked smoked haddock, salmon, potatoes with cream and butter and corn on the cob. For pudding we cooked poached pears. We cooked the fish in soaked sheets of newspaper and tied it up with string, then put in on the embers of the fire. We chopped the potatoes into thin slices, put them into foil bags with the cream and butter and put them on the ashes too. We did the same with the corn, but only put butter on not cream. We chopped the pears into eatable slices and put them in foil bags on the ashes.

I really enjoyed eating the food we had cooked. We finished in third out of six which was really good, it was the first time I had entered.

*Kieran Brown, 3rd Romsey*

## Report on Thinking Day Service in Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey has been the venue for Guide Thinking Day service for the past 40 years, and this year a special service was planned to mark 100 years since Guiding started. Scouting was invited to share in this service and I was lucky enough to be one of those invited to the occasion.

From my invitation letter I had assumed that this was an all adult affair and it was with some surprise that I rounded the Houses of Parliament to come in sight of Westminster Abbey and to see a seething queue of scouts and guides with their respective leaders stretching all along the length of the building and back almost to the Houses of Parliament. We dutifully took our place at the back and crept slowly forward as this tide of scouting humanity flowed into the magnificent church.

Once inside there appeared to be no plan and everyone was free to choose a seat wherever a space could be found. Already most seemed to be filled and we quickly sat in the first empty two we came across. Our view was very restricted by a pillar, so while Kay guarded what we had secured I went

## WOODSMOKE

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

18 Cherville Street, Romsey, SO51 8FD

Tel: 01794 514597 E Mail: [liz@lizholloway.f2s.com](mailto: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

in search of any improvement. It was worth the effort because I found an empty block in the south transept and we hastily moved to a greatly increased view of the proceedings. As always when many scouts and guides are together, there was a steady rumble of conversational noise echoing around this vast church. While we waited we looked around and found that we were in the literary corner of the Abbey. Memorials to such figures as William Shakespeare, Thomas Hardy, Oscar Wilde, Shelley and Keats gazed down on us making us feel suitably unimportant.

The ceremony started as on our St Georges Day with flags being paraded up to the high altar accompanied by a hymn, or in the case of Guide flags a her! The service itself, after an introduction from the Dean of Westminster, was largely conducted by guides themselves and some leaders, and was designed to emphasise the way that Guiding had changed over the century in order to survive, and yet retained its core values to take on into the future.

At the conclusion of the service one might have expected the congregation to file out from the church. However guides and scouts do things differently. This was the chance to look around the Abbey, to meet up with friends in Guiding and to take photographs. Everyone today has a pocket camera. They can hardly be blamed for this since the charge to visit at other times is now £15! We succeeded in making our way through this throng to emerge into sunlight; a big improvement while we had been inside.

My day also included an invitation to lunch with the Chief Scout for holders of the Silver Wolf Award. This was to be held nearby at 1 Great George Street, and on arrival we found that this is the home of the Institute of Civil Engineers. A grand building with impressive facilities, and we were shepherded into a reception room for coffee. Almost at once the deputy Chief Commissioner for England forced his way through the crowd to come and speak, and several around were wondering why we had been singled out for this honour. It was, of course, none other than ex-Romsey scout, Mark Tarry who seems to be enjoying his new responsibility. There was then a short speech of welcome from Derek Twine,

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.*

Still relevant to today I feel and it compliments our own promise and law, so if at some point it's decided that St George is lacking historical context or perhaps a little un PC; you know the type of thing, dragons are now extinct, they had an unfair press, fire breathing and maiden snatching probably exaggerated, etc., etc, ... Who better to fill his shoes as the patron saint of Scouts; although St Francis was Italian but so is Fabio Coppelo!

*John Stephens, District Chairman*

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### **Our Donation from St George's Day**

St George, our patron saint is remembered on 23rd April and Romsey District Scouts celebrate it on the nearest Sunday with a Church service and parade. This year, that will be on 25th April and we always donate the entire collection from that service to a worthy local charity. This year, it will be donated to the Piam Brown Unit at Southampton General Hospital. This is the regional oncology and haematology centre for us, caring for children from birth to 16 years of age with all types of cancer.

Your generosity will be very much appreciated.

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### **WELCOME**

The following new leaders have recently joined different sections of Romsey District to help our young people develop their full potential.

|                  |                                |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Rob Komorowski   | Asst Scout Leader              | 9 <sup>th</sup> W Wellow             |
| Luke Aris        | Asst Beaver Scout Ldr          | 10 <sup>th</sup> Woodley & Crampmoor |
| Robert Shobbrook | Beaver Colony Asst             | 6 <sup>th</sup> Lockerley            |
| Rob Link         | Asst Cub Scout Ldr from ASL    | 10 <sup>th</sup> Woodley & Crampmoor |
| Keith Chalk      | Asst Cub Scout Ldr transfer in | 21 <sup>st</sup> Nursling & Rownhams |

We all hope you will enjoy your Scouting with Romsey District and get as much fun helping out as we do.

Nursling Church. You can see Nursling Church from the M27, on the left if you are heading east and approaching junction 3. Now I believe that either Alban or Boniface should be England's patron saint. The trouble is do we really want a saint with the name "Boniface", would Shakespeare's Henry the Fifth rallied his troops with the cry, "God for Harry, England and St Boniface, I think not. Boniface is already the patron saint of the European Union and even though he was martyred by Germanic Tribes, can you really see a well known tabloid newspaper throwing its weight behind a campaign for us to have the same patron saint as the EU!

I expect that some of you remembered St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, Beaver and Cubs; perhaps it was just animals. I don't expect that many of you got my favourite, St Jude, the patron saint of lost causes.

Right next part of the question, taking all those mentioned above, which are the first and last chronologically?

Have a think.

There are two candidates for first, Stephen the first martyr or Mark. I would say Mark because he was the author of the earliest attributable gospel. Ok I hear you cry, if Mark is the oldest why is the order of the gospels not Mark, Matthew, Luke and John? A good question, which I am glad you asked, basically because Matthew was a better spin doctor. Passages from Marks gospel appear in both Matthew and Luke but that's a topic for another epistle.

The most recent saint is Francis of Assisi, 1181 to 1226, whose most famous prayer went out of fashion a few years ago after it was quoted by a new Prime Minister. The prayer went;

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to  
console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,*



Mark Tarry (Deputy Chief Commissioner) and David Sutton (Vice President)

headquarters Chief Executive, followed by an address by the Chief Commissioner. It was then upstairs to a three course lunch and coffee. Our table was shared by a Silver Wolf from Somerset and three from Surrey with their guests. We saw no sign of Bear Grylls throughout the lunch, but knowing his habits he was probably under a table somewhere eating any woodworm from the table legs!

The normal function of this building was apparent as we walked around and noticed rooms dedicated to Brunel, Telford, and other leading engineers, and paintings of ground-breaking civil engineering projects which have made a major change during our history.

We enjoyed a relaxing meal, in pleasant company, with no speeches or other formality. Once over we could sit and chat as long as we wished before making our way back home.

This was a memorable event and a fitting reward to all those who had earned their awards in the service of Scouting.

## NEW BEAVER MASCOT (BERTIE) INVESTED

The annual Beaver party was held at the end of February at the Crosfield Hall in Romsey. Every year the Beaver Scouts chose a charity which they then fundraise for in their individual colonies, they call it a "Good Turn". George's Trust was chosen this year as their "Good Turn" because George's mother Jane O'Brien is one of the Beaver Leaders and so it was particular poignant that fundraising should be done in memory of George as he joined Scouting as a Beaver. Jane's brother Adrian Hutchings came along to the party to talk about which areas the charity is helping and gave the beavers some fundraising ideas by dressing them up in clothes suitable for the various activities, such as sponsored, walks, swimming etc. The Beavers also enjoyed some camp fire singing lead by beaver leader Sue Edwards. Games were organised by Paul Bourne and Sarah Noble and the magician was Roger Daniels.



Also attending the party for the first time was Bertie Beaver, he is now the Romsey District Mascot and was invested in front of 125 Beaver Scouts, leaders, helpers and guests. Bertie delighted the beavers all afternoon by walking around and joining in with the activities. Also attending the party was Councillor Ian Hibberd and Mayoress Teresa Hibberd, the Mayor and Mayoress of Test Valley and The Mayor of Romsey, Cllr John Ray and the Mayoress, Mrs Rose Ray

*Sally Kerson, ADC Beaver Scouts*



the packs who took part and good luck to 6<sup>th</sup>, who will represent Romsey District in the County final.

ADC Janice Waterman thanked everyone for coming along, especially Liz Holloway and Pete Betteridge our question masters.

Hopefully more packs

will participate next time.

*Jacky Betteridge DCSL*

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## OH, WHEN THE SAINTS....

A quick quiz; how many saints can you name in 10 seconds?  
Ready, steady, go; one and , two and, three and, ...  
Time up ; how did you do?

Did you get the writers of the synoptic gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Or the patron saints; George of England (Greece, Russia and Scouting), Andrew of Scotland, Patrick of Ireland and David of Wales? Perhaps you thought about the ladies; Mary, Anne and Catherine?

You might have remembered Stephen, the first Christian martyr, whose feast day is the 26<sup>th</sup> December, Boxing Day. The day on which Wenceslas sallied forth, "through the rude winds wild lament", to become the patron saint of pizza's. You don't believe me?  
How does good King Wenceslas like his pizza's?  
Answer, "deep and crisp and even!"

More seriously perhaps you remembered Christopher, the patron saint of travellers. What about St Paul who, after persecuting Christians, had a "road to Damascus" conversion and went on to write the Acts of the Apostles. Maybe you remembered Peter, Jesus' rock who become the first bishop of Rome and the first Pope. Then there was Michael, the patron saint of underwear; sorry couldn't help that one.

The more intellectual of you may have remembered some British saints Alban and Boniface for example. Boniface stayed a while in an Abbey close to

## ROMSEY DISTRICT COMMEMORATE FOUNDERS DAY

The District Founders Day celebration was held this year at Pinsent Campsite, both as an attempt to try something different and to make use of the Scouts being on District Winter Camp there that weekend. The creative minds at the 3rd came up with a Scouts Own based on the themes of 'Why I do Scouting' and 'What Scouting does for us' by taking in a sketch, prayers, reflections on the recent Romsey Scout conference and BP's Last Message.

We were thankful for the efforts in getting the campfire lit on the night, as the Scouts who were camping will agree that it would have been freezing cold otherwise. A special mention also needs to go to the Scouts who took part in the Scouts Own, those who weren't looking forward to public speaking and the providers of hot chocolate and cake afterwards. It was a successful event which made both Scouts and Leaders alike think about Scouting, why we are involved and how far we have come since we were founded over 100 years ago.

*James Child*

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**District Cub Mastermind**

Thank you to the Cubs from 6<sup>th</sup> Lockerley, 10<sup>th</sup> Mohicans, 10<sup>th</sup> Sioux and 11<sup>th</sup> King's Somborne for turning up to contest the District Mastermind Quiz.

After inspection each pack team of 3 Cubs (1 x 8yrs, 1 x 9 yrs and 1 x 10yrs) departed in turn to be quizzed by the question masters. Answering questions on Scouting, General Knowledge, Science and Nature – two minutes on each subject. The leaders meanwhile kept the Cubs occupied in the hall playing games, while they waited their turn in the question room.

Leaders, helpers and Cubs were kept refreshed during the afternoon with tuck.

It was a close contest with 6<sup>th</sup> Lockerley coming out winners. Well done to

## Crosfield Capers !!

The District Barn Dance took place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February at Crosfield Hall. The young and the young at heart, danced to the foot stomping sounds of Pogles Wood, till almost the hour when our carriages turned back to pumpkins. The hall was packed with enthusiastic, would be dancers of all ages from scouts and guides upwards. One scout commented "the barn dance is a fun and enjoyable evening, it's the best fun I've ever had with the older generations" and I have to agree how else could you entertain three generations with one activity?

Under expert instruction we 'swung', 'dosed' and even 'piggy-backed' our partners through the evening. With barely time to draw breath between dances, we were all glad of a short respite when an excellent supper was served. So if you can count to eight, know your left from your right why not join us for a 'Waltz', 'Virginia Roundabout', 'Circassian Circle' etc next year, of course you can always stay at home and watch Saturday night telly....

*Peter Garland*

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**A walk in the dark for all the Cubs and Beavers.**

Last Tuesday cubs and beavers from 4<sup>th</sup> Romsey set off from Pipers Wate heading across the forest to Fritham. We set off just as the sun dipped below the horizon; it was bitterly cold, but thankfully not raining. The children could hardly contain their excitement; the adults however were wondering why they had signed up for this crazy adventure. It was very muddy and in some places more than ankle deep, only one child lost their boot, retrieved by an intrepid parent. Before long we arrived at the Kings Head for refreshments, Cubs and Beavers enjoyed a soft drink and a packet of crisps; adults chose something a little more fortifying.

After a short break with the children running around to keep warm we all set off back through the woods. Such a clear night with stars twinkling brightly in the black sky, it was too good an opportunity to miss, therefore Mike used his laser torch to point out some of the more famous groups such as the Plough, Orion



and other well known planets.

This is the second time we have done this walk; if anyone would like to join us next year do let me know.

*Nikki Moxey  
BSL, 4th Romsey  
(Bramshaw)*

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**Canoeing Opportunities for 2010 for Scouts and Explorers**

organised by 15<sup>th</sup> Romsey Scout Group

**Fun Day 16<sup>th</sup> May**

We are repeating our ever popular District Fun Day on the afternoon of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at Lakeside near Eastleigh. As with previous years Scouts and Explorers can book a 90 minute session of basic training and games.

**Training Courses June and July – various dates**

During June and July we are running sessions for Scouts to gain the Paddlepower Passport and Paddlepower Discover Awards. The Passport also qualifies for the Scout Canoeist Badge.

Explorers can gain the BCU 1 star or 2 star awards. The 2 star also gains the Explorer Water Activities Badge

**More details**

Full details of these events and courses and application forms have been sent to Scout and Explorer Scout Leaders, or can be found at <http://www.nbscouts.ampfieldelectrical.co.uk/html/canoeing.html>.

Alternatively contact Pete Bourne at [peterbourne@tinyonlnie.co.uk](mailto:peterbourne@tinyonlnie.co.uk) or ring 023 8073 2038 where you can also ask to be added to the canoeing activity mailing list, and get details sent to you directly

**Troop or Unit Canoe Sessions**

We can also arrange evening sessions for Scout Troops and Explorer Units to suit your own needs.

*Pete Bourne  
Canoe Co-ordinator*

**ROMSEY DISTRICT CENSUS SUMMARY**

Group	Total		Change	Adults		TOTAL	
	Youngsters						
	2009	2010	%	2009	2010	2009	2010
1st	44	46	+5%	6	7	50	53
3rd	23	24	+4%	1	4	24	28
4th	52	59	+13%	7	7	59	66
6th	57	63	+11%	7	10	64	73
9th	77	81	+5%	8	9	85	90
10th	164	168	+2%	18	19	182	187
11th	58	54	-7%	8	9	66	63
15th	63	58	-8%	19	14	82	72
21st	63	70	+11%	11	11	74	81
Explorers	81	90	+11%	9	12	90	102
SAS *	-	-		10	10	10	10
District	-	-		21	22	21	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>+5%</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>847</b>

\*Scout Active Support (previously known as Musketeers and Fellowship) consists of adults who wish to continue to be members of the movement who socialise together and give support when required. Many of the leaders etc are also members of SAS

1st Romsey	Romsey Town Centre
3rd Romsey	Braishfield
4th Romsey	Bramshaw
6th Romsey	Lockerley
9th Romsey	West Wellow
10th Romsey	Woodley & Crampmoor
11th Romsey	King's Somborne
15th Romsey	North Baddesley
21st Romsey	Nursling & Rownhams

**Explorers** are between 14 and 18 years old

**Network** are 18—25 years old and they currently come under the County umbrella, so we have no information for them.

If you would like to become involved, please contact either John or Darren (details on the front cover) - we all do it because we enjoy it—so could you!