

SCOUTS HONOUR PATRON SAINT

Hundreds of Scouts and Guides from around Romsey gathered on the nearest Sunday to St George's Day (April 23rd) to celebrate the occasion. The annual service and procession was particularly special this year as Girlguiding celebrates its Centenary in 2010. Many members – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and leaders -



gave the event a brighter than usual splash of colour by wearing their striking pink Centenary shirts.

During the service, where over 800, mainly young, people squeezed into Romsey Abbey, Rev. Tim Sledge spoke about the many ingredients required to make a good 'Guiding cake'. The most important, he said, was for the young people to be like St George and stand up for what they believe in. There was also a short speech by Jane Buchannon about the great work of the Piam Brown Ward at Southampton General Hospital, to whom the collection from the service was being donated.

This years' lead Groups were 21st (Nursling & Rownhams) Scouts, 1st and 2nd Nursling & Rownhams Brownies and 2nd North Baddesley Guides. They not only lead

District Diary Dates

June

W/e 4/5/6th	County Trek Cart (Exp & Netwk)		Wilverley Cottage
Mon 7th	SAS—Social	8.00 pm	Sun Inn, Romsey
Wed 9th	Lockerley AGM	7.00	6th H.Q.
Fri 11th	21st AGM	7.00	21st H.Q.
Sat 12th	15th AGM—+ games	3pm.....	15th H.Q.
W/e 12/13th	Netw & Leaders Caving	County	
Sun 13th	District Leaders Day & BBQ		Eastleigh Lakes
Fri 18th	11th AGM		11th H.Q.
W/e 18/20th	Pulborough Trophy		Lyons Copse
Sat 19th	Canoeing	9.30.....	Eastleigh S Lake
Mon 21st	Canoeing	7.30	Eastleigh N Lake
Tues 22nd	Bramshaw AGM	8.30	4th H.Q.
Fri 25th	SAS—20:20 Cricket	7.00	Rose Bowl
Sat 26th	Longleat—Beavers & Cubs	8 am	Romsey Bus Stn
Mon 28th	Canoeing	7.30	Eastleigh N Lake

July

Thur 1st	Exp Rafting	7—9pm	Sunnyfields Farm
Fri 2nd	100th District AGM		Town Hall
2/3/4	Ocean Sailing w/e		Fareham
Sat 3rd	Canoeing	13.30...	Eastleigh S Lake
Sun 4th	Mayors Picnic		Memorial Park
Sun 4th	Exp Car Treasure Hunt	10am	New Forest
Wed 7th	Canoeing	7.30	Eastleigh N Lake
Thur 8th	1st AGM		1st H.Q.
Sat 10th	Canoeing	13.30.....	Eastleigh N Lake
Sun 11th	Canoeing		River Trip
Mon 12th	Diggers Day	6—9.30pm	Mountbatten Sch
Mon 12th	Canoeing	7.30	Eastleigh N Lake
Sat 17th	Canoeing	13.30.....	Eastleigh N Lake

October

Sat 23rd	District Quiz		Crosfield Hall
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FREE TO A GOOD HOME AB-TRAINER—hardly used.

Please apply to editor (Liz Holloway) for further information (01794 514597)

WOODSMOKE

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

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the procession but also provided most of the readers and collectors for the Abbey service and prepared a delicious tea for guests afterwards.

At the tea, Romsey Division Commissioner, Sarah Riley, assisted by three Brownies, lit the birthday candles on a cake in honour of Girlguiding's 100th birthday and lead a chorus of 'Happy Birthday'. The cake was kindly donated by Waitrose and beautifully decorated by Mrs Mary Mould, one of their members of staff.

Scout Commissioner, Darren Reed, was then pleased to present some leaders with long service awards, including a 40 Years' Service Award for Stewart Buswell, of 10th Romsey (Woodley & Crampmoor) Scout group. Darren was then himself presented with a Silver Acorn, a medal awarded by the Chief Scout in recognition of outstanding service to Scouting over many years.

The numbers involved in Scouting and Guiding have risen steadily over the last few years and Sunday's great turn out was a fitting way to celebrate this.

Claire Sutton (Scouts) and Sarah Riley (Guides)

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW LEADERS

Sheridan Allman	GSL	6th Romsey
Brevan Miles	Skills Instructor	Romsey District
Philip Coles—transfer	Asst Cub Scout Ldr	10th Romsey

We hope you all get as much enjoyment working with the young people in our District as we all do,

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Popham Air Show Camp

I was the only one from my Troop who went to Popham Camp, over the May bank holiday. I started to learn the phonetic alphabet before I went, but some of it was tricky to remember. I was staying with Scouts from Gosport, and made up a Patrol from some Scouts that I'd met on Winter Camp from 9th Romsey and some others from 21st Romsey. I was assistant PL for the weekend, which was good! It was good to meet up with Scouts I had met at Winter Camp, but not seen since.

It was really fun seeing the aeroplanes coming into land and finding out what type of engine they had. I learnt how to tell where a plane is from, from its registration number, learnt a bit more about the phonetic alphabet and had really interesting talks with pilots of planes and giro-copters. I also got my basic aviation skills badge.

I can't wait to go back next year!!

Kieran Brown, 3rd Romsey Scouts

Sixers Day 2010

Forty six Cubs from 4th, 6th, 9th 10th, 11th, 15th and 21st spent an action packed time at the annual Sixers day.

After flag break, the Cubs were sorted into six groups for the '20 minute' training bases of the morning session. There was cane pioneering, compass, tent pitching, knotting, first aid and science—the Cubs made a volcano.

At lunchtime, each pack with their leaders supervising, prepared fires to cook sausages and baked beans, while Liz and Pete and cooked jacket potatoes. They then had choc ices and drinks to finish. Hopefully the Cubs had heated a billy of water to do the washing up, then clear everything away, leaving the site as they had found it.



At 2 pm it was time to spend thirty minutes on each fun base—kites, archery, water games, assault course and the field gun run.

5 pm came all too soon, with the weather having been perfect, sunny but not too hot. While the Cubs were flying their kites, the leaders started to clear away the equipment from their bases and then it was time for flag down.

Thank you to all the leaders who had worked tirelessly all day to make it such a success. Special thanks to all the Young Leaders who built and ran bases throughout the day.

The tired Cubs departed with their parents and the Leaders struck the marquee and tents and tidying up before sitting down to a freshly cooked dinner, prepared by Liz Holloway and Pete Betteridge. Thank you to both of them for keeping Cubs and Leaders refreshed throughout the day with tuck and drinks.

After finally clearing up the Scout HQ, we all went home tired but happy that once again we had organised a great Sixers day.

Jacky Betteridge, DCSL

Summer District Explorer activities not already mentioned include camps held by the individual Explorer units, raft building and racing, a week on an ocean going sailing boat (also open to scouts age 13 or above) and the pushball competition.

Robin Taylor-Milton, DESC

Red Indians Rampage at Ferny Crofts

Beavers from 1st and 4th gathered at Ferny Crofts to have lots of fun and make a great deal of noise on their annual sleepover. Our theme this year was North American Indians. The event began at 6 pm on the Friday, a quick tour of the grounds was followed by an excellent meal of bolognaise and pasta followed by waffles with chocolate sauce, maple syrup and cream - thank you Harriet you are a great cook.



We then went off to our campfire, which was already going courtesy of Ryan, Martyn and Rob who had brought their

pack down to Ferny Crofts for a session in the Adventure Zone. Martyn led us all in campfire songs and they treated us to smores - yum yum. After saying goodnight to 10th we headed back for hot chocolate and more cakes.

The next morning dawned bright and early, a bit too early, just after 4 am I think it was. Not to be deterred we had breakfast and settled them down to making totem poles using the ever faithful cardboard tubes. While 1st went off to the climbing tower, 4th went to the Adventure Zone where we had time trials around the course stopping to watch Scouts crate stacking and doing the leap of faith. Then it was time to stop for a drink and more cake before changing over. After lunch while it was raining the Beavers packed their bags ready to go home. As soon as the rain let up we headed off outside to while away the last hour, playing games in the woods.

I would like to thank everyone who was there to make this yet another excellent sleepover experience for the children.

NikkiMoxey, BSL, 4th Romsey (Bramshaw)

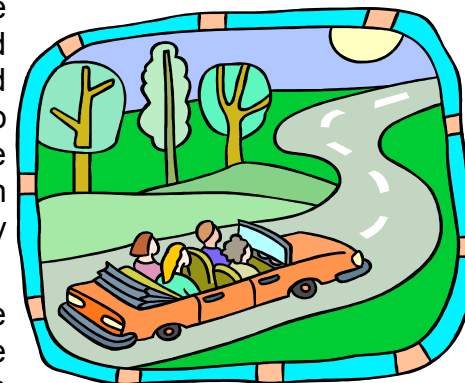
Explorers Car Treasure Hunt **Sunday 4th July**

A fun family day out, discovering some things you may not already know about the New Forest.

£10 per car

Prize for the winning team

Meet in the Yew Tree Heath car park (opposite Ferny Crofts Scout Campsite 365 064) between 10 and 11.30 am, for a staggered start. It's not timed, so there will be plenty of time to stop off for lunch or an ice-cream on your way round!



The route finishes at the Beaulieu Road Inn, where all the participants will be able to share experiences over a drink (hopefully in the garden in the sunshine!)

All money raised will go towards the cost of sending 4 of our Explorer Scouts to Sweden for the Jamboree in 2011.

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### **Raising funds for Georges Trust**



Cubs and Beavers got together to watch Fantastic Mr Fox. No charge was made to see the film, but we did ask for a donation of £2.00. Mums and leaders made cakes to sell for 20p. The children were wonderfully well behaved and enjoyed the film immensely. This was wonderful as they raised £80 for the Trust, which we are delighted with, as are Jane and her family.

*Cub and Beaver Scouts from 4th Romsey*

## Crusoe Troop (10th Romsey) go camping for May Day

Crusoe Scouts were under canvas at Odstock near Salisbury from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Around 28 scouts arrived at dusk and put up their patrol-sized tents before a well-earned supper and bedding down for the night in what seemed like the middle of nowhere. As day dawned on the Saturday it became clear that it WAS the middle of nowhere! The only nod to luxury was a cold water tap a bracing walk away! The weather was typically British with sunshine and showers, luckily most of the rain was at night.

A visit to Downton's May Fayre, inter-patrol sports, wood gathering, various challenges and inspections kept the Scouts busy . . . as did the catering arrangements, because . . . all hot meals were prepared and cooked by patrol members on five altar fires. Saturday night's cuisine was spaghetti Bolognese, or in the case of one patrol, Bolognese with no or very grassy spaghetti!!



Sunday night saw the competition meal, a sort of 'Come Dine with Me . . . in a field', where each patrol had to cook sweet and sour chicken and rice, to restaurant standards(!) for the leaders, with attentive waiters in smart uniform. What a challenge, to which, being Scouts, we of course rose (I think!)

The camp's highlight was the campfire on Sunday night, with 'Crusoe's Got Talent' - stunts and skits performed by everyone to a rapturous reception.

On the Monday it was packing time, final inspections, and Flag Down when the trophies were awarded for achievement in kitchen duties, site inspection, tent tidiness, sports, competition meal etc. After unpacking and putting away of kit back at the hall, Scouts and Leaders wended their weary way home after a hugely enjoyable camp.

A massive vote of thanks goes to all leaders and helpers at the camp for all their organisation and hard work from all us Scouts.

*Crusoe Troop's Scout Reporter*

### **And from a Leader.....**

For the Leaders, the camp proper started the previous week, planning activities, checking equipment, planning menus and working out quantities of food needed. As the week went on a few more Scouts

## Explorers



Great news, I am pleased to report that census Explorer Scout numbers across the district now total 90, an increase of 9 on last year, representing an 11% increase. This is a real credit to the Explorer Scouts themselves and of course their leaders for providing interesting and exciting Explorer Scouting. My thanks to them all and everyone else who supports the section.

During March we had our District annual visit to the Brecon Beacons for a weekend with 21 Explorer Scouts in the Black Mountain area. This year's activities included mountain walking in the drizzle and mountain biking in the Talybont area in the dry, both on the same day. Which just goes to show how different the weather can be depending which side of the mountain you are on. The mountain walking included navigation in the fog which was good training for those due to undertake their DoE expeditions shortly. The second day consisted of archery and quad biking. The quad biking was on the side of a hill, enabling great fun and excitement for Explorers and leaders.

In March we held a District Explorer Scouts skittles and social evening including food at the Mill Arms at Dunbridge, attended by around 30 Explorers plus leaders.

We held our annual DoE expedition training weekend at Lockerley, where the experience included avoiding getting sun burn on the Sunday hike, let us hope the weather is this good for the training hikes in The New Forest for Bronze, Exmoor for Silver, and the real thing on The Purbecks for Bronze and Dartmoor for Silver, later in the year. The intensive programme for the training weekend includes kit packing use and types, 1<sup>st</sup> aid, food choices and nutrition, navigation (theory and on Dean Hill to get a feel for contours), route planning and the special project which is important for DoE and often gets forgotten.

Unfortunately Kathryn Power and Ross Evans will be giving up as a leadership team at Lockerley Explorers this summer. They have done a great job in leading a very dynamic unit. They are the only leaders in that Explorer Unit so the hunt is on for a minimum of 2 leaders to run this unit. Any ideas for new leaders will be warmly welcomed. They could be new leaders or there maybe leaders of other sections who would welcome the move to Explorers and their more adventurous activities. I will be happy to talk through with any one confidentially what is involved.

## District 'BadgeSplash' – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Totton Leisure Centre didn't know what was about to hit it as last Saturday dawned. By 5.30 that afternoon, more than 60 eager Beavers (and Cubs and Scouts!) from Romsey District had taken the plunge to earn their Swimming Badge.

The 'BadgeSplash' was started by North Baddesley GSL, John Evans a few years ago, first for his Group and lately extended to include Nursling & Rownhams too. This year – a glutton for punishment! – John extended the invitation to include anyone from across the District. Totton Pool therefore saw Beavers from Romsey Town, Cubs from Woodley and Scouts from Wellow join the fun!

The Swimming Badges, as many will know, are staged right across the Sections so that a young person can set themselves a challenge according to their ability, regardless of their age. Therefore, in groups of 4 or 5 and supervised from the relative safety of the poolside by one or two adult or Young Leader volunteers, the young people performed the lengths, widths, mushroom floats, treading water or bricks retrieval from the bottom to achieve the appropriate staged badge for their ability.



After about an hour's 'seriousness', having achieved the standards required, the remainder of the two hour session was given over to serious fun – with the 'Splash' section of the event making itself felt!

By the end of the day, 66 young people from six different Groups had earned themselves a new badge, which will be presented later by their leaders. They owe a big thank you to

the many leaders and parents who turned out to help supervise and judge the event; to the tolerant (and probably now deaf!) lifeguards at Totton Leisure Centre; and to John Evans for having the bright idea in the first place!

Can't wait until next year's 'Splash'!!

decided they would like to join us. With all this going on you can see the importance of Scouts returning camp forms on time.

Wednesday evening was spent at Sainsbury's, filling four shopping trolleys, returning to the hall to pack the food into camp boxes. The shoppers got home about 10pm. Thursday we visited the camp site to pitch two marquees and the leaders' tent. On arrival we had to clear the track into the site using bow-saws and loppers to clear the fallen trees so that we could get the van in. We needed to get these tents up so that we could help the Scouts put theirs up. We use traditional patrol tents which are heavy. Now we have younger scouts it is difficult, as very few of them are strong enough to bang in the tent pegs.

Friday the leaders arrived at the Scout Hall at 6pm to load the van which was already there. Tents, dining shelters, patrol boxes (camp kitchens), hundreds of tent pegs, tables, benches, gas bottles, camp toilets, rope, string, food etc. We just managed to close the van doors.

Scouts started to arrive at 6.30pm, all very excited: for some it was their first experience of scout camp. After a briefing on how to find the site we were on our way. Arriving on site at 7.30pm we needed to unload the van, distribute the tents etc to patrol sites, organise the QM stores, get the tents up before dark and dig a pit for emptying toilets. We just managed to beat darkness.

We had supper at 10pm. The Scouts were all excited and did not go to sleep until we threatened them with cleaning the toilets and confiscating their torches. For the leaders the day was not over: we still had to sort out our own kit and get a few things ready for the next day. Finally, we crawled into sleeping bags at 12.30am.

Saturday morning, the scouts were awake as soon as it was daylight. They were supposed to keep quiet until 7am! The Leaders and Explorers were up at 6.30am to organise and help the Scouts prepare for breakfast, lay tables, collect firewood, soap the billies and frying pans etc. Two blasts on the whistle from the QM meant that cooks could collect rations and start cooking. Having lit fires, first get the kettle on for tea; breakfast was sausages and beans (don't let them stick to the billy), bread, jam, orange juice.

After a hearty breakfast it was time to wash up. Yes Mums! they can

do it, - with some help from the leaders. We then had inspection: best behaved overnight, tents, kit, personal hygiene, kitchens.

Our main activity on Saturday was to hike to Downton for a visit to the Cuckoo Fair, so we packed rucksacks with waterproofs, snacks and drinks to arrive in Downton at lunchtime. We collected the previously ordered sausages and chips for 37, and enjoyed eating them on the riverside.

The Scouts then had an hour's free time to visit the fair. They all arrived back on time; we then set off to walk back to camp arriving at 5pm. After a rest it was time to cook dinner – spaghetti Bolognese. It would have been nice but the patrol I was eating with managed to drop the cooked spaghetti into the wet pit. We supplemented the meal with bread.



We had had a busy day but the boys still did not get to sleep before 11.30pm. Another late night. It was a stormy night and I was woken by heavy rain beating down on the Vango Force 10 tent.

On Sunday some Scouts yet again got up early; some decided to lie in until 'Rise and Shine' at 7 am. There were others who had to be encouraged to get up with the threat of a cup of cold water.

Martyn our QM blew the whistle for cooks, so we were soon eating a delicious breakfast of bacon, scrambled eggs and spaghetti alphabet. After breakfast we were joined by Tim Slater and his girl friend Sophie. Tim had come along to lead our camp fire. Sophie had shown the Scouts how to make lanterns at a previous troop meeting. The Scouts then spent some time with Tim and Sophie rehearsing camp fire sketches. As we were getting near the end of camp the scouts had time to complete 'spare time activities'. Making nettle soup was popular.

During the day we had a few light showers so we knew that Ian our GSL and Stewart AGSL were on the way to visit us. They arrived just as we were finishing lunch and in time to help with the washing up.

Dinner that evening was Sweet and Sour Chicken with rice – delicious. When the washing up was finished and the tents made ready for the night, it was time for the camp fire, which the troop walked to through

an avenue of lanterns. Tim started the proceedings with a story and the fire was lit by a flaming arrow. We then sang some traditional camp fire songs, interspersed by some great sketches acted out by the patrols, most of them taking the mickey out of each other and the Scouters.

The Scouters acted out their version of 'The Story of the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Scout Leader'. The pink pig outfits were great but a bit tight! We had supper of hot chocolate and 'smorgs' before singing each patrol off to bed.

Monday morning came all too quickly for most of us. It was very cold with the wind coming from the north. Breakfast was prepared in the QM tent, so that we could pack away the altar fires. After breakfast we had inspection to see that everything was clean and tidy, ready to go back into camp store. We played games to decide who had won the Sports Peg Trophy, and also to keep warm.

After a picnic lunch it was time to strike camp, packing away all the tents and clearing the site. Nigel arrived with his van at 2pm and was soon into his stride, helping the weary Scouts and tired Leaders to get things sorted and loaded into the van. Nigel has been transporting our kit for the past seven years, not only for the troop but also for Group events. Nothing is too much trouble for him and we are very grateful for all the time and effort he has put in.

With the van packed, we gathered around the Flag Pole for the presentation of awards and final Flag Down. A great camp – here's looking forward to the next one! Special thanks to Tim and Sophie for organising one of the best camp fires I have seen, also to Simon Slater for all his hard work. He has not forgotten his scouting skills – get him signed up, Dave!

Our Young Leaders excelled themselves. Thank you to Luke, Carl and Ben for stepping in when we old Scouters were flagging – well done. Thank you to Alison Kyle-Henney who transported a van load of firewood, saving the Scouts a bit of hard work.

We were all expected to return to the hall to unload the van. I guess some of you must have fallen asleep on the way home as only a few turned up. We arrived back at the hall at 4pm and finally left for home at 5.15pm.

*Pete Betteridge (Hon. Scout Leader)*