

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

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DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

On Friday 6th March, Sioux Cub pack's meeting was held at the Romsey Abbey bell tower. As we waited for all of the Cubs to arrive we had a little game of "it" in the field outside. When all of the Cubs had finally arrived we set off up the 127 steps of the tower to the bells. However I only counted 113 on the way up.

First of all when we were all up we had a quick run through the safety rules. The room we were in was square and had a table under which there was a trapdoor, which was used to lower the bells down to the ground for tuning and cleaning. Around the table hung ropes that went up through the roof into the attic where the bells were. These ropes rang the bells if you pulled them.



Along the wall that carried on from the door stood a big box that automatically rung the bells every quarter of an hour. On the other wall that was next to the door hung some wooden plaques recording special events when the bells were rung, and the longest times they were rung for. The record was 3 hours and 11 minutes. There were 8 big bells. The smallest one was called the treble which weighed 324kg and the biggest one was called the tenor which

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Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th April 2008** please.

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weighed almost 1.25 tonnes. Most of the 8 bells were made in 1791 but 3 of them were made in 1932.

My first activity was the small hand bells of which there were 8. First what we did was ring them in order then we started mixing them up and doing strange tunes with them. My second activity was actually ringing the treble bell. It didn't feel like it weighed 324kg and it was quite easy. My third activity was the pretend practice bell that you rang but didn't make a noise.

After all of this we watched Jonathon, one of the best bell ringers, ring up the second heaviest bell (you ring it up at first which is turning it upside down then you can actually ring it properly). We could see the bell ringing on a computer screen, which was linked to a camera in the bell room above our heads.

At the end we signed the visitors book and then did a BRAVO to say thank you. When we went down I counted 118 steps which was 5 more than the amount I counted on the way up! I very much enjoyed the visit to the Abbey bell tower, and can hear the bells from my garden!

By David Ross

ROMSEY BADGESPLASH

I hope everyone enjoyed the Badgesplash Session on Sunday 1st March. A huge thank you to all who took part and helped make this a success.

North Baddesley Scout Group has held an annual Badgesplash at Oaklands for seven years now. After the first couple of years we found that numbers dwindled a little as we'd caught up on a backlog of unbadged talent. Nursling and Rownhams then joined in the fun and the numbers rose again. This year we agreed to start moves towards making this a district event and even though we decided this not long before the event there were 6 groups represented with others hoping to join in the fun next year.



Scout swimming badges are continuous throughout the age range with 5 levels available to be awarded. This year was unusual in that nobody attempted the highest level, though that was a relief as

the pool was a tad busy already! It may be that we need to find a bigger pool next year. There was a bit of a queue at the start of the event as several folk turned up unannounced or changed their minds on which badge to try. We'll have a think about how to make this a bit slicker next time!

Once we got going though, everything seemed to go very well apart from a rather crowded lane for more level 4 folk than originally expected. We have several new adult volunteers (including the Network Chaps and Chapesses) who are now up and running as judges for next year!

The Oaklands Pool staff were excellent again, and joined in the fun as well as looked after our overall safety. Everyone enjoyed the fun after the more serious badge-work was complete and out came the floats and the water throwers. Unfortunately the flume was out of action and Oaklands can't get the funding to repair it.

The event ran as a slight profit. The pool cost £150. We charged £3 per head. There were 58 entrants of which 55 will be awarded a badge when they return to their groups.

Please send any suggestions on how to improve this next year or if you'd like to help. I also have a few items of lost property if anyone is short of trunks, goggles, necklace etc.

Hope to see you next year!

John Evans
(john.evans@ampfieldelectrical.co.uk)

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TRAVELLING BEAVERS

We were invited to the Woodley Beavers Scout hut on a Tuesday. When we got there, each of us made a weather chart and after putting them on the table (big one for Woodley Beavers, small one for 1st Romsey Beavers), did the hello welcome. Then everyone played a really fun game when we had to throw the bean bag trying to knock down the skittles. When you knocked over three you got one point. Then we did the goodbye farewell and we all went home.



Archie Macintosh,
1st Romsey Beavers.

CUBS PLAY CHESS

The last day of February saw 21st Nursling & Rownhams Scout Group hosting the District chess competition this year. Cubs from 4th, 10th Mohicans, 10th Sioux and 21st Groups took part, the games being played in a round robin, with each Cub playing three games.

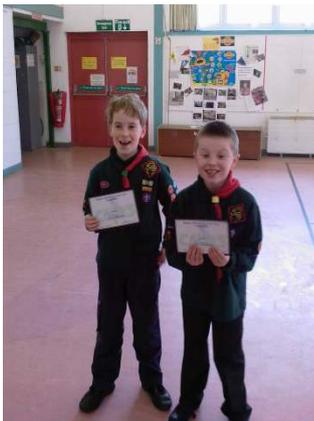
Gregor Scott-Duncan, Ben Upfold, Carl Windebank and Louise Fisher contested the Under 9½s, Alexander Scott-Duncan, Ben Yea, David Ross and Fraser Haines the Under 11s.

Each game was of 20 minutes maximum duration, and at the end of this time the adjudicators (Steve & Jacky) counted the points up from the pieces which had been removed from the board. When the Cubs had each completed two games, it was time for a break for tuck and to recharge batteries. Now for the final games to find out who would be representing the District in the County Final.

The U 9½s winner was Carl Windebank from 10th Sioux, but in the U 11s, Alexander and David had 2½ points each, so there had to be a play-off. David, from 10th Sioux, was the winner.

ADC (Cubs) Janice Waterman presented each Cub with a certificate for participating and wished Carl & David good luck when they go to Basingstoke on 15th March to represent Romsey District. Adjudicators Steve and Jacky complemented all the players on an enjoyable afternoon with absorbing and interesting games played by all the contestants.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COMPETITION



There were 40 Cubs taking part in the County competition, representing over 5000 Cubs in the Hampshire County. Although Carl & David did not win, they did us proud.

Pictured are Carl and David with their participation certificates awarded by ACC Cubs, Vanessa Slawson.

Well Done Cubs.

Ryan Orgill, Akela Sioux Cub Pack

PANCAKES

On the day before Shrove Tuesday, I went along to 9th West Wellow Cub Pack meeting for their pancake evening of fun & games

After flag break, the Cubs were treated to a very interesting talk by Sandra Timms explaining the significance and meaning of Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day. The Cubs and Leaders were captivated by this very interesting speaker, who Carol and Mandy had invited to their meeting.



Now for pancakes served with a variety of toppings, before pancake tossing relays.

There followed a noisy game of north, south, east, west, this certainly got rid of some of the surplus energy Cubs have. So the Cubs did not go home 'too over-excited' a quiet game 'Keys of the Kingdom' was played to round off the meeting before Flag Down.

A very enjoyable fun meeting, thank you to Leaders Carol and Mandy for inviting me.

Jacky Betteridge (DCSL)

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## ROMSEY DISTRICT GANG SHOW

Throughout the District, sections and groups are working hard, practising their contributions to the first District Gang Show in many years. There will be a report in next months edition, but this is to acknowledge all the help and support going on, behind the scenes. I am much looking forward to the show and am sure it will be fantastic.

There are a few tickets left for Friday evening (27<sup>th</sup> March), so come along and join in the fun

## **ROMSEY TOWN EXPLORERS HIT THE HEIGHTS**



On the 20th of February, Romsey Town Explorer Unit went to the Brecon Beacons. That night we hiked around a moor. The next day we hiked 6 miles up and down what seemed like a 'mountainous' path which included scrambling up rocks and walking behind big waterfalls! That night, I was thoroughly worn out! On the Sunday, we then walked along a much tamer path, but still pretty arduous, which was about 4 miles in length. A big thank you to my mum for cooking all the food and a huge thank you to Pete for taking us and looking after us.

Thanks  
Chris Lindsey

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**St George's Day Parade, Sunday 26th April**  
**See you ALL there**



## **How did Explorer Scouting begin?**

Scouting has always been a dynamic and forward-looking Movement. In the early days of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell saw the need to provide a programme for young people who wanted to continue after their time in the Scout Section. Senior Scouts was developed to meet this need, and the Section continued to evolve over the years. In 1967, Venture Scouting was formed from the existing Senior Scout and Rover Scout Sections. During the late 1990s, it was decided that, in order to meet the changing needs of new generations, two new Sections should be created for young people over the age of fourteen. Explorer Scouts for 14 to 18-year-olds and the Scout Network for 18 to 25-year-olds were created. Explorers make up the fourth Section of the Scouting family.

There are many types of Explorer Scout Units, some may be linked to your local Scout Group, others may be based around different activities. Not all Units meet each week, because they will often be out and about, and at weekends or in the holidays, doing activities. There will be times when they will be busy doing other things such as exams, and being an Explorer Scout will have to fit around these. As an Explorer Scout, you will get the chance to work with other Explorer Scouts in your District, not just your Unit. By doing this, you will get the chance to do many more activities, not just the ones your Unit organises.

## **How do I join Explorer Scouts?**

If you want to take part in the fun of Explorer Scouting in Romsey District, or just find out a bit more, please Email

Robin Taylor-Milton: [DESC@romsey-explorers.org.uk](mailto:DESC@romsey-explorers.org.uk)  
or Kirsty Pudney: [DESA@romsey-explorers.org.uk](mailto:DESA@romsey-explorers.org.uk).

### **District Diary Dates**

|                |                          |           |                |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>April</b>   |                          |           |                |
| Mon 6th        | Musketeers Social        | 8.00..... | Sun Inn        |
| Fri 24th       | St G Day Rehearsal       | 6.30      | Romsey Abbey   |
| Sun 26th       | St George's Day          |           | Romsey Abbey   |
| Tues 28th      | GSLs meeting             |           | 1st HQ         |
| <b>May</b>     |                          |           |                |
| Tues 5th       | All Leaders Mtg          |           | 6th HQ         |
| Wed 6th        | Pulborough Mtg           | 7.00....  | Red Cross HQ   |
| Tues 12th      | District Exec            | 7.45      | 21st HQ        |
| Thur 14th      | Training Drop in         | 7.00..... | 1st HQ         |
| W/e 15/17th    | County Activity          |           | Lyons Copse    |
| Sun 17th       | Scouts 5 a side football |           |                |
| Mon 18th       | Musketeers—Archery       |           | 4th HQ         |
| <b>OCTOBER</b> |                          |           |                |
| Sat 31st       | THE BIG QUIZ             |           | Crosfield Hall |

### **St George**

We celebrate St George's Day on 23rd April. Not only is he the patron Saint of England, he is also the Patron Saint of all Scouts, everywhere.

It is thought that St George came from Cappadocia in Asia Minor and lived at the time of the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, AD 245—313 and became a high ranking officer in the Army of Rome. He refused to carry out the Emperor's orders for Christian persecution and, in consequence, suffered torture and death himself.

He was canonised in AD 494, being proclaimed one of those "whose names are justly revered among men but whose acts are known only to God".

The legend of St George, which is an allegory illustrating the triumph of good over evil, tells how he rode into the city of Silene in what is now Libya, to find the people terrorised by a dragon which was fed daily with one of the citizens. The next victim was to be Cleolinda, daughter of the King, but St George rode out, slew the dragon and freed the people from their oppressor.

Thus, whether in the context of history or legend, to Baden-Powell, St George epitomised the qualities of selflessness and both moral and physical courage, which he saw as being among the aims of Scouting.