

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

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LEADERS ARE TRYING!

It was a small but eager crowd of Romsey Scout Leaders and supporters who gathered at Eastleigh's Lakeside last Sunday (13th June) for our Leader's Activity Day. The sun was bright and



Leaders' Activity Day
Lakeside, 13th June 2010

the wind was strong; it would have been a good day for hang-gliding rather than canoeing, judging by how often the gazebo tried to lift off!

Thanks to Pete and Anne Bourne and Robin T-M, we had a small flotilla of open canoes and kayaks out on the water for a relaxed afternoon of paddling about. Some of us were clearly experts whereas others were having a go for the first time; and Randell and James McCann looked all set to paddle up the Hudson in search of new tribes! I am assured by those brave enough to capsized that the water temperature was about what one would expect of England in June - darned chilly! But everyone seemed to enjoy their

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

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afternoon and not mind the cold water too much!



We weren't awarding prizes on the day but, if we had been, the award for driest participant would probably have to go to Sue Edwards, who managed to paddle both a kayak and a canoe without getting a wet bottom (a feat I don't think anyone else managed!); but the award for wettest participant would probably be to John Evans, who

managed to sit in a canoe floating about six inches under the surface of the water (bouyancy testing, apparently!!).

Thanks to everyone who came along and to Pete, Anne and Robin for being our 'instructors'.

Next year, we'll have a Leader's Weekend Camp again, so if anyone has any ideas or activities they would particularly like to try, do let me know and we will try to accommodate!

Claire Sutton, DDC

9th Romsey go Snorkelling!

“Fantastic” enthused Scout Heidi Reed (shown in the picture) from 9th Romsey (West Wellow) after experiencing her first snorkelling session. With funding assistance from the District Scouts Equipment Fund and some of the individual Scout Groups, the new activity of snorkelling was officially launched in May with all twenty eight of the 9th Romsey Scouts being taught their basic snorkelling skills and fifteen so far gaining their Watersports badge as Snorkel Divers.

Snorkelling is a new activity in the District and allows Scouts to build their confidence in the water as well as developing individual skills that will form a solid foundation for other sub-aqua activities in later years.

This new activity has only been possible after forming partnerships with Stanbridge Earls School who allow us to use their pool, Romsey British Sub-Aqua Club who help our own District instructors to teach



our Scouts and Romsey Lifesavers who provide lifeguards for our snorkelling sessions.

The funding from District and the Groups has enabled the purchase of good quality masks, snorkels and fins which ensure the Scouts are well equipped to enjoy their snorkelling experience.

If any Romsey Scout Groups wish to build snorkelling into their activity

programmes, please contact:

Rob Komorowski (9th Romsey) on 01794 322338

Email: robkomorowski@hotmail.com

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10th Romsey Beavers Get Out and About

This month the weather has been kind to us and 10th Romsey Sequoia Beavers have made the most of it to get out and about.

11th May the Beavers and lots of parents met at the car park at Romsey Library for a Trail around Romsey Town Centre. After a few words about keeping safe the Beavers were given questionnaires and set off with the adults to try to find the answers. Have you ever looked up to see the pictures above the Dry Cleaners in Latimer Street? The Beavers have! They completed the Trail sooner than expected but by the time the answers had been checked and biscuits eaten it was time to go home.

18th May once again Sequoia Beavers meet in Romsey as Adrian Hargreaves, Beaver Dad and Abbey bell-ringer, had arranged a visit to the bell-ringing chamber. There were a lot of stairs to climb and it was quite narrow at the top, but the boys still had energy left when they reached the top. After a short talk about the bells the boys were able to have a go at ringing one of the bigger bells as well as a smaller one. Please apologise to any friends or relatives who live within the sound of the bells - it



couldn't have been very tuneful!!

The time went very quickly, so after giving thank you tail slaps to bell-ringers Adrian, John, Sid and Andrew for giving up part of their evening, they began the long climb down to waiting parents.

Sue Edwards, 10th Romsey BSL

(Note from a town centre resident—it can't have been very discordant as I never noticed the difference— there must be some budding bell ringers amongst the Beavers)

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ROMSEY ADVERTISER May 27th 1960

Earl Mountbatten praises local Scouts

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma, who is president of the Romsey and District Boy Scouts Association, presided at their Golden Jubilee meeting at Crosfield Hall on Friday night.

The hall was packed with Scouters, Scouts, Guides and

people who helped the movement and the flags, totem poles and banners of the various troops in the Group were placed around the hall.

In his address, the Earl said that it was his pleasant duty to preside and to bask in the glow of the good work of the Association. He went on the welcome Mr E.G.Neate, the deputy Chief Commissioner, who, he said, was also County Commissioner for Surrey.

The Earl said that he noticed that Mr Neate was wearing the Silver Wolf. He had the corresponding Indian decoration—The Silver Elephant. He added: “the elephant never forgets but I did because I haven’t worn it tonight.”

He got it as Chief Scout of India and he said he would just add that he saw a lot of work being done there by the movement.

Mr E.G.Neate then rose and presented the Medal of Merit to the Hon. Secretary, Mr E.B. Butcher. He read out the citation on parchment which said that the medal had been awarded in recognition of his outstanding services to the Scouting Movement. Mr Neate added that he had been asked to convey the Chief Scout’s congratulations to Mr Bucher and he wished Mr Butcher to also accept his personal thanks.

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ARE YOU ELECTRONIC YET?



Would you like to receive your Woodsmoke in full colour? The obvious answer is of course you would and you can. Have it sent by Email.

If this idea is attractive to you and you have a computer, just let me know and I’ll have you put on the

Email circulation list. You will be saving the District money and, although we do fund raise, much of our income comes by way of levy from all members of the organisation here in Romsey. This would of course mean there is more money to buy District equipment such as rifles and snorkelling equipment, both of which we have funded recently. We are very aware that every penny we receive should be used for the benefit of the young people, so less money on administration, communications etc, more money for them.

Liz Holloway (Editor)



It's all Systems Go.....

The Dr Peter Community Centre in Baden Powell way is truly now under-way. We have sufficient funding for the new building (including the demolition of the old) although fund raising will still be required to fit it out appropriately. The building will be

heavily used, so robust fixtures and fittings will be required. The planning application is in, and after many amendments the final plans agreed – not easy, when so many people had an input! All being well, work on the new building should begin in the autumn – so please pray for a dry, frost free winter this year. Further updates to follow as and when.



Dudley Dainton Memorial Fund

The principle camping season for all ages of Scouts is nearly upon us and we hope the good weather holds. Camping in the rain is never quite as good as camping when it's fine—although being too hot also brings it's own challenges!

Please remember that if you have section members who have difficulty finding the full camp fees, the District has the above fund. It was set up in memory of an highly respected District Commissioner (Dudley Dainton), who died nearly 20 years ago,

so everyone could experience what Scouting had to offer. Contact Vice President David Sutton (R. 502817) for information. All applications are treated in the strictest confidence and only the trustees of the fund and the recipients know who they are.

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PULBOROUGH TROPHY 2010

This camping competition is to establish Romsey's entries to the County competition in September. It is a patrol camp for Scouts (aged 10—14 years) where they are expected to create a proper Scout camp site including tents, dining area, wood store, altar fire, food storage. They will cook all their own meals, some of which will be judged. They will have to supply menus and meals must include cooked breakfasts, two course lunches and a three course meal on the Saturday, cooked on a wood fire. They will also need to remember to heat the water for washing up!!

The competition moved this year from Lockerley, to a larger site at Lyons Copse, and there were sixteen teams again, but this included a new Guide Company (5th Romsey) who did amazingly well.

Friday afternoon saw the 5 leaders setting up the mess tent, leaders tent and gazebo and marking out the pitches. At 6pm the teams started to arrive, pitch their camps virtually un-

aided and by 10pm everyone was having supper then going to bed.



A typical camp gadget

Everyone was up really early on Saturday morning—I thought teenagers stayed in bed 'til lunch-time—but by then they had already been judged for tentage, equipment and personal kit. The pioneering projects were all well underway (for

the uninitiated, gadgets you can make using just wood and rope/string)

After the Saturday evening meal, there followed a trading post activity then a traditional campfire—which is a lovely end to a busy day, and warming when there’s a bitter wind!

The competition for the Ian Grainger Trophy is a pioneering challenge and this year patrols were asked to design and



construct playground equipment from just wood and rope and the equipment made had to be for any member of the patrol to use. Some entries were swings, see saws and possibly even a slide. This aspect of the weekend is not part of the Pulborough competition, but a separate challenge, which it is hoped everyone will take part in.

They needed alarm clocks on Sunday morning but soon everyone had had a good breakfast and was ready for the final challenges. There were three more judging sessions to take place before the competition was over with presentations taking place at 3.30pm.

The overall winners were Stag Patrol, 4th Romsey and the Ian Grainger Trophy was also won by a Stag Patrol but from 6th Romsey. Thanks to everyone involved, who made this possible and all the young people for taking part—without you there would be no competition!

Romsey Show: help required to run the Assault Course. Some tickets to the Show are available for those who come to help—these will be given out on a first come, first served basis. Contact David Sutton for more information.



**ROMSEY DISTRICT SCOUTS
QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday 23d October

7.15 pm

Crosfield Hall, Romsey

£10, to include a 2 course supper

Teams of 6 (max)

Be Prepared - put the date in your diary now!

CENTENARY BEARS EMIGRATE

It all began one day in April when myself (Pete) and my brother Pete hibernated inside a suitcase. I found out later that we had been transported inside some large metal birds!!! To New Zealand, via America and Fiji. On arrival at Christchurch we eventually climbed out and rested for a few days. A week later we went for a ride in the back seat of a car accompanied by a very large relative of ours who was hitching a lift to the same destination as me. We stopped at the top of the South Island where my brother Pete was going to stay in Blenheim with a New Zealand girl called Georgette. Several days later we said our goodbyes and I left with my big relation and our car went on a ferry to Wellington in the North Island. I am now with my new owner called Emma, but I also have my big friend as well.



Love to all my relations and all Scouts in Romsey
Pete

----- BEAVER SLEEPOVER

1st Romsey and Bramshaw Beavers had their annual joint Beaver Sleepover at Ferny Crofts in May. We all had a wonderful time staying in the Croft Hall and took advantage of the great facilities at Ferny Crofts. The boys really enjoyed the abseiling and climbing wall and the assault course. The theme for the weekend was Red Indians and we really enjoyed making and playing in two giant wigwams, which we were able to put together by the kind use of Howard Chandler's pioneering poles. Another highlight of the Sleepover was the campfire on the first night, we are very grateful to Martyn Blake who led our campfire and Ryan Orgill and the Cubs from 10th Romsey, who came for the evening.



We would like to say thank you also to our DC, Darren who came for tea on Friday and ended up mending our dishwasher! It was great to see him and we appreciate the time he gave up! We would also like to thank Bramshaw Beavers for their company—here's to next year!

*Jane O'Brien and Harriet Lindsey,
1st Romsey Beavers*

SILVA COMPASSES

Four compasses have been donated to Scouts, and are currently available, on a first come first served basis from David Sutton, to whichever section/group is in need of them. He can provide training on their use, if required.

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ST GEORGE'S DAY

The collection at this very well attended service amounted to £619.12 and has been presented to the Piam Brown Children's Cancer ward at Southampton General Hospital.

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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!)

District Diary Dates

JULY 2010

Thur 1 st	Explorers Rafting	Sunnyfields Farm	7.00-9.00pm
Fri 2 nd	District 100 th AGM	Romsey Town Hall	7.00 pm
Sat 3 rd	Canoeing	Eastleigh South Lake	13.30 – 15.00 and 15.00 – 16.45
Sun 4 th	Mayors Picnic	Memorial Park	
Sun 4 th	Treasure Hunt	See below	
Wed 7 th	Canoeing	Eastleigh North Lake	19.30 – 21.00
Thur 8 th	1 st AGM	1 st H.Q.	19.30
Sat 10 th	Canoeing	Eastleigh North Lake	13.30 – 15.00 and 15.00 – 16.45
Sun 11 th	Canoeing	River Trip	TBA
Mon 12 th	Diggers Day	Mountbatten Sch.	18.00 – 21.30
Mon 12 th	Canoeing	Eastleigh North Lake	19.30 – 21.00
Fri 16 th	Group BBQ	1 st Romsey	19.00
Sat 17 th	Canoeing	Eastleigh North Lake	13.30 – 15.00 and 15.00 – 16.45

SEPTEMBER 2010

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.	

OCTOBER 2010

Sat 23 rd	District Quiz	Crosfield Hall	19.15
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MAYOR'S PICNIC

Scouts are again a very important part of this event, organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test. Their aim is provide the opportunity for local groups to raise funds for their organisations and last year we raised nearly £500 for District funds—which impacts on the District levy.

It need not be an expensive afternoon especially if you picnic, but we require help, especially during the afternoon to help with our very popular assault course. Please let David Sutton know (R 502817) if you are able to give an hour during the afternoon—you'll enjoy it!