

District Diary Dates

MARCH

Mon 1 st	SAS – social	From 8pm	Sun Inn, Romsey
Sat 6 th	Cooking Comp.	10.00–2pm	Pinsent
Sat 6 th	Cub Mastermind		10 th HQ
W/e 19/21 st	Explorers Brecons Trip		
Sat 20 th	Abbey Clean	10.30 – 1pm	Romsey Abbey
Thur 25 th	Dist Man. Mtg	7.45pm	18 Cherville St
Sun 28 th	First Aid	9.30–4.30	Shedfield HQ

APRIL

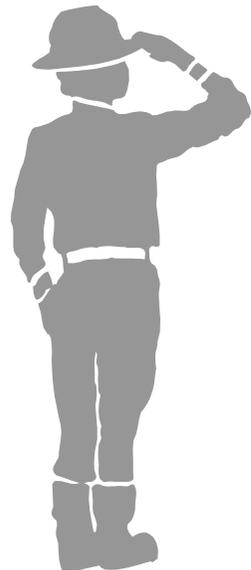
Tues 6 th	Roverang Gang Show		Nuffield Theatre
W/e 9/11 th	DoE Training (Exp)		6 th HQ
W/e 16/18 th	County Explorers Camp		
Fri 16 th	First Aid	9.30–4.30	9 th HQ
Sat 17 th	Sixers Day		6 th HQ
Fri 23 rd	St George's Day (rehearsal)		Romsey Abbey
Sun 25 th	St George's Day		

JUNE

Sun 13th Romsey Leaders Day & BBQ

JULY

Fri 2nd 100th District AGM



Words of Chief Scout Bear Grylls

“Since the beginning, Scouting has thrived because it has always attracted people who are prepared to think big and reach the unthinkable goal.

Founded by an inspiring Leader, taken forward by everyday heroes, Scouting is now the greatest movement for young people the world has ever seen.”

(published in Scouting Magazine)

Are You Good with a Duster?

It's spring cleaning time at our Abbey and your opportunity to get involved. This offer is open to anyone in the Scout movement, (from Beavers Scouts upwards) and will give you the opportunity to go into areas which are normally out of bounds to the general public—as long as you take your duster with you!

Harnesses, hard hats and face masks will be provided, as necessary, especially for those who will be scaling the heights. This is our major historic building, one of which Romsey is justifiably proud, and you will have the opportunity to discover more of its history. Come along on Saturday, March 20th at 10.30 am to join in the experience.



Our thanks to Southern Co-op for their sponsorship towards the refreshments, which will be available to all those participating.

WOODSMOKE

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

18 Cherville Street, Romsey, SO51 8FD

Tel: 01794 514597 E Mail: 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

ROMSEY DISTRICT 2015

Thirty four members from 7 of the 9 groups, plus members of the district team including 4 Explorer Scouts from Tomahawk ESU met in Romsey for a 'team event', looking towards the future of our district. It was facilitated by Don Wills, of the Regional Development Service, who made the whole event fun as well as thought provoking.

District Commissioner Darren started by announcing the latest census figures, which indicate that Scouting in Romsey grows ever more popular, the membership having increased by 5% over last year.

We first looked at ourselves and why we were involved and there were many different answers, the most important being FUN and that we were asked to do a job. Nothing beats the personal approach and also giving someone the opportunity to be committed for a limited time makes them feel needed but without an onerous burden.

Dissemination of information was discussed, as it is a very important aspect of the successful functioning of the district – but I didn't know that some potential channels of communication even existed! It clearly became apparent that our current systems were far from perfect and that timing was also very important.

We also need to be generous to our colleagues sharing our time and expertise. Often duties/activities across groups or sections can be amalgamated, not only providing support but also spreading our experiences.

We were all asked to consider different ways of running a District, with each of 6 clusters being given a different scenario. Romsey is organised in a very traditional way, and the outcome was that we need a uniformed figurehead (a group of DDCs just would not do) and some tiers in our hierarchy would benefit from blowing their own trumpets, as the effort they put in is not always appreciated. It happens by magic!!

The District Directory is currently managed by John Evans and there were several suggestions as to how the updating could be accomplished by each individual, online, as the technology is now out there. It was agreed that the directory in its current format was a very useful resource and needed to be maintained, so everyone is asked to check that their entry is correct, and the most up to date version can be

electrician, or an ex -fireman, just keen, enthusiastic and over 18. Just putting strings of lights in bags and running them back to the van, stopping traffic or holding ladders can be a great help.

It's only 8 months until we have to start putting them up again!

Martyn Blake (ACSL, 10th Romsey, Sioux)

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**GEORGE'S TRUST
ARE WALKING THE WALL**



Supporters of this charity, set up in memory of George O'Brien, who helped at 1st Romsey, where his Mum Jane is Beaver Scout Leader, are walking Hadrian's Wall in August. They are walking from Wallsend to Bowness-on-Solway between Friday 20th and Sunday 30th August.

It is an 84 mile National Trail, taking walkers along the riverside route in Tyneside, through farmland in Tynedale and the grazing upland section dominated by the Whin Sill escarpment. It then descends gradually to the rich pastures of Cumbria and finally the salt marsh of the Solway Estuary.

Romsey Abbey choir (which George was a member of) are doing bits of the walk, as well as singing in Newcastle Cathedral, Hexham Abbey and Carlisle Cathedral.

Some Bed and Breakfast accommodation has been booked for the entire 10 days and if you want further information, look at the George's Trust website or to book yourself somewhere to stay, contact jsj.obrien@virginmedia.com.

Christmas Illuminations in Romsey

Just when I thought Christmas was completely over, I was reminded that the Christmas lights in Romsey still needed to be taken down!

A small team of people consisting of electricians, members of Romsey Fire Brigade and members of Romsey District Scouts had spent four weekends sorting and putting up the lights in November, to be ready in time for the big switch on at the winter carnival.

Although the wintry weather had delayed the take down by a couple of weeks, on a wet and miserable Saturday, Bell Street and Latimer Street were cleared. The damp conditions meant that the decision was taken to go home, dry out, warm up and come back the next week to finish the job.

The following week, with the sun in the sky, many hands made light work of the remaining streets and everything was taken down in just under 5 hours.

The Christmas lights in Romsey are going eco friendly with new LED bulbs, which use a fraction of the power of a standard bulb, with a few being purchased every year until the whole town has been converted. It also means that the bulbs bounce when you drop a string right in the middle of Church Street!

The people of Romsey always comment about the lights and how they cheer the town up around Christmas. Romsey Chamber of Commerce makes a donation to the charities that help with the Christmas lights and so last year Sioux Pack Cubs received £75. We hope to have raised a similar amount this year. *(Actually will receive £125)*

If you would like to help with next year's efforts and say "I put those up" while you are singing carols in the square or watching Father Christmas being rescued on late night shopping, please get in contact. You don't need to be an

issued.

Finally, everyone was asked for their 'wish' list, assuming money was no object. A district campsite, rifle range, a coach, a leaders bunker and a scout hut on the edge of woodland were just a few – so clearly there is a need for some serious fundraising!

Thanks were express to Don for an enjoyable and worthwhile day, our Explorers for making their thoughts known to us all and I can confirm we did get a 'free lunch'.

Somehow my lunch wasn't free at all, as I managed to acquire a further role—that of District Diary Secretary. Would everyone please bear this in mind, as if I am to include your information in Woodsmoke, I need to be told about it. I will continue to include 2 months worth of dates (or 3 when there's not going to be an edition) plus other dates, which I think people may need more notice about.

Liz Holloway (Woodsmoke Editor)

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**NEW COOKER FOR 6th H.Q.**



## NEW COOKER FOR 6th H.Q.

6th Romsey (Lockerley) Scout Group have recently purchased and installed a new cooker in the kitchen at their headquarters. The purchase was supported by a grant of £400 from the Romsey District Supporters' Club as well as contributions from the local community. The new cooker will provide much improved and increased capacity for catering.

It is a Belling DB490E, 90 cm wide, having five ceramic heating elements on the top, including a large central heating area that can cope with large billies for soups, stews etc. There is a grill compartment and two ovens, both fan assisted for high efficiency. The first is a convenient size, with the second being narrow but full height, ideal for baked potatoes.

The new cooker will be of great benefit to Lockerley Scouts and to other Scout Groups in the district, who visit Lockerley for camps and District events.

*John Spicer*

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## Supporters' Club Small Grant Fund

Half of the money raised by the Supporters' Club is ring-fenced for use by Groups, who can apply for any project within their Group. The Group must provide at least half of the funding, and applications should be made to **Alan Willsher (alan@willsher.com)** on one side of A4 paper please.

We were very pleased to be able to help 6th with their new cooker. Problems with the 2 old ones previously in their headquarters made mass catering something of an adventure, requiring the constant juggling of pans etc to get everything ready at the same time.

Groups can help themselves grow this fund by asking parents and friends to join the Supporters Club Monthly draw. It only costs £12 a year for 12 chances to win the monthly prize, with the special month of June when the first prize is £250 and second is £125.

Again contact Alan if you do not have any sign up forms!

## ROMSEY DISTRICT SCOUT SUPPORTERS' CLUB

### 2009 WINNERS

| Month     | Prize | Amount(£) | Winner(s)         |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------------|
| January   | 1st   | 25        | Mrs V. Tubb       |
| January   | 2nd   | 15        | Mr M Axford       |
| February  | 1st   | 25        | Mr J Brooks       |
| February  | 2nd   | 15        | Mr B R Bartlett   |
| March     | 1st   | 25        | Mrs V. Slater     |
| March     | 2nd   | 15        | Miss E Hutchison  |
| April     | 1st   | 25        | Mrs S Simpson     |
| April     | 2nd   | 15        | Mr J Mason        |
| May       | 1st   | 25        | Mrs S Newbitt     |
| May       | 2nd   | 15        | Mrs M Alcock      |
| June      | 1st   | 250       | Mr VG Richards    |
| June      | 2nd   | 125       | Mr H Pushman      |
| July      | 1st   | 25        | Mr C Collier      |
| July      | 2nd   | 15        | Mr S Pethick      |
| August    | 1st   | 25        | Mrs E Holloway    |
| August    | 2nd   | 15        | Mr B Rickett      |
| September | 1st   | 25        | Mrs E Holloway    |
| September | 2nd   | 15        | Prof. H W Maddick |
| October   | 1st   | 25        | Mr PR Wyatt       |
| October   | 2nd   | 15        | Mr & Mrs Harper   |
| November  | 1st   | 25        | Mr WJ Littlecott  |
| November  | 2nd   | 15        | Mr & Mrs Goodland |
| December  | 1st   | 25        | Mrs K Pethick     |
| December  | 2nd   | 15        | Mr S Miller       |

There are 127 members so the odds of winning a prize are 1 : 5.3 (extremely good) and the odds of winning a big prize, 1: 60.4 not bad either, and all prizes more than cover the annual cost of one number.