

# WOODSMOKE *scouts* be prepared . . .

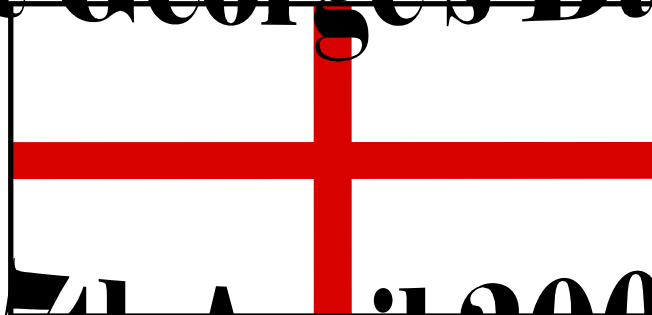
The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 462

<http://www.romsey-scouts.org.uk>

Apr 2008

## St George's Day



## 27th April 2008

## Romsey Abbey

### 3 p.m.

### WOODSMOKE

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

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District Chairman: John Stevens 023 8077 2973

District Commissioner: Darren Reed 023 8042 8244

## FIRST FOR BIRDS

In March, 1st Romsey Beavers took part in the Garden Bird Watch for the RSPB. Beavers spent a whole weekend checking off birds they found in their gardens. This spurred us on to think of ways we can feed the birds in our garden.

So the Beavers set to, to design their own Bird Table. We had some brilliant designs and it was a shame all the designs couldn't win, but after great deliberation Daniel Hughes' design won. We felt it looked so good that Squirrel's husband, Mr Andy Lindsey very kindly made it up for us.

The finished Bird Table now has pride of place in the garden at the back of 1st Romsey Scout Hut and the Beavers feed the birds every week. The photo shows Daniel with his very splendid Bird Table.



## **OUR CURRENT MACEBEARER**

*Romsey's current Junior Macebearer, Robert Finch, has only a couple of months left to his year of office but, he says, it's been a really enjoyable year!*

*An Explorer Scout with Tomahawks at the 10<sup>th</sup> Romsey Scout Group, and a Year 11 pupil at Mountbatten School, Robert has managed to fit his Macebearer duties around his GCSE work and, perhaps more impressively, around all his other hobbies. "I am a member of the Halterworth Harriers running club and a Junior Athletics Coach. I started helping with Sioux Cubs on Fridays as part of my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and have stayed, as well as going to Explorers. I will be starting my Silver D of E soon too!" says Robert.*

*As a young man who likes to be active, isn't being a Macebearer a bit stuffy and boring? "No! It's been really interesting!" says Robert. "It's a real responsibility carrying a gold plated mace that was made in 1672; it's a piece of Romsey's heritage and I get to look after it."*

*"I was made Junior Macebearer at the Mayor-making, when I took over from Emma Pearce, but my first official duty was when the Queen came to Romsey for our Charter Anniversary in June. It was a bit nerve-wracking but Peter Pearl, the senior Macebearer, helped me out. He is always reminding me to have change for the collection and things like that! Since then, I got to carry a spade (instead of the Junior Mace!) to the planting of the mulberry tree for the Charter Celebrations. I have also been at a couple of other civic ceremonies, like Remembrance Day. It's been interesting to learn a bit about the protocols of how a Council works – and I even got a Christmas card from the Mayor!"*

*Would he recommend it to other Scouts? "Yes, of course! If they like being smart, and are proud to represent Scouts, then they should try for Macebearer. It's a really good Romsey tradition to be part of – since Lord Mountbatten said the Junior Macebearer should be a Scout many years ago - and it looks really good on your CV too!"*

*Do Robert's parents think it's been a worthwhile experience? Peter and Carolyn Finch, still actively involved in Scouting*



*themselves, definitely agree. "Robert has really enjoyed it and we have really enjoyed going to these events with him. We have felt proud to be really a part of Romsey town life!"*

*The million-dollar question, of course, is would Robert repeat the experience. Emma, our last Junior Mace-bearer, served two year-terms, so would Robert? "Yes! And they only have to ask me!!"*

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**Founders Day**

Thank you to everyone who attended Founders day at Nursling & Rownhams HQ on 22nd February. It was a very enjoyable occasion, with participation from everyone, from the young people of the Group to the invited guests. Pride of place on the refreshment table was a celebratory cake, beautifully iced by Mrs Moles (Tony's Mum).

The next, more formal, meeting of the District Leaders will be on 30th April, again at 21st.

## **Canoe News:**

from 15<sup>th</sup> Romsey Scout Group - who provide canoeing for Romsey District

### **All change:**

There has been some confusion with both the British Canoe Union (BCU) changing their training scheme and the Scout Association changing the Adventurous Activities Authorisation Scheme both on 1<sup>st</sup> September last year. However, some sense is beginning to emerge from the mayhem.

For the youngsters the main change is that under 16 year olds are recommended to undertake the BCU Paddlepower Syllabus, instead of the old BCU 1 and 2 star awards. WE therefore propose to run courses for Scouts and Explores based on the Paddlepower programme - which will enable them to earn the Scout and Explorer Canoeist badges.

For old canoeists, the BCU star awards have been revamped to make them broader. Now canoeists have to be able to use both open canoes and closed cockpit kayaks. Within our team of instructors we have people able to instruct in both these and we have arranged the loan of open canoes from Cricket Campsite

The new Scout Authorisation Scheme now requires that instructors demonstrate both their technical abilities and their suitability to take youngsters on the water, rather than just showing they have technical qualifications.

### **Canoeing at Lakeside:**

Eastleigh Borough Council are tightening up controls on the use of Lakeside, and have increased their charges considerably to cover the cost of maintaining the changing facilities. As of this season, organisations using the facilities will have to pay a yearly registration fee of £50 and sessions will be £15 per time, for Scouts etc.

The registration fee is to cover their costs in checking the qualifications of instructors, risk assessments and insurance details. Only qualified instructors will be allowed to use the facilities.

This means that those Groups who only use the lake a couple of times a year will have to pay a hefty fee for the privilege,

However, 15<sup>th</sup> Romsey as providers of canoeing for Romsey District have registered, and will split the £50 fee amongst the various sessions we run throughout the year. This means we can provide canoeing sessions for Scout Groups etc. at £35 per time, for up to 12 canoes. (This covers the use of the equipment, transport of canoes etc. and booking the facilities)

## CANOE PROGRAMME 2008

| Dates            | Times        | Target        | Event          | Location         | Deadline   |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>April</b>     |              |               |                |                  |            |
| 12 or 13         | tba          | Adults        | Expedition     |                  |            |
| 26th             | 13.30-19.00  | Scouts/       | Taster         | Lakeside ?       | 15th April |
| <b>May</b>       |              |               |                |                  |            |
| 24/25            | all day      | Explorers     | (P'pwr Start)  |                  |            |
|                  |              | District Camp | canoe Sessions | tba              |            |
| 10th             | 10.30-12.00} |               |                |                  |            |
| 16th             | 19.00-20.30} |               |                |                  |            |
| 18th             | 14.30-16.00} |               | Canoeing       |                  |            |
| June             |              | Scouts/       | badges         |                  |            |
| 1st              | 14.30-16.00} | Explorers     | (Paddlepower   | Lakeside ?       | 30th April |
| 6th              | 19.00-20.30} |               | Passport       |                  |            |
| 8th              | 14.30-16.00} |               | & Discoverer)  |                  |            |
| 13th             | 19.00-20.30} |               |                |                  |            |
| 15th             | 10.30-12.00} |               |                |                  |            |
| 29th             | tba          | Musketeers    | Taster Session | ?                |            |
| <b>July</b>      |              |               |                |                  |            |
| 13th             | tba          | Scout/Expl    | Expedition     | R Hamble→Warsash |            |
| 19 or 20         |              | "             | "              | Hayling Island   |            |
| <b>August</b>    |              |               |                |                  |            |
| 22-25            | tba          | Tomahawks     | Camp           | Wye Valley       |            |
| <b>September</b> |              |               |                |                  |            |
| 14th             | tba          | Scout/Expl    | Expedition     | ?                |            |
| 27th             | tba          | Scout/Expl    | "              | ?                |            |



Details of the Canoe Taster Session and the Canoe Courses have already gone out.

If you want a copy they are available on the 15<sup>th</sup> Romsey Website at [http://www.nbscouts.ampsfieldelectrical.co.uk/html/where\\_to\\_find\\_us.html](http://www.nbscouts.ampsfieldelectrical.co.uk/html/where_to_find_us.html) or email [peterbourne@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:peterbourne@tinyonline.co.uk)

If you wish to receive details of canoeing activities direct, please also email [peterbourne@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:peterbourne@tinyonline.co.uk).

If you have registered already, but have not received these details, we may have your email recorded incorrectly. please let us know



Events coming up in the Musketeers calendar  
do come along and join in the fun!

8<sup>th</sup> June, Sunday evening

**AGM and skittles** – come and join for an enjoyably evening!  
(Venue & prices tbc)

20<sup>th</sup> June, Friday evening

**Twenty20 Cricket Cup** at The Rose Bowl  
Join us for the Hampshire vs. Sussex match – tickets £12 in advance

14<sup>th</sup> July, Monday evening

**A walk in the Forest** – join us for a leisurely stroll and a drink. We  
will start and finish in an appropriate hostelry car park – tbc!

21<sup>st</sup> September, Sunday

**Car Treasure Hunt!** Following the  
success of last summer's event, we  
will be running another this year! If  
you don't have a team or a car, just be  
at the start and we will find a team for  
you to join!

Meeting point tbc, and this year there  
will be a nominal entry fee.

Further details of all of the above will  
appear on our website as soon as they  
are confirmed, or e-mail Claire, our  
Acting Secretary, on  
[claire@devondrive.org](mailto:claire@devondrive.org) or  
call her on 023 8025 1887



## BEAVER SCOUT PARTY



How do you keep 120 Beaver Scouts amused for two and a half hours? It's easy, just play a few games, get a magician and sing some action songs.



The annual Beaver Party took place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March in the Crosfield Hall Romsey. Invited guests were the Mayor of Test Valley and the Mayor of Romsey with their respective partners. Also Lyn and Mavis from the Romsey Opportunity Group, who came along with some of the play items the Beavers had been raising money for. So far the total raised is over £500. We were also delighted to see Ellen and Stephanie from 21<sup>st</sup> Scout Troop who helped the Beavers with the singing, giving Sue Edwards a break for just a short while.

Many thanks go to all the leaders, colony assistants and parents who came along and made the afternoon such a success, particularly those who organised the games. Also to Harriet and Jane O'Brien's sister (Sarah) stuck in the kitchen cooking sausages!

*Sally Kerson (ADC Beaver Scouts)*



## Report on the 2008 District Census Returns

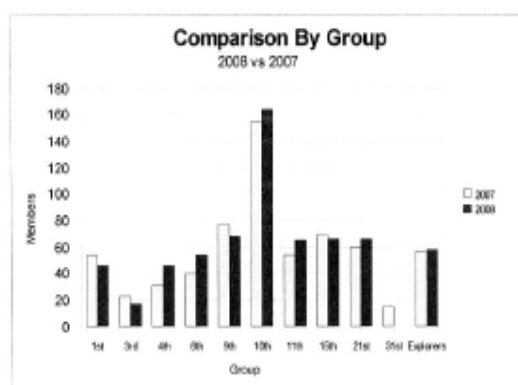
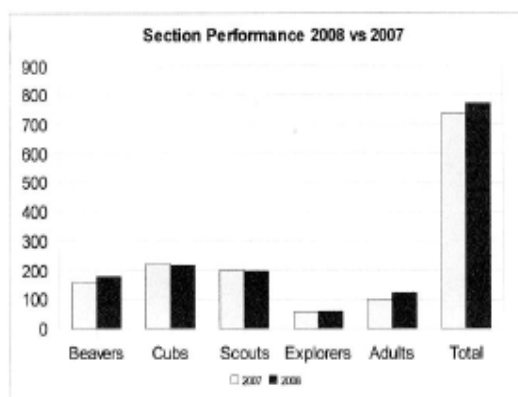
Graham Hollier – District Treasurer

I would like to thank everyone for the cooperation received in getting the District Returns in on time. Invoices have now been sent out and payment is due by March 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid a surcharge imposed by H.Q. of 50p per person.

Some of the facts emerging from the census are:-

- We will collect a total of £21,413 of which £14,340 is the National element, £5,011 is the County element and £2,062 is the District element.
- Overall, we reported a total number of members as 769 which is 33 more than last year and the highest figure recorded for the years for which I have information, starting in 2001.

A couple of interesting charts for you to peruse which are self explanatory. If anyone wants a further breakdown, I have the information available.



## Reminiscences of Romsey

As the Junior Mace Bearer of Romsey I have to attend all the civic events that the Mayor goes to. Especially those events when he is robed. The role of the Mace Bearers are to represent the Mayor; we often lead the Mayor and other dignitaries in, sometimes the Junior Mace is at the front and the Senior Mace at the back, or both of us at the front. Most recently this was at the Reminiscences of Romsey at the Crosfield Hall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. At the beginning of the Reminiscences we all stood in a line by the door to greet the guests. This included the Mayor of Romsey, the Test Valley Mayor, and our Member of Parliament etc. As a steady flow of people came past shaking our hands on their way in, it began to dawn on me that I was the youngest there by a few years! It was being organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test for the old people of the local area. They slowly walked by us all, as more got out from mini buses outside. It was at this point Peter Pearl, Senior Mace, posed the question to me 'what would happen in a fire?' I had already thought that the majority of them could not get anywhere in a hurry, luckily though the afternoon was event free. I would not want to assist a couple of hundred people out of the hall. After welcoming everyone, we processed in and took our seats.



First thing was a presentation on the Bells of Romsey Abbey; this was quite an interesting video. We learnt about how they had all been taken out, frame remade and strengthened, retuned and then put back in. The Romsey Brewery Beer called the 'Wobbly Frame' is named after the Belfry and a percentage is donated to the fund. It was at this point that I started to get a bit tired, my head lolling but I forced myself to stay awake. I do not know why but I looked round and guess what? A lady nearby me had actually fallen asleep! I felt less bad but she had an excuse, I could not have fallen asleep and gotten away with it.

We then had a talk by Charles Burnett on 'Romsey Remembered', it basically consisted of information and pictures from major events in Romsey over the last seventy years, consisting of Coronation Parties, and Victory in England Day, Royal Marriages and other such visits. Of course not a lot of these events had any significance to me as I had not been there. It was good to see the pictures though and think about how times have changed. One event did, that was the Queens Visit on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June last year. I was there as Mace Bearer but unfortunately there were no pictures of me to reminisce from. I got to see what happened outside though as I was actually in the Abbey.

Next was a true or false quiz on the history of Romsey led by our ex-district chairman David Sutton. We had to decide whether certain buildings around Romsey were first used for different things, some were really interesting.

Afternoon tea, consisting of sandwiches, cake and tea, was next. Some of dignitaries went around having their photo taken with seemingly everyone. Luckily I did not have to do this and so indulged in food. After tea we learnt that probably the oldest member of the audience who was 92 years old regularly partook in waterskiing! I have never even tried but she is surely an inspiration to all of us.



This led onto some comedy impressions by a Brian Coshall, I did not get some of it as there some old humour but he sang like David Attenborough which was quite funny. Lastly we sang songs, led by RAODS once again they were old songs and so I have not even heard of some of them! I think out of the fifteen songs on the song sheet I had heard or knew about three! Luckily we did not have to sing all fifteen. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and they all left happy after their yearly reminisces!

*Robert Finch*

## **District Diary Dates**

### **April**

|                  |                                         |             |                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Sat 5th</b>   | <b>County MDU in Romsey Town Centre</b> |             |                         |
| <b>Tues 15th</b> | <b>District Management Mtg</b>          | <b>7.45</b> | <b>18 Cherville St</b>  |
| <b>Fri 25th</b>  | <b>St G Day Rehearsals,</b>             | <b>6.30</b> | <b>Romsey Abbey</b>     |
| <b>Sun 27th</b>  | <b>St George's Day</b>                  | <b>3.00</b> | <b>Romsey Abbey</b>     |
| <b>Wed 30th</b>  | <b>All Leaders Meeting</b>              | <b>7.30</b> | <b>21st H.Q. (Prov)</b> |

### **May**

|                    |                                          |             |                   |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Wed 7th</b>     | <b>Mod 1 Training Drop In</b>            |             | <b>4th H.Q.</b>   |
| <b>Tues 13th</b>   | <b>Dist Explorer Leaders Mtg</b>         | <b>7.30</b> | <b>15th H.Q.</b>  |
| <b>Thur 15th</b>   | <b>District Exec</b>                     | <b>7.45</b> | <b>1st H.Q.</b>   |
| <b>W/e 23/26th</b> | <b>District Centenary Camp</b>           |             | <b>Broadlands</b> |
| <b>Sun 25th</b>    | <b>Beaver day visit to District Camp</b> |             |                   |

### **June**

**Sat 7th** County MDU in Romsey Town Centre

### **July**

|                  |                         |                 |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Fri 4th</b>   | <b>District A.G.M.</b>  | <b>URC Hall</b> |
| <b>Thur 10th</b> | <b>Training Drop In</b> | <b>1st H.Q.</b> |

## **ST GEORGE'S DAY**

As it's a very special year for Scouting in Romsey District—and in case you have not heard, it is 100 years since the formation of the 1st Romsey Group in 1908—for the first time in many years, we are having one combined service in Romsey Abbey. Everyone, from the youngest Beaver to the oldest Scout, together with all the leaders (and we will not mention any ages here) will attend the service in our Abbey. The Guide movement will also be there in force. The arrangements for those parading will be the same as usual—2.15 assembly in Lortemore Place Car Park—and back again after the service.

All flag bearers and readers need to attend the rehearsal in the Abbey on Friday, 25th at 6.30, as the arrangements will be very different. Parents etc will be able to join us in the Abbey, after the young people have taken their places, so come and join us—let's fill the Abbey with Scouts and all their supporters.

All the leaders are invited back for tea in the URC Hall after the service and parade.