

Scouting in Runnymede

The Cheddar Endeavour

At the end of March, explorers from Endeavour Unit took a trip to Cheddar Gorge and the Mendip Hills. With special guest leader Ron Verlander from 1st Englefield Green, our old scout leader, we headed off to a weekend of adventure down in the Mendips.



An early start on Saturday (9am for explorers!) meant we were out walking the West Mendip Way by 10am. As Britain is famed for, the weather soon turned. What had been quite a pleasant day turned to harsh shattering rain as we walked along the top of the hills. The wind did not help either! Despite the somewhat damp weather, spirits were kept high and we were even treated to helping a farmer with a new born lamb! We diverted our route and decided to stop off at tea room in Cheddar but it was soon time to crack on. The night soon fell and we were still trekking, battling against the weather. Determined and raring to go we made the finish just before 9pm and were driven off in Ron's legendary red van.



The Sunday consisted of a walk round Cheddar Gorge itself and then a spot of tourism in the town. We visited the only place in Cheddar still to make Cheddar cheese in the traditional way as well as one of the many little tea rooms. Having finished afternoon tea it was time to head off home. All in all we had a great weekend and my thanks go to James Moore and Ron Verlander as well as new explorer leader Jess Hamer for leading the trip.

Matt Hill – Endeavour Unit PR Officer.

Congratulations to the following on their awards

John Neale, formerly the District Chairman and Acting D.C.
For Bar to The Silver Acorn

Nick Reeves and Colin Albrecht
For Chief Scouts Commendation



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Polyapes Standing Camp 5-6 April 2008

There were six of us in the 1st Virginia Water team and when we arrived at Polyapes campsite it was sunny, fairly hot, and we were raring to go. The whole concept of the camp was to be able to not rely on the help and the support of the leaders, but to be able to use your initiative and to be able to cook and look after yourself.

So as soon as we arrived on Saturday morning, we put up our Storm Haven and our cooking tent, set up everything and got all of our kit under cover before it rained. After an hour or so of struggling with poles and pegging in guide ropes, the tents were up, the groundsheet in and the food, clothes, and sleeping bags under cover and packed away. We really were beginning to work as a team, and so the camp's activities began.

After flag break our first challenge was to make an altar fire and prepare a hot drink for our lunch. The only thing was, we had to use natural materials from the surrounding woods, not wood brought with us, and we only had five matches to do it with. 1st Virginia Water got a fire going with just one and the pile of wood kept burning for 10 hours.

After making our drinks and eating lunch came some more challenges, and with these challenges came the rain. I am sure the leaders had planned this to make things more difficult! There were all sorts of things that we had to do; find as many items as we could to put into a matchbox, make a boot scraper out of pegs, some shoe holders out of sticks and a washing up bowl stand out of bamboo. At the same time, we had to make any other invention that would make camp easier; between us we made drying racks, glove stands and a hat stand!

Then came the challenge that the leaders were dreading; Scouts preparing their tea. 1st Virginia Water made a mouth watering spaghetti bolognaise, which did not give the leader food poisoning! In fact, he actually admitted that it tasted very nice.

That evening was the chance for a game of football, then a demonstration of how to build a campfire, followed by toasting ourselves up before bed.

It rained all night and the ground was very wet in the morning. As we started our fire to cook breakfast, it started to snow quite heavily. After half an hour, it was an inch and a half thick and snowball fights erupted between Troops. Giant snowballs were launched from all directions and there were many failed attempts to make a toboggan. It was extremely exciting to camp in the

snow and it is a memory that everyone will have for a long time, not forgetting the huge battles fought and won that morning.



The snow kept falling and eventually, when everyone was beginning to get really cold and wet; the decision was made to abandon camp.



It's not easy trying to decamp in the snow, and I am sure that we packed half of it in the minibus! It was a brilliant weekend, the activities were fun and the snow made it better. We worked well as a team and it was a time I will remember forever.

Matthew Carter – 1st Virginia Water Scout

The Appliance of Science

1st/4th Addlestone (Tigers) Cub Pack were very lucky to have Chertsey Museum to themselves as the staff were kind enough to open for a special evening. The main purpose of visit was to check out the science exhibition as part of their Scientist Badge.



Once they were let loose in the room, there was plenty to keep them amused and they may even have learnt something in amongst the fun and games.

After they had all tried all the exhibits we split into groups and the cubs had to complete the explorer's pack that covers the rest of the museum's exhibits. The Runnymede Room was particularly interesting for the cubs but for some this was outdone by the Fashion Gallery as you can see – and it wasn't just the girls that liked dressing up!



It was a good evening and we helped the museum out by letting the cubs spend some money in the shop at the end – something we know they like doing best of all!

Gareth Jenkins – Cub Scout Leader
1st/4th Addlestone (Tigers) Cub Pack

Treasury Notes

Good news from the tax man – no it's not a late April fool's joke. Among the small print in the March Budget, it was announced that charities can continue to claim 28% on subscriptions and donations made under Gift Aid, rather than the 25% that was expected.

The recent edition of Scouting magazine had a useful A to Z on fund raising. If anyone missed the article, please give me a call and I'll send you a copy. The District Executive Committee will be considering at its July meeting requests for grants from Runnymede Borough Council. Funding for capital projects, which for this purpose includes camping and other equipment, will be available up to a total of £1,500. Applications by letter or email should be with me by Saturday 14 June.

Many thanks to those Groups who paid this year's capitation on time. To the two Groups who missed the deadline, please try better next year.

Richard Mason – District Treasurer

Beaver Scout Banter

District Badge Day

Do Something New? Well we did and very successful it was. On the 15th March 50 Beaver Scouts arrived at 1st/4th H.Q. and set about earning the new fitness challenge badge. The day had been organized by Steve Livesley and Kevin Coombs and was a good mix of fun and activity. As usual my arrival brought the rain and made the 1 mile walk a bit squidgy but the Beavers didn't care and followed Greywolf around the field to a very loud "every where we go". Well done Steve and Kevin, can I book you for next year?

District Beaver Scout Ramble (Staggerabout)

Sunday 6th April saw a heavy snowfall and freezing winds at Bears Rails campsite. However we didn't care because the Beaver Scout ramble had already been postponed. Good old Greywolf did a late risk assessment on the Saturday night and rang me with the following news: "It's very squidgy, the car park is like a swamp and I nearly fell over twice walking from the car". So good news Brown Beaver, you haven't missed it we'll let you set the date! Sunshine please is the order of the day.

Good luck to all the Beavers taking part in the Michael Patrick Challenge. Unfortunately I can't be there but my thoughts are with you.

We are moving forward with our plans for the Runnymede Pow-Wow on Saturday 5th July with a generous donation of safety lanyards and plastic holders from Celsur plastics of Egham.

Cu soon Tirian.

Alan Hewson – ADC Beaver Scouts

District Swimming Gala

The District Cub & Scout swimming gala took place at the XCEL Leisure Centre at Walton on Thames, on Saturday 15th March.

The evening started with eight Cub packs contesting the Cup, divided into 2 age groups Under 9½ years and under 11 years.

The results were as follows:-

Under 9½ years 1st place - 1st Virginia Water
2nd place - 1st Egham Hythe
3rd place - 1st Englefield Green

Under 11 years 1st place 5th Addlestone
Joint 2nd place 2nd New Haw &
1st Englefield Green

Continued:-

And the overall places in the Cubs competition were:-

- 1st place 1st Virginia Water
- 2nd place 1st Englefield Green
- 3rd place 1st Egham Hythe

Then it was the turn of the 6 attending Scout Troops, who were also divided into 2 age groups Under 12½ years and Over 12½ years.

The results were as follows:-

- Under 12½ years
- 1st place 2nd New Haw
 - 2nd place 1st Englefield Green
 - 3rd place 1st/₄th Addlestone

- Over 12½ years
- 1st place 1st/₄th Addlestone
 - 2nd place 1st Virginia Water
 - 3rd place 1st Chertsey

And the overall places in the Scouts Competition were:-

- 1st place 1st/₄th Addlestone
- 2nd place 2nd New Haw
- 3rd place 1st Englefield Green

Thanks to all those who took part and to the Fellowship for their organization of the event.

Editor

Runnymede District Diary 2008

May

(School Half Term Sat 24th to Sun 1st June)

- Mon 5th Ottershaw May Fair
- Tue 6th Beaver Scout Leaders meeting
1st Virginia Water
- Tue 6th Scout Leaders meeting
- Wed 7th District Executive meeting
- Sun 10th First response Course
- Mon 12th Fellowship meeting
- Thu 15th ADC's meeting
- Sun 18th Michael Patrick Challenge
(District event)
- Fri 16th-Sun 18th County Scout Expedition
Challenge
- Wed 21st Explorer Scout Leaders meeting

June

- Tue 3rd Scout Leaders meeting
2nd Thorpe
- Fri 6th - Sun 8th Sixer & Seconders Camp
- Mon 9th Beaver Scout Leaders meeting
1st Englefield Green
- Thu 12th District AGM
- Fri 20th - Sun 22nd Scoutabout
- Tue 24th Group Scout Leaders meeting

July

- Fri 4th Scouts Football Competition
- Sat 5th Beaver Scouts Runnymede
POW WOW 1st/₄th Addlestone
- Mon 7th District Executive meeting
- Tue 8th BSL Evaluation meeting –
The Pelican 8.pm
- Fri 11th - Sun 13th County Scout Camping Comp.
- Sat 12th Black Cherry Fair
- Wed 16th Explorer Scout Leaders meeting
- Sun 20th Explorer Operation Pigeon

September

- Thu 4th ADC's and GSL's meeting
- Fri 5th - Sun 7th Gilwell Reunion Camp -*date
To be confirmed*
- Mon 8th Fellowship meeting
- Tue 9th Scout Leaders meeting
- Mon 15th Beaver Scout Leaders meeting
1st Englefield Green
- Wed 17th Explorer Scout Leaders meeting
- Thu 18th District Planning Meeting for 2009
- Fri 19th - Sun 21st District Explorer Scout Camp
- Sat 20th Scouts A to Z Challenge
- Mon 22nd District executive meeting
- Sat 27th Cub Scouts Fishing Competition

October (School half term ???)

- Sat 4th Scouts Fishing Competition
- Thu 9th Leader Training – Modules
1, 2, 3, 5 & 6
- Fri 10th - Mon 13th Fellowship weekend away
- Sat 18th Cubs Football Competition
- Sat 25th Explorer Scout Sedan Chair
Competition

November

- Mon 3rd Fellowship meeting
- Tue 4th Scout Leaders meeting
1st Egham Hythe
- Thu 6th ADC's meeting
- Sat 8th Cub Scouts Night Hike
- Mon 10th Beaver Scout Leaders meeting
1st Chertsey
- Wed 12th First response course part 1
- Mon 17th Group Scout Leaders meeting
- Wed 19th First response course part 2
- Wed 19th Explorer Scout Leaders meeting
- Fri 21st Scout Night Hike

December

- Sat 6th Cubs Big Day Out
- Mon 8th Beavers & Cub Scouts
Christingle Service
- Mon 8th Explorer Ten-pin Bowling Comp.
- Fri 12th Fellowship Christmas Dinner –
To be Confirmed

**Copy Date for next issue
Friday 13th June 2008
e-mail: chris.couzens@ntlworld.com**