

Scouting in Runnymede

Michael Patrick Challenge

On Sunday 18th May, seven out of the ten Scouting Groups in Runnymede met at 1st/4th Addlestone's head quarters to take part in the Michael Patrick Challenge. About two years ago, the then Runnymede District Commissioner, Michael Patrick sadly died aged only fifty five. The District wanted to remember "Smiler", as most people knew him, for the big part he played in Scouting in the district and so the challenge was set up to commence last year at "Scrap" but due to the appalling weather, was cancelled as we had to go home early.

The challenge got another run this year and it couldn't have been better. The weather was lovely and there were no accidents. The groups consisted of four Scouts (10½ - 14), four Cubs (8 - 10½) and four Beavers (6 - 8). Not all of the people were used for each activity; sometimes the Beaver, Cubs and Scouts were separated, sometimes only three of these were used and sometimes the Cubs went with the Scouts and Beavers were on their own. There were nine different activity bases altogether, ranging from traditional tent pitching to getting through as many train and coach timetable questions as you could find and each base lasted twenty minutes and some bases were tight for time and more difficult i.e. pitching a tent in the time allowed, or as simple as cooking eggs three different ways using as little help and materials as you could.



(Lighting a fire to burn through the string)

We couldn't have had this day without the people who set it up. Firstly I think that a big thank-you should be given to George Kerr District Secretary, Dave Kelly and Andrew Sainsbury-Brown, our Deputy District Commissioner, for actually setting up the whole challenge, to 1st/4th Addlestone for catering for the day, the Scouting Leaders and Scout Fellowship members for running the bases and getting the teams together to complete at the award, to all the competitors for turning up and taking part and finally to the St. John's team for helping on the first aid base.

Continued:-



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(Getting it to balance)

At the end of the afternoon a presentation took place on the field at the back of the hut. James Nash, Runnymede's District Commissioner did well to find something to speak about while the points were being counted and when the results were finally ready, we found that every team had done well, but ahead of second place by an amazing 85 points was 1st Egham Hythe. The team's captain, Harry lead the team well, never gave up and encouraged them all the way and they all did very well in the activities. The rest of the team consisted of Charlie, Oliver, Matthew, Isaac, Aaron, Tallesin, Tim, Shaun, Malinda, Liam and Jack.



1st Egham Hythe keep one of the two trophy shields which will have all the twelve names engraved on it and the second is a perpetual trophy shield which will have the winning group's name engraved on it each year. The shields were presented to the team by Michael's parents who congratulated them and handed them over; one taken by a Beaver and the other by the team captain. Photos were taken of the team with Michael's parents and a round of applause was given by the other Groups, Leaders and parents.

Finally, the teams were collected and left after an enjoyable day which overall was the great success which I am sure Michael would have wished for.

Harry – Scout 1st Egham Hythe



Sixer & Seconds Camp 2008

For the second year running we had exceptionally good, and at times, very warm weather for the sixer and seconds camp. All the waterproof clothes were kept at the bottom of the bag with sun tan cream and hats

being the order of the day.



The cubs had a great programme of activities laid on for them and despite being exhausted (and that was the leaders as well) all cubs reported they had really enjoyed the weekend. Highlights were the climbing wall, the gun run and according to the cubs the camp doughnuts!

Throwing water over the brave (foolish) leaders who took part in the gun run was also high up on the list. But, what did they really enjoy? – yup! you guessed the only activity we didn't lay on and with 'The Poly Ape' on the badge as a clue – tree climbing!



At every opportunity the cubs disappeared into the woods and were next spotted hanging from the branches, one or two spent more time off the ground than on it!

I don't think the cubs get much chance to run in the woods safe from intruders and cub camps give them the a great opportunity to act like children should. So for the organising committee next year – book a site with woods and set them loose – programme on a plate!

Gareth Jenkins – CSL 1st/4th Addlestone Tigers

Police Arrest!

Following the recent St. Georges Day parade, the 1st Ottershaw (Otters) cub pack was visited by two of the local police force. Now – I did try to tell them that it was because they walked through at least two red lights, ignored a give way sign, and travelled on the wrong side of the road during the parade – but that just didn't wash!! The real reason for the visit was far more important, as Sergeant Andy Gibbon and PC Anita Clarke had come to present the pack with a much needed injection of money.

For those of you who are not aware, the Ottershaw Otters re-opened in September after a 3 year gap, and GSL Heather Howell had been advised by Sergeant Gibbon about applying for some money from a police fund to help with this re-opening project. The application was successful and the photograph below shows the pack being presented with a cheque from PC Clarke, for £235.00.



This money will be used to help run the pack over the coming months, as we look to find new ways and means of keeping our fledging cubs entertained.

Mark Staunton – ASCL 1st Ottershaw Otters

Sunny Bank Holiday – some mistake there?

On the May Day Bank Holiday we organised a local area walk for the cubs as part of their Navigator Badge. We met at Coxes Lock in Addlestone and walked back to 1st/4th HQ via Crockford Bridge, The River Bourne and thanks to a kind invitation, Andrew Webster's (4th from the right below on the gate) Nan's House for a drink and biscuit.

It was a Bank Holiday but very strangely the weather was fine and very warm so the planned BBQ at HQ could go ahead and it finished off what was a very pleasant way to spend such a nice day.



We held a 'coolest shades and pinkest wellies' competition but as you can see from the picture this was won hands down by Jade – she was the only entrant!

Gareth Jenkins

CSL – 1st/4th Addlestone (Tigers) Cub Pack

Copy Date for next Issue
Friday 22nd August
Email Chris.couzens@ntlworld.com

Runnymede District Diary 2008

July

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

September

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

October (School half term ???)

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

November

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

December

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