

Scouting in Runnymede

"The Giant Sleepover"

During the weekend of Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th, 17 Beaver Scouts from 1st Ottershaw Colony took part in the Guinness World Record attempt "The Giant Sleepover". The event took place at 1st Ottershaw HQ, where with the help of Katie (BSL from 1st Englefield Green) we put up tents inside the hall to sleep in, which the children loved. Our evening entertainment, by way of a campfire, was provided by Grey Wolf and Doe (BSL from 1st Virginia Water), which the boys thoroughly enjoyed and thought Grey Wolf was very funny. Sunday morning at 9am saw another record attempt at the "Biggest simultaneous Teeth brushing".



I would like to say a big thank you to those mentioned already and to John Hanger who helped make our sleep over the best yet, and here's hoping that we've helped beat the world record for the giant sleepover and simultaneous teeth brushing.

Lynn Alden – Beaver Scout Leader, 1st Ottershaw

Brecon Beacons

On Friday 2nd May, 18 boys and 7 Leaders departed for Plas Pencelli campsite near Brecon Beacons, Wales. Two of the Leaders and the majority of the boys, from 1st Egham Hythe and 1st Englefield Green Scout Groups, left by minibus, the others travelled by car or with the weekend's equipment. There were no problems along the way and we arrived at our destination at roughly 10:30 pm having left approximately four hours earlier, though this did include a 20 minute break at a service station the other side of the River Severn.

As we were walking up towards the place we had decided to set up camp, one of the many great sights of the weekend greeted our eyes: The tents had already been set up. Thanks to the kindness of the Leaders, and boys, who had arrived early, we were able to retire to our sleeping bags where we then either spoke to each other, sung (in one tent's case), or just plain and simply, fight.

The next morning we were woken up at 7:30 by the Leaders, although many of us had been woken up hours earlier by the sound of a certain tent's dreadful singing.



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After a cooked breakfast, we gathered our kit together and were finally able to begin our journey up the mountainside, with only one boy not having proper walking boots (fortunately though we had a spare pair). Once we arrived at Brecon Beacons we were split up into our four groups and left one after each other. The groups were not allowed to walk together due to health and safety regulations, but we all walked much the same route in different ways. All but one of the groups contained people from either Scout Troop and there were no reports of people not getting along or arguing, at least not the boys.

After this, all focus turned to the tough 6-7 hour walk ahead of us that started with a fairly steep climb up a ridge. There were four main peaks in the area we walked and the three we went up were: Pen y Fan, Cribyn and Fan y Big. We were also the first Scouts in Runnymede up the top of Pen y Fan, the biggest of the three.



We were lucky with the weather, not just for the walk but for the whole weekend as well. While we were up there it was warm and sunny, yet quite windy at the top and the only rain we got that day was a brief two minute shower, though the leaders still insisted we put on our waterproofs. Every boy took control of the map and leading the group, the Leaders only stepping in if we were going to go badly off course. All the boys agreed that they had had a great day, seeing some beautiful sights (though not much wildlife) and we are happy to report that, minus the odd scrape or two, we returned back to camp unscathed.

The day was far from over though as that night, after dinner and a rather long football match, we enjoyed a camp fire with a roaring fire and one or two songs, followed by a wide game. The wide game in question was *Spotlight*, where people had to try to steal a hat on top of a log without being caught out by the flashlight, though the game soon broke down when the hat was put on someone's head and another boy ran away with the log, so back to the tents we went for more talking and fighting, though thankfully no singing.

The next day we were up later, much to the relief of some boys, and after striking camp we left for home. On the way home we stopped for a couple of hours at Big Pit, an old coal mine in Wales. Closed in 1980, Big Pit is now a popular tourist attraction and allows people to get a rough experience of life working down the mine. This was a great end to a great weekend and four hours later, we arrived back home.

Daniel G – Scout, 1st Egham Hythe

1st Virginia Water retain the Football Trophy

On Friday the 11th July 2008, all the Scout Troops in the District of Runnymede, met at the Ottershaw Recreational Grounds for a 5-aside football tournament, the previous victors, of 2007, being 1st Virginia Water. Each Troop prepared one or two teams - a 1st and a 2nd five. The Troops present, included our close rivals Englefield Green, Egham Hythe plus many others. It was extremely well organised, with an allocated referee for each group, and a set time limit for each match, and a barbecue selling hot beef-burgers.

Continued:-

There were four pitches, which had been previously prepared, for each group to compete on. Each team played each other once and the team that accumulated the most points by win, draw or loss went through to the semi-finals. Those teams then played the victors of another group, and then the winners of that match would proceed to the final.

1st Virginia Water played two teams; the first match was won convincingly with a 4-0 win. A 7-2 victory followed as they secured a place in the semi-finals, which they won 3-1 which took them into the final to play Egham Hythe. The second team consisting of James M, Jack W, Alex S, Mathew S and Shaw G, lost their first match to the eventual runners-up of the tournament but showed great determination in their second match to comeback from a 2-0 deficit to win 5-2.



The Final 1st Virginia Water vs. 1st Egham Hythe

The two teams readied themselves for a ten minute match-up. The game was intense, and the breakthrough came with a Virginia Water goal. Soon after, in the latter stages of the final, another goal came in favour of Virginia Water. The final whistle blew and 1st Virginia Water were crowned champions. The victorious team consisted of Nicholas B, Jonathon O, Robert R, Nat K and Luke A.

After this there was a presentation and closing ceremony, including many thanks to the organisers, and well earned medals to the victors and the runners-up.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable tournament and many hope that such a great occasion will be able to take place again next year.

Jonathon O – Scout, 1st Virginia Water

A year in review...and on into the future!

Over the last year, Endeavour Explorer Scout Unit have done some exciting, challenging and memorable activities. To share some of the excitement, watch the video on YouTube. Simply go to www.youtube.com and type in "Endeavour ESU" or visit our MySpace page at www.myspace.com/endeavourexplorers



Wanting to carry on the adventurous spirit, the Explorers wanted to know what it was like to be a hamster inside a giant ball rolling down a hill, so they went 'zorb'ing'. Being strapped to the inside of a big inflatable sphere and literally pushed down a hill ensured that even the biggest of us let out a girly scream! As you saw the look of fear on your "ball buddy" opposite you and the constant swirl between blue and green as you hurtled down the hill made sure of ultimate thrills and terrific fun!



On 11th – 13th July we joined around 2000 other Explorers at Gilwell Park for 'Gilwell 24', a national Explorer camp running activities from 9am until 9am. Our Explorers lasted into the night but finally crashed out after a great day of fun meeting Explorers from all over the country, all wearing the same fluorescent green t-shirts!

Matt H, Endeavour ESU PR Officer

Surrey Target Shooting Squad

We are currently on the lookout for talented and enthusiastic target shooters to potentially join a new Surrey Target Shooting Squad. This Squad could represent Surrey Scouts in competitions and also receive advanced instruction and coaching in air rifle and air pistol from experienced coaches who work both within and outside of Scouting.

Continued:-

Target shooting within Scouting is extremely healthy. There is a National Scout Squad of some 100 youngsters from all over the Country which feeds the Great Britain Junior Squad - many members of which are active Scouts and Explorer Scouts and the mix of girls to boys is pretty even.

If you enjoy the sport of target shooting and feel you might like to try for the Surrey Squad, with the potential for advancement to the National Squad, then please contact Simon Wellsted of 7th Epsom Scouts Shooting Club at the following (simon@scoutshooting.org).



Master at Arms

This is a great way to obtain your master at arms badge, and could even lead to an Olympic medal!

Calling All Beaver Leaders

I thought you might appreciate a quick update from me on a couple of issues.....

Now that Alan has stood down as ADC (Beavers), we need to identify his successor. As this will be a tough act to follow, I'd like to ask you if you wish to nominate one of your peers, or alternatively you may wish to put yourself forward. I have put a closing date on this of end of September '08.

If you're not sure what the role entails, here it is:

Title: Assistant District Commissioner - ADC (Section)

Outline: To work in partnership with the District Commissioner to ensure that effective operation of Section in their District in accordance with the rules as laid down in POR of The Scout Association.

Responsible for: District Leaders (if applicable)

Responsible to: District Commissioner

Main Contacts: CC, DCs, ACC (Section), other ADCs, District and County Advisers, District Administrator, FDOs, HQ, ADC (Section) from other Districts, GirlGuiding UK, Schools and other local Youth Organisations.

Appointment Requirements: To understand and accept The Scout Association's policies, have a satisfactory CRB Clearance, Completion of Wood Badge, which includes the Section Supporter Modules as detailed in the Adult's Personal File and The Scout Association's Adult Training Scheme.

As well as the main General tasks set out in the table below, there will be specific tasks agreed with the County Commissioner.

| "General" Main Tasks | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure purpose, method, policies and programme are carried out throughout the Section |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assist GSLs in the encouragement of all Leaders in the Section to provide a balanced programme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Co-operate with the DC to support all Leaders and Commissioners in matters relating to the Section and its Leaders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Promote and encourage to the Section the implementation of all policies of The Scout Association, especially the key policies as laid down in Chapter 2 of POR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Liaise with District Administrators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain a working relationship with DC, other ADC (Section) and other Commissioners within the District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Work in partnership with DC in the management of the District and the Section's programme and activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain contact relevant to the Section age group with in the local community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Promote the Section's Scouting to the local Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Support the DC in the development of the District |

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Kevin or Sarah in the first instance - they are your DBSLs after all. Until we have a new ADC (Beavers), I would like Kevin & Sarah to look after the section.



Just to keep you in the loop, last week along with Andy Sainsbury-Brown, I met three of your number, to hear about things from your perspective.

One issue raised was that of training. I'm working on this with our colleagues at County, and am expecting to be able to let you know the plan when we're all back from the summer break.

James Nash – District Commissioner

Pipistrelles and Pachiderms!

24 Cubs and the Leaders of the 1st Egham Hythe Cub Pack went to Bears Rails in Windsor Great Park for Cub Camp this summer. Boring, I hear some say...No facilities, no activities, ok for a weekend, but for a 5 day camp..too basic. But we love it there – waking up amongst the deer, and with the best ever view from your tent –and even the pond has its charms!

So, we planned our programme and having decided to do the Naturalist badge and to build bat boxes as his 'hammer and nails' activity, Baggie contacted the Bat Conservation Trust and arranged a brilliant evening of bat detecting. Tina, a real bat enthusiast, bought along rubber bats to teach us their anatomy, a real bat (an injured Daubenton bat that she looks after) to show us their eyes, their teeth, their fingers etc – and to put our bat boxes to the test and check that a real bat would consider it a good home. She also bought a few electronic bat detectors. She explained that different species of bats could be identified by the frequency of the sounds they make, and at dusk we set off to see what we could find. In all we detected four different species; Noctules who roost in big trees (we detected them in the car park), Daubentons who fly low over the pond, and Common and Soprano Pipistrelles who were out in their hundreds. She has even submitted our findings as part of a national bat survey. It was an exciting evening – more so as we did the whole thing with thunder and lightning as a spectacular backdrop.



The next day it was the turn of the Crown Estate to help us with our badge work. Phil Edwards, one of the park wardens and a real expert on trees and wildlife offered to get the tree-team out, to show us a bit of macho tree maintenance (helmets, ropes, chainsaws and tremendous heights), and to teach us a lot about the conservation of the ancient trees in the park as part of our Global Conservation badge.



There are more trees in excess of 1000 years old on the Windsor Estate than anywhere else in the country and most of their work is conservation – there is very little commercial forestry on the estate. So they showed us how they use a device called a resistograph to assess the condition of the base of a tree in order to ascertain what they can do to the top of a weak tree to save it from destruction. Then he took us on a walk and we did a bit of a bug survey – they work closely with English Nature to provide the right habitat for all

kinds of creepy crawlies – Cub heaven! We squashed the whole Cub Pack into ancient hollow trees, we checked out where the bats roost, and we ended our walk at the Elephant Tree – there are at least 3 elephants to be found, and we found them all.

As part of their Map Reader badge some of the boys planned and lead us on a hike around the estate – that earned a Hikes Away badge for some as well – and those working on their Outdoor Challenge coped well with impromptu pioneering requirements following being shipwrecked on the 'beach' by the pond! They learned to light fires, use a compass to navigate, to cook using makeshift materials – all the traditional Cub activities that we sometimes lose sight of. Explosives seemed to be the main delight of the Scientist badge group – the reaction caused by dropping Mentos into Diet Coke was truly spectacular, but not one to do indoors!

We built ballisters, made kites, made t-shirts and badges, played games and had a great time. And the sun shone almost continually – we had the one good week of the summer.

What a great camp. So next time you decide that you don't want to travel far, don't forget what a brilliant campsite we have on our doorstep – Bears Rails really is one of the best.

Mary Halls – Cub Scout Leader 1st Egham Hythe

Fellowship news

The District Scout Fellowship has had a busy summer again this year. We ran our fundraising stall at the Ottershaw May Fair, and ran activity bases at the Michael Patrick Challenge. And once again we provided central catering to the District contingent at Scoutabout, feeding 210 Scouts and Leaders from Friday night to Sunday lunch.

Unfortunately we could not provide the Cub section with their Sunday lunch at Sixers and Seconds camp, but some of our members helped out at the Beaver Scouts Pow Wow.

On the weekend of 16th August, despite the preceding week's weather, we held our own BBQ, and on the day the weather was kind to us, and we had a very enjoyable evening.

Don't forget we are always looking for new members, even if you can only give us a couple of hours here and there.

Chris Couzens – ADC (Scout Fellowship)

Surrey Youth Motorcycle Trials Sports Club (Runnymede)

Boys and Girls aged 6 to 17

You are invited to a
Free
Have A Go Day

On Saturday 27th September 2008
From 10.30am to 1.00pm
At Brackendene, Addlestone Moor, KT15
2QH

All youngsters to be accompanied by parent or guardian.

Contact
Eddie Renham 01784 452225



What are Motorcycle Trials

Trials riding is an off road sport for ages 6 to 70+ years and for boys and girls. Trials riding is the safest form of motorcycle sport. Competition takes place on sections aimed at agility and skill rather than speed. It should not be confused with scrambling or motocross. If your riding is faster than you can walk, you are going too fast.

Trials riders develop skills like balance and machine control, and the children that ride within the club gain an increased level of concentration and social skills, which progress into their schoolwork. But most of all it gives them a sense of achievement, whilst at the same time, focusing their frustrations in a positive manner.

The club is run entirely by a volunteer committee made up of parents and friends of members. The Club holds twelve organized novice and beginner trials annually.

Runnymede District Diary 2008

September

| | |
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| Thu 4 th | ADCs and GSLs 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 27th to 31st Oct)

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|--|--|
| 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 | ADCs 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 (School term ends 19th Dec)

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 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> |

Copy Date for next Issue
Friday 17th October
Email Chris.couzens@ntlworld.com