

Scouting in Runnymede

Congratulations

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Chief Scout has made the following awards in our District.

Award For Merit

Chris Couzens, Assistant District Commissioner (Scout Fellowship)
Heather Howell, Group Scout Leader, 1st Ottershaw Scout & Guide Group
Richard Mason, District Treasurer.

Chief Scouts Commendation For Good Service

Yvonne Edwards, Group Scout Leader, 1st Englefield Green Scout Group
Dale Hicks, Group Supporter, 1st/4th Addlestone (St Pauls) Scout Group.
John Dixon, Group Supporter, 1st Egham Hythe Scout Group
Debbi Norwood, Group Executive Member, 1st Englefield Green Scout Group
Peter Reynolds, Group Treasurer, 1st/4th Addlestone (St Pauls) Scout Group
Michael Wilson, Group President, 1st/4th Addlestone (St Pauls) Scout Group

Long Service

Michael Normington, Scout Leader, 1st Ottershaw Scout & Guide Group has been awarded his 25 Year Long Service award.

Runnymede Citizen of the Year

Ron Enticott, our District Chairman was awarded "Runnymede Citizen of the Year" by Runnymede Borough Council at a ceremony on Friday 5th December. A well deserved accolade for a great guy who does a huge amount of good in the community in Runnymede.

The District extends a hearty welcome to the following new leaders

Harriet Mahood, Assistant Scout Leader, 1st/4th Addlestone Scout Group
Louise Macdonald, Cub Scout Leader, 1st Chertsey Scout Group
Elaine Manley, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, 1st Egham Hythe Scout Group
Richard Smith, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 1st/4th Addlestone Scout Group
Mathew Mawson, Assistant Scout Leader, 5th Addlestone Scout Group
Shabeena Geere, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, 1st/4th Addlestone Scout Group
Steven Moore, Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Egham Hythe Scout Group
Philip Boast, Assistant Beaver Scout Leader, 1st Chertsey Scout Group

And a warm welcome back to

John Boreham and Abigail Baker

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The Royal British Legion would like to thank all the Leaders from Runnymede who turned out to sell Poppies at Sainsbury's and collected a total of £977.78.



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Lifeline for Scout & Guides in Thorpe

Scouts and Guides in Thorpe are free to build a new headquarters after a 20-year land dispute came to an amicable end.

Thorpe Youth Association has tried for many years to renovate the Group's dilapidated home in Ten Acre Lane but came up against opposition from aggregate company Ready Mixed Concrete that also claimed ownership of the site.

But now cement company CEMEX UK, which took control of Ready Mixed Concrete, has agreed to transfer ownership of the land to the associations' delighted trustees and bringing the two decade dispute to an end.



One of the trustees Elaine Gill, who is also a borough Councillor in the village, is delighted they can now get on and redevelop the headquarters, which has been on the site since 1966.

She said: "This news is really wonderful after so many years. My sons who attended 2nd Thorpe Scout Group are now 30 and 27, so to officially own this plot of land is so important to the whole community of Thorpe, but especially to the youth element."

CEMEX said the agreement was formed as 'part of its efforts to be a good neighbour' and it hoped it would help secure the future of a hut where Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts have been meeting for more than 40 years.

Director of properties, Simon Barratt, added: "The Scouts and Girl Guiding movements make a positive contribution to our community and we at CEMEX are pleased the future of the local Scout hut has now been secured.

"This means youngsters can continue to benefit from the activities that bring knowledge and enjoyment to so many people."

The Association now hopes its luck will continue and the community will pull together to help make the dream of new headquarters a reality by helping net about £50,000 to pay for the project.

Mrs. Gill added: "Now the real hard work begins to raise the money to build a new HQ. We have to start

from scratch, but hope that with the help of local companies, community grants, parents and children all pulling together, the impossible can be achieved."

Group Scout Leader, Stuart Rigden, said "The membership of the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers in Thorpe has nearly doubled in the last three years and our concern was the hut was no longer suitable. Now, with a lot of hard work, we can look forward to the future knowing that when built we will have a 21st century head quarters. £50,000 is a lot of money to raise but with the support of the local community and businesses I am sure we will raise the money in no time."

Stuart Rigden – Group Scout Leader, 2nd Thorpe Scout Group

Chief Scout's Gold Award

On Saturday 8th November, six Scouts from 1st Egham Hythe Scout Troop along with six Scouts from 2nd New Haw Scout Troop came to The Beacon School, Banstead to receive a very special award. The twelve scouts received the highest possible achievement in scouting, the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

This was the first such award for 1st Egham Hythe for nearly 40 years, and is testament to the Scouts and Leadership team of both Troops of their hard work and commitment to achieve this level of award.

The High Sheriff of Surrey, Mrs. Sally Varah along with the Surrey County Commissioner Richard Shortman presented the Scouts with their certificates in front of the 60 other Surrey Scouts and parents. The crowd congratulated Scouts with a well deserved round of applause.

To complete the award, the Scouts had to undertake various group challenges as well as individual projects and training. Some of the Scouts helped lead various camps and activities with different and sometimes challenging conditions, like lighting a fire with damp wood so that their patrol can cook breakfast!

The Scouts have achieved a high proficiency in all aspects of Scout craft:

- Camping & cooking (All Leaders are still alive).
- Take part in new adventures like climbing, canoeing and go-karting.
- Let loose on the hills in the Brecon Beacons.
- Taking part in District and County Events.
- Flag bearer at local, District and Country parades.

- Take part in local and national fundraising.
- Pioneering projects.
- All night fitness challenge.

The scouts who achieved the award from 1st Egham Hythe Scout Troop:

Tom M, Thomas M, Matthew H, Oliver S, Nathan W, and Daniel A.

The scouts who achieved the award from 2nd New Haw Scout Troop:

Jamie C, James P, James S, Sam B, Will F, and Ben J.



Richard Garland – Scout Leader, 1st Egham Hythe Scout Troop

2nd Thorpe Beaver Scouts - Monkey Challenge 2008

This is the second year that 2nd Thorpe Beavers have been involved in this Challenge and all monies raised go to Children with Leukaemia. On the 11th November, 21 Beavers took part in the Monkey Challenge. They had to run 26 laps around the Scout Hut (indoors!) which took approximately 20 minutes to complete. Each Beaver Scout got their own sponsors and managed to raise collectively £217.00. This was a fantastic achievement and they all gained a Monkey Challenge Certificate and Klipemon! Well done.

Sarah Kinnaird, Beaver Scout Leader, 2nd Thorpe Beaver Scout Colony

CSI Ottershaw

One dark night in November, the 1st Ottershaw (Otters) den became a designated crime scene. All 14 were initially accused of having mucky hands and grubby shoes during inspection – but the Leaders reserved the right to trump up additional charges at a later stage! A police scene of crimes officer (SOCO) was called in and the surrounding area was taped off using yellow crime scene tape. The Cubs were then ruthlessly finger - printed before they then

learnt how to lift their own fingerprints using a powder substance, a brush and tape.

The pack were then shown how footprints are lifted using an electromagnetic device and special film. In a hall of numerous foot prints, the SOCO still managed to get track down a rather suspicious looking Leader whose size 10s had been easy to spot.



There was also the opportunity to get dressed in white protective suits to stop contamination of evidence. The Cubs were told that being a forensic officer is interesting but not as glamorous as they make it out to be on television and getting results usually take weeks unlike on the television shows.

From a Leader's perspective, it was most enlightening! There were a couple of people who knew way too much about finger-printing and general crime issues. There is either too much time spent watching the suite of CSI's on television – or a quick short-list of candidates if the next batch of chocolates goes missing.

Mark Staunton – Assistant Cub Scout Leader – 1st Ottershaw (Otters) Cub Pack

Black Mountain hike

A fine Friday evening in May saw four Scouts, two Explorers and sundry Leaders and helpers set off for South Wales for a weekend hike. This was a considerably more adventurous expedition than the Troop had previously been able to organise and we looked forward to seeing how the boys would cope.

Their first challenge was an endurance event as minibus and car tacked their way in the gathering

continued:-

dark around (and around) rural Herefordshire in search of YHA Welsh Bicknor: a land where even sat navs fear to tread. In the event, local knowledge trumped technology and we found ourselves in a 5' wide minibus bouncing down a long, 5' 2" rutted track, complete with 180 degree turn, down to the hostel.

The fear this had aroused was nothing to the abject terror the boys felt as they discovered they were sharing the hostel with a group of 17 year old German girls down from London.

Morning. Breakfasted and pack lunches collected we set off for the solitude of the Welsh mountains. When we got there it could have been a Blackpool bank holiday. In what, a week previously, had been empty fields, we met army vans, mobile communications masts, ambulances and crowds in every configuration and colour of goretex. Yes, we had managed to coincide our wilderness walk with the Big Black Mountain Challenge Walk in aid of the local Mountain Rescue!

Our start was a little quieter and we climbed in relative peace to the top of the Offa's Dyke ridge above the village of Llanthony, just touching 600 metres. Once up high, the cloud closed in and we drifted in and out of ghostly groups of BBM walkers (900 in total) until our drop down point was reached; back to the valley and campsite. Tents set up; dinners cooked and games played till dark (and we thought they'd be tired).

With the BBM walkers gone it was a quieter valley in the morning. Our route was also quieter, up the ridge on the other side of the valley. For the first time we had decent weather and good views on both sides of the narrow ridge; to England on one side; to Pen Y Fan and the Brecons the other. Too soon, it was time to climb back down to the valley, find the minibus and come home.

What had we achieved? Distances and heights gained had been modest, but by the end one Scout managed to answer his own question "how do you climb hills"? One found that if you tie your shoelaces like you do for school you'll fall over on a steep hill. Another discovered how quickly you can go from hot to cold on top of a mountain. Small lessons, but all best learnt now and all the better remembered if they are 'self-discovered' rather than 'taught'. All the boys had goes at map reading and we learnt about what a couple of centimetres on a map feels like on the ground and how we knew when we were 'there'.

It was a successful, if modest, trip and one which gives me confidence to do more in the future.

Alan Wood – Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Virginia Water Scout Troop

District Scouts Night Hike

It was looking a bit miserable at 5pm when it was pouring with rain, but luckily it cleared up as we arrived at the 1st Egham Hythe Scout Group HQ for the District Night Hike.

Ron, our Leader, sorted out our teams and the dads that had volunteered to accompany us bribed each other to see which team they didn't have to walk with (some of us are better map readers than others!).

My team set off at our given time (7.10) and our first job was to set the map, find out exactly where we were and which direction we had to go. James sorted this out quickly and we were soon off the roads and negotiating puddles in an unlit track.

Our first major decision was whether to follow a muddy track or a ramshackle bridge. We chose the bridge which was slippery and full of broken wood, but nobody fell through and we continued on our way. We got a bit confused when we got to a field and were told to go to a corner - which corner? - but a check of the compass bearing soon sorted that out.

Soon, we came across a team that had got really lost and had set out ages before us. They were back on course but it meant that, at the next checkpoint, the marshalls held us back for five minutes to let them get ahead - we hoped it didn't affect our times for the competition. Matt and I did some more map reading and then we bumped into our Troop's other team coming the other way... we hadn't got halfway so we realised they were going faster than us. Never mind, hopefully they'd get lost!

After the next checkpoint we stroked some friendly horses and crossed the motorway bridge, then managed to turn the right way (2 years ago, one of our teams took an hour's diversion by going the wrong way at this point!). It was a pretty easy walk after this, helped by a steady supply of sweets from my dad, Dave, who had got the short straw and walked with us. Also, new boy Michael's brilliant map reading meant we stayed on track. At the last checkpoint, we saw the aftermath of a road accident, which the marshalls had witnessed and helped sort out. We thought the police and flashing lights were part of the hike at first!

Back to the HQ at 9.05pm for the biggest burgers in the world (thanks, whoever cooked them!), then home to show mum how muddy my clothes were - she was delighted." Well sort of". It was a great evening - thanks to everyone involved in making it happen!

Oliver W – Scout, 1st Englefield Green Scout Troop

JOTA 2008

1st Englefield Green Scout Troop took part in this year's JOTA and made contact with over 70 different stations over the weekend of 1st/2nd November.

Our call sign is GB4EGS

All had a great time. Our thanks go out to the volunteer Ham radio enthusiasts Kev, Nigel and Geoff without whom we could not have been a part of a great experience.

Scouts, Cubs and even Beavers spoke to other Scouts across the world. People from Texas, to Scotland and Asiatic Russia were part of our weekend.

Roll on next year when we hope to have a bigger antenna and reach Australia.

Yvonne Edwards – Group Scout Leader, 1st Englefield Green Scout Group

Cub Scouts Night Hike

Cub night hike was on the 7th November and had every Cub pack attending from the District starting and finishing from The Pelican pub, Addlestone. The night was enjoyed by Cubs, Leaders and parents, who either walked or stayed in the warmth of the pub.

A big thank you to Doreen for all her hard work prepping the walk and creating the map of instructions and the Fellowship for being our safety marshals on the night. Now the bit you really want to read; the times:-

Group	Start	Finish	Time
Ottershaw Foxes	5:25pm	7:13pm	1 H 48 Mins
2nd Thorpe	5:35pm	7:29pm	1 H 54 Mins
1st Chertsey Hunters	5:45pm	7:33pm	1 H 48 Mins
2nd New Haw	6:00pm	7:41pm	1 H 41 Mins
2nd New Haw	6:05pm	7:56pm	1 H 51 Mins
1st/4th Tigers	6:28pm	8:35pm	2 H 07 Mins
Ottershaw Otters	6:43pm	8:33pm	1 H 50 Mins
1st Egham Hythe	7:02pm	8:56pm	1 H 54 Mins
1st Chertsey Dons	7:15pm	8:48pm	1 H 33 Mins
1st Englefield Green	7:29pm	8:50pm	1 H 21 Mins
5th Addlestone	7:45pm	9:27pm	1 H 42 Mins
1st/4th Penny	7:54pm	9:29pm	1 H 23 Mins
1st Virginia Water	8:05pm	10:10pm	2 H 10 Mins

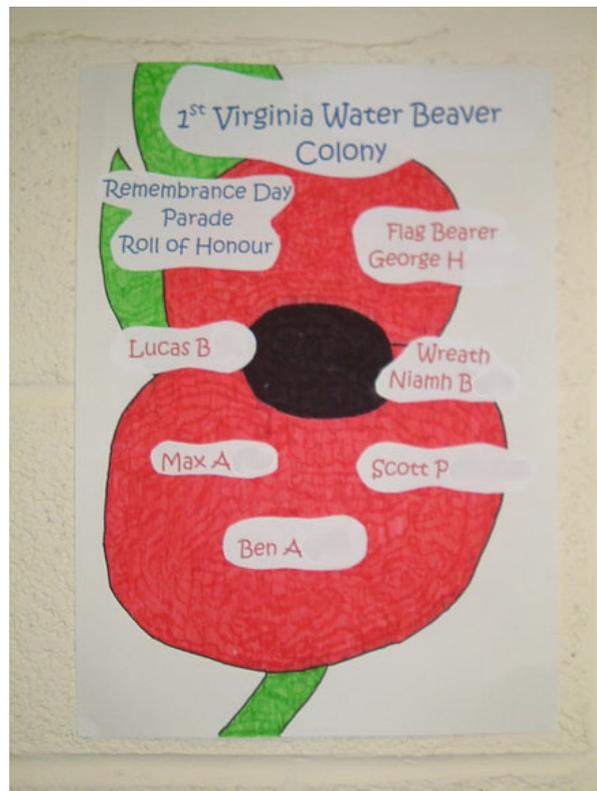
Congratulations to all the teams who completed the hike.

Steve Valiant – Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

Remembrance Day Parade

On Sunday November 9th 2008, 1st Virginia Water Scout Group came together to remember those service men and women who have fought in wars both past and present.

The following Beavers, George H, Niamh B, Ben A, Lucas B, Scott P and Max A joined the remainder of the group and The Royal British Legion, Virginia Water, to commemorate remembrance and ninety years since the end of the First World War.



George H carried the Beaver flag and represented the Colony; Niamh B laid a poppy wreath at the Virginia Water war memorial.

After the service the Beavers joined the group at The Royal British Legion, Virginia Water, for pop and crisps. We would like to thank the Legion for inviting us to join them for this extremely important service.

The roll of honour pictured above was designed to show the Beavers the significance of attending and participating in remembrance celebrations.

Katie Newell - Beaver Scout Leader, 1st Virginia Water Beaver Colony

Doing the Abbey Walk

No, not a new dance, 1st/4th Addlestone Tigers Cub Pack spent an evening in September walking around what is left of the site of Chertsey Abbey. One of the staff from the museum lead the walk and made what was already a very interesting session even more so by adding some anecdotes

about the life of the monks. One about the origin of the game of pooh sticks on the Abbey River was particularly well received by the Cubs – I'll let you decide to what she was referring! We returned to the museum after some Vikings had chased the monks across the Abbey Fields and we made copy of the 10th Century Viking Sword found in a gravel pit in Thorpe 25 years ago. All in all a great evening and we were very grateful to museum staff for their hard work.

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

Runnymede District Diary 2009

January 2009 (School term starts 5th)

Wed 7 th	ADC's Meeting
Fri 9 th to	Gilwell Frost Camp – Scouts
Sun 11 th	and Explorers
Mon 19 th	Fellowship meeting
Tue 20 th	Scout Leaders meeting
Mon 26 th	District Executive meeting
Sat 31 st	Cubs Big Splash

February (School half term 16th to Sun 20th)

Sat 7 th	Scouts Cooking Competition
Mon 9 th	Leader Training – Getting Started
Wed 11 th	Group Scout Leaders meeting
Sat 14 th	Beaver Badge Day
Sat 21 st	Leaders Event ?
Sun 22 nd	Cubs Cooking Competition
Sat 28 th	Scouts A to Z Challenge

March

Sun 1 st	First Response Course -Ext
Mon 2 nd	Fellowship meeting
Sat 7 th & Sun 8 th	County Explorer Night Challenge
Wed 11 th	Appointments Committee.
Sat 14 th	District Swimming Gala- TBC
Sat 28 th	Scouts Day Prowl

April (School Easter Holiday Sat 4th to Sun 19th)

Fri 3 rd to	Explorer Scouts – Michael
Sun 5 th	Patrick Challenge
Sun 5 th	Cubs Big Day Out
Sun 5 th	Beaver Rambleabout
Tue 21 st	Scouts Leaders meeting
Thr 23 th	St. Georges Day Parade Flag Rehearsal
Fri 24 th	Fellowship St. Georges Dinner – TBC
Sun 26 th	District St. Georges Day Parade and Service.

May (School Half Term 25th to 29th)

Mon 4 th	Ottershaw May Fair
Thr 7 th	Leader Training – Getting Started
Fri 8 th to Sun 10 th	Scout Standing Camp.
Sat 9 th	Cubs Football Competition
Sun 10 th	First Response course
Mon 11 th	District Executive meeting
Wed 13 th	Fellowship meeting
Sun 17 th	Michael Patrick Challenge (District Event)
Tue 19 th	ADC's / GSL's meeting
29 th /31 st	District Beaver Sleepover

June

Fri 5 th to Sun 7 th	Sixer & Seconders Camp
Wed 10 th	Appointments Committee
Sat 13 th	Beaver Scouts Bazzaz
Wed 17 th	District AGM

July (School Holiday Starts 22nd)

Fri 3 rd	Scouts Football Competition
Sat 4 th	Beaver Scouts Fun Day
Wed 8 th	GSL's meeting.
Sun 12 th	Cubs Summer Hike
Mon 20 th	District Executive meeting

August (School Summer Holidays)

Sun 2 nd	Leaders Teddy Bears Picnic
Fri 14 th to 23 rd or	K9 to Kanderstag
Fri 21 st to 30 th	

September (School term starts 2nd)

Mon 7 th	Fellowship meeting
Tue 8 th	Scout Leaders meeting
Wed 9 th	Appointments Committee
Wed 16 th	ADC's / GSL's meeting
Sat 19 th	First Response Course - Ext
Wed 23 rd	District Planning for 2010
Sat 26 th	Cub and Scouts Fishing Competitions
Mon 28 th	Leader Training – Getting Started

October (School half term 26th to 30th)

Fri 2 nd to Sun 5 th	Scouts Rats3 (or Interlink)
Fri 9 th to Mon 12 th	Fellowship weekend away
Sun 11 th	Cub Scouts Craft Competition
Mon 12 th	District Executive meeting

November

Mon 2 nd	Fellowship meeting
Wed 4 th	ADC's meeting
Sun 8 th or 15 th	District Remembrance Parade
Wed 11 th	Group Scout Leaders meeting
Sat 14 th	Cub Scouts Big Bang
Fri 20 th	Scout Night Hike
Mon 17 th	Group Scout Leaders meeting
Sun 22 nd	Beaver Scout Badge Day

December

Mon 7 th	Explorers Bowling Competition
Tue 8 th	Beavers & Cub Scouts Christingle Service
Wed 9 th	Appointments Committee
Fri 11 th	Fellowship Christmas Dinner – TBC