

Scouting in Runnymede

Scouts Swim to Victory

Scouts from all over Runnymede headed to the Xcel Pool in Walton-on-Thames for this year's District Swimming Gala. Despite entering a small team, 2nd New Haw were determined to at least equal their result in last year's gala - second place. On the day we had a small team, the majority of them under 12, so we were not very confident about achieving this.

As the teams assembled at the side of the pool we were even more doubtful – many of the teams were larger and looked like tough competition (especially 1st Virginia Water and 1st/4th Addlestone – the only Troop names on the cup). All too soon it was time for the first race and our first swimmer dived into the pool and a few minutes later reached the end of the pool and achieved our first 1st place of the night.



As the evening progressed things were looking more hopeful – we had a number of top three positions and we reckoned that we had achieved first place in the under 12s competition. By the time we had completed the final event it was difficult to tell how we had done. We waited anxiously for the result, damp but happy that we had swum our best. As the Deputy District Commissioner announced the results we were hopeful that we had equaled last year's result. It was then that we had a big surprise – we were the winners of the 2009 Runnymede District Scout Swimming Gala – a first for 2nd New Haw and a new Troop name to be engraved on the cup!

Scout final scores were as follows:-

- 1st place 2nd New Haw with 41 points
- 2nd place 1st Virginia Water with 26 points
- 3rd place 1st/4th Addlestone with 16 points

David Breakwell - Group Scout Leader, 2nd New Haw

It was also time for the Cub Scouts to contest their annual swimming event, which took place just prior to the Scouts, with 8 packs from the District attending a good time was had by all.

Cub final scores were as follows:-

- 1st place 1st Englefield Green with 43 points
- 2nd place 2nd New Haw Panthers with 38 points
- 3rd place 1st Virginia Water with 25 points.

Editor



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Treasury Notes

Many thanks to all those groups who got their annual capitation cheques in on time. Full marks to 1st Virginia Water who let me have a post-dated cheque at least a month ahead of the deadline: perhaps we could encourage other groups to do the same next year and avoid the last minute rush.

The County Treasurer has circulated to Group administrators revised requirements for annual reports; a copy of his guidance note and other useful information has been posted on the District's website under District Team/Treasurer. If any Group needs help in preparing their annual report and accounts, please contact me.

Runnymede Borough Council has advised us that there will be grant aid available to Scouting in Runnymede totalling £1,500 during the current financial year. Requests for grants should be sent to me by post or email by 30th June to enable the District Executive Committee to consider the bids at its July meeting. RBC are now applying a matched funding requirement.

Richard Mason-District Treasurer

Keeping Children Safe

Richard Shortman, our County Commissioner is asking that all Districts in Surrey take steps to improve awareness of Child Protection issues amongst our Leaders.

I know that many of you have already completed the NSPCC 'Keeping Children Safe' programme, and that more of our Leaders have commenced this important piece of training.

Tricia Griffin has offered to hold training/refresher sessions on Child Protection here in Runnymede (which saves our travelling time) for us on:

Thursday 21st May and Wednesday 14th October

The scope of the training will be: This is CP refresher training is aimed at **supporting and protecting** adults in Scouting, as well as safeguarding the youngsters, and is a regular activity in every District.

Like First Aid, it is constantly being **changed** and **updated** to educate people as to the requirements of the Children's Act and 'Every Child Matters', etc (i.e. what was acceptable practice many years ago is not necessarily acceptable nowadays and many long serving Scouters have fallen foul of CP policy guidelines inadvertently by not keeping up with modern 'Good Practice'.) I'm sure that some of us may benefit from training of this nature - I know that I

would as the last CP training I received was some time ago. Hopefully none of us are thinking 'it could never happen to me!' as unfortunately, some have found out to their cost that this is not always so!

The evening will cover such matters as -- 'Young People First', policy for adults and Young Leaders - adult responsibilities and reporting procedures - what is child abuse? - recognising signs of abuse - bullying - dealing with challenging behaviour - photographing and using images of young people on websites - Scouting Safe Practice scenarios - Physical Contact guidelines - 'Keeping Children Safe' (distance learning training) - alcohol in Scouting - Self Harm - helping young people to stay safe on the internet, etc, etc.

Needless to say I'll be keen that as many Leaders as possible take advantage of the three dates. I'm hoping that we'll be able to run further events on an annual basis - perhaps one a year that could be included in our 'District Diary'.

Please would you contact Penny Lypany or myself if you have any questions, or to book a slot - we need to know numbers so as to ensure that sufficient support materials are available.

As ever, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

James Nash- District Commissioner

Water Safety - the indoor version!



Now, how do you cover water safety and rescue on a dark, cold evening in March?

Well, to use a phrase that somebody should use as a motto 'you do your best' and improvise!

So, with the help of a couple of blue sleeping bags, some ropes, clothes out of the jumble and a canoe found lurking in the bushes out in the field (it's true) you have the components to try out the life saving techniques without getting wet and slightly less dangerous maybe!

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

District Explorer Camp Bentley Copse

Having selected the dates for a weekend District Camp in early autumn last year the subject of the weather is always subject to speculation if not trepidation as the event draws closer! So it was a joy on the first Friday in April to arrive at Bentley Copse in the early evening to warm sunshine.

With tents pitched all three Units were gathered by 9 p.m. for some hot food and drinks. An outline of the weekend was given by the Leaders followed by an engaging game involving everyone, led by James Moore. Having tested our mental stamina we all turned in by midnight, just.

Saturday commenced with a light drizzle but did not deter the pedal karting which included a self styled 'safety vehicle'. The rain stopped in time for a break then archery and air rifle shooting for the rest of the morning.

The afternoon was warm and ideal for the Pioneering Challenge to construct a platform capable of holding all members of each team. The highest and most stable would be the winner.

Both teams showed ingenuity and those knotting skills came flooding back and put to good use. By tea time both towers had been erected, with the winning team being only a few centimeters ahead (inches in old money) of the runners up.



What goes up must come down, so the towers were dismantled and returned to the store without the need to exercise any first aid skills.

It was now time to get the fires started. Firewood was gathered and lit for the evening's cooking competition. For this there was a team from each Unit. Despite the wonderful aroma wafting in the air the leaders played it safe and had a Thai curry on the go and out of sight, just in case!

The competition was judged by our District Commissioner, James Nash, his wife, their daughter (who is an Explorer herself) and the warden's wife.

A notable remark by a judge was that none of the food smelt of wood smoke which was deemed to be an achievement in its own right! The main meals were Salmon (Endeavour), Spaghetti Bolognese (Intrepid) and Kebabs (Phoenix).

The food must have been good as there was great deliberation by the judges before deciding that Phoenix had won followed by Intrepid and then Endeavour.

Well done to all those budding chefs amongst you. It was a very good effort.

After breakfast on Sunday the Explorers were taken to Holmbury St. Mary from where each group had to return to Bentley on foot in a different direction but achieved their cunning plan of meeting at Peaslake to return to the site together. This gave the leaders at least two hours peace and quiet before the walkers returned for lunch.

At the closing ceremony Friedemann Shack and Ryan Simpson were invested and welcomed into Endeavour by their leader, James Moore.

And finally a big thanks to Dave Breakwell for his superb culinary role in the kitchen over the weekend.

Malcolm McGahan – Explorer Scout Leader, Intrepid Explorer Scout Unit

Congratulations

The District would like to congratulate the following on gaining an award.

Award of Merit

David Breakwell – Group Scout Leader, 2nd New Haw

Chief Scout's Commendation

James Moore – Explorer Scout Leader,
Endeavour Explorer Scout Unit
Michael Battyll – Group Scout Leader, 1st New Haw
Dan Bisacre – Cub Scout Leader, 2nd New Haw
Steve Livesley – Beaver Scout Leader, 1st/4th
Addlestone

Chief Scout's Gold Award

Rebekah K

Fellowship Fun

Apart from helping out at various events in the district the Scout Fellowship has had two social events since the beginning of the year.

On Friday 20th March we had a kittles evening at "The Surrey Cricketers" in Windlesham. With plenty of food during the break, and closely contested games of Skittles, John Forster was the eventual individual winner.



John receiving certificate from Andy Sainsbury-Brown.

Our next event was St Georges Dinner on Thursday 23rd April at "The Union Inn" Old Windsor, with 21 in attendance it was a very pleasant evening, with good food, good wine and good company.

We now look forward to fundraising at the Ottershaw May Fayre on 4th May.

Editor

Runnymede District Diary 2009

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 29 th /31 st	ADC's / GSL's meeting 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

Copy date for next issue
20th June 2009
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