

Scouting in Runnymede

100 Years of Scouting In Runnymede

2009 is the centenary year for 1st Chertsey Scout Group and to start the celebrations, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and parents joined forces on Saturday 18th April for a sponsored trek cart pull. The sun shone all day as everyone took part pulling the trek cart a symbolic 100 laps of Abbey Fields, Chertsey, which totalled 26.25 miles. A Marathon!



Local 90s chart topping celebrity Chesney Hawkes, whose son is a Beaver Scout, supported the day and even held the lap record until the adult leaders of Chertsey Scout Group took their turn. Group Scout Leader David Moore was impressed with the effort put in by everyone involved: "Today was a great success and it shows how important Scouting is to the local community. We had quite a few people come past and donate money, the children have done a great job raising money for charity. The money is being donated to, Sam Beare Hospice Weybridge, Surrey Air Ambulance & Compassionate friends Charities.

David Moore – Group Scout Leader, 1st Chertsey Scout Group.

Congratulations to the Following

Gareth Jenkins Cub Leader from 1st/4th Addlestone Scout Group on being awarded The Chief Scout's Commendation.

and to

Harry R and Daniel A from 1st Egham Hythe Scout Group

Tom W, Andrew S, Ben C, Jack P and Luke H all from 2nd New Haw Scout Group on being awarded their Chief Scout's Gold Award.

New District President

The former Mayor of Runnymede, Councillor Jim Broadhead was appointed at the District AGM. And we look forward to seeing him at District events.



The Bi-Monthly District Newsletter
Issue 151
July/August 2009



Exchange to Senegal

The following article was presented by Bex K at the District AGM after gaining her Global Challenge Award in Senegal. (Ed)

On the 28th of May, I started my week long trip to Senegal. I had been thinking about the whole experience even before I had begun my adventure. Will I be able to cope in the temperatures? Will I be able to understand the local citizens? I had many questions running through my head but little did I know that I was in for a great adventure.

My trip was organized by my school, Bishop Wand Church of England School. However this trip wasn't a holiday, we were purely sent out there by the British Council to make a difference to the children in N'gor, a small village in Senegal. We experienced many different things whilst we were out there. We being, 9 teenage girls, two teachers and myself.



On the first day, I went to visit the local school and the local nursery. There were hundreds of children in cramped hot classrooms who were all eager to learn. All they had were battered exercise books and broken pencils but they seemed really happy all the same. When I entered the nursery, all the young children were fascinated to see a camera and all wanted to have their photo taken. They sang French nursery rhymes and we taught them the English alphabet.

On the second day, we were given a tour around the small village of N'gor by a man called Babacer. He showed us local youth places that had been set up so we could see where youths spent their free time. It was usually playing football on a dirty pitch or swimming in the sea for them. We also entered a hospital which I found very overwhelming and I realised how far £2 really does go when you donate it to a poor undeveloped country.

On the third day, we spent the first half organising a football tournament for the local children which was very tiring as it all had to be in French. Then for a relaxing afternoon, we visited a small island and had a picnic on a beach until we were stampeded by about a hundred young children who were really excited to see foreign people on their island.

As a treat for helping the local citizens in Senegal, we went on a Safari which was incredible. I had never done anything so amazing before. We saw giraffes, zebras, buffalos, rhinos, giant tortoises, alligators, monkeys and warthogs right up close. It was a great experience.

On our last day, we held a football tournament on a beach for the local school children. They loved it. They played football for about 4 hours nonstop in the unbearable heat of the sun. Then we all had a dip in the sea

On Tuesday 2nd June, I had lunch with the Mayor of Senegal. It was just unbelievable. It would be ever so rare to have lunch with a Mayor in Britain but we were invited into the Mayor's house and we ate lunch which was a traditional Senegalese speciality. Three huge platters of fish with different vegetables and tomato rice came out and we sat down crossed-legged on the floor to eat. But I realised I couldn't eat the meal because I'm allergic to tomatoes, so I very politely, in French, asked the Mayor's wife if she could make me something else which luckily, she did.

Rebekah K - Patrol Leader, 2nd Thorpe Scouts

Have you visited Chertsey Museum yet?

You'll have seen from previous editions of Scouting in Runnymede that visits to Chertsey Museum are proving a hit. 2nd Thorpe Scout Troop is the latest to visit on the Murder Mystery evening in May. Not only did they solve the murder but they also took the opportunity to invest a new Scout in the Museum. I'm reliably informed by the Curators that they would be willing to stage another murder mystery for other groups, if asked.

The charge would be £20 per group (visit) to cover the cost of refreshments (biscuits and squash) and a bit towards their time for opening late. They continue to be willing to help with the Cubs Scout local knowledge badge and Scout heritage badge. So with the nights drawing in (we are after all now beyond the summer solstice) what are you waiting for? Contact Emma Warren, Chertsey Museum's Curator, on 01932 575730 or email her at emma.warren@runnymede.gov.uk

***Richard Mason, District Treasurer
(And Treasurer of the Friends of Chertsey Museum)***

Chertsey Shield Camp

We arrived at the camp site on the Friday evening. We were a bit disorganised as we'd never done this sort of camp before. The two Patrols, each of four Scouts, from the 1st Englefield Green Scout Group, were more used to using small three-person tents or building our own shelters, so putting up big Patrol tents was a big challenge.

We managed to get the tents up, in the right position and the right way up, before darkness came. We also managed to get the dining shelters up which were a lot easier after the Patrol tents.

A burger replaced some of our used-up energy and we eventually went to bed.

The next morning, we had to get the fire going for breakfast. Again, we normally use gas stoves at camp so organizing this was a big challenge. My patrol members – Finn, James and Matt – were really good at doing whatever jobs were needed and I didn't need to persuade them to do anything they didn't want to do.

The District Leaders who inspected our efforts were really kind and pointed out lots of things we needed to do to make our camp better. We acted on everything we were told and learnt heaps from their experience. We felt a bit like the acts on Britain's Got Talent – if an experienced judge suggests you change how you do things and you ignore them, you've only yourself to blame if you don't succeed at the end!

The District organised lots of great training activities for us. We all loved these and the skills we learned were really useful – since our Scout Leader left, we've not had the benefit of experienced Scouters teaching us Scouting skills like axemanship etc.

On the Saturday we did a whole range of activities including crab football and a hygiene base - we learnt all about the importance of washing and dealing with food hygienically. We had a great wide game on the Saturday night after our evening meal. I experimented with a fruity flan which went down really well and which was so huge we could share it with our other Patrol.

It wasn't all plain sailing though - one of my Patrol, Finn, was unwell on the Saturday afternoon and had to be taken home, hopefully to return on the Sunday morning (he couldn't though!). On the Sunday morning, another of my Patrol, Matt, went down with a bug and had to go home too, leaving me with just two in my Patrol and lots of work still to do. The Leaders agreed that we could merge our two Patrols for the last few hours and this worked really well. Toby, Will, Toby and Kieran joined James and I to finish the weekend off in style.

We were so surprised when, at the end, we were told that we had won the shield! We probably weren't the best campers there by a long stretch but

had apparently improved the most over the weekend. Well, since we were pretty green and inexperienced at the start (and we didn't actually know the weekend was a competition until we arrived!), I guess we could only get better!



My Patrol and I would like to thank the Leaders and parents who helped us survive the weekend, and helped sort out our transport and the equipment, and the District team for giving us the opportunity to have such a great weekend. The only problem is that the shield is too big for me to carry on my bike... And our Group Scout Leader says we need to build an extension at the hall to keep it in!

***Oliver W (13) Patrol Leader – Wolf Patrol
1st Englefield Green Scout Group
(That's me in the cap, to the left of the shield)***

CUB SCOUTS 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

10 teams took part in the Cubs 7-a-side football competition held on Friday evening 8th May at Egham Sports Centre. Each team played 6 matches and 1st Englefield Green, 1st/4th Addlestone (Tigers), 1st Ottershaw Foxes and 1st Virginia Water made it to the semi-final with 1st Englefield Green and 1st Virginia Water making it to the final. Englefield Green beat Virginia Water 3 – 0 in a keenly fought match. The hard working referees were Mike Lacey and Mark Staunton.

Continued:-



The Englefield Green team consisted of:

Alex B, Ryan C, Daniel D, Archie H, John H, Alex K, Joe P, Harry R, Harry R and Ben S.

The Michael Patrick Challenge

The second Michael Patrick Challenge was held on Sunday 17th May at 1st/4th Addlestone HQ, and despite the attempt by the weather to spoil it, it was a great success, with 9 Groups entering mixed teams of Beaver, Cubs and Scouts. The activities ranged from map reading skills, tent pitching, fire lighting to cooking and games. The Mayor, suitably attired in anorak and gold chain spent several hours touring the event.

The parents of Michael also attended and presented the trophy to the event winners, who were 1st Englefield Green with 648 points, chased by 1st/4th Addlestone with 620 and 1st Egham Hythe with 617.

Let's hope next year's event is as much fun!

Editor.

Runnymede District Diary 2009

July (School Holiday Starts 22nd)

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

August (School Summer Holidays)

Fri 14th to 23rd
or
Fri 21st to 30th K9 to Kanderstag

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 - Sun 5 th	Scouts Rats3 Camp
Fri 9 th - 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
11th September 2009
Email chris.couzens@ntlworld.com