

# Scouting in Runnymede

## From Our District Chairman

Runnymede Scouts were privileged to be one of the nominated charities of the Mayor of Runnymede for the year 2009/10. At a recent gathering the former Mayor Cllr. Paul Tuley presented a cheque to George Kerr, John Neale and myself representing the Scouts. The cheque was for £6250. This is a very welcome donation into our district funds.



From left to right John Neale, George Kerr, Ron Enticott and Cllr Paul Tuley.

A number of you supported Paul in his Mayoral year and I would like to thank all those who in any way contributed as presenters, car park attendants or attenders at one of the charity functions. I think that we have done well and raised the profile of Scouting in Runnymede.

I would also like to take this opportunity of saying a big thank you to James for his four years as our District Commissioner, during which time our numbers have increased. Thank you also to Alison for her support and understanding. The role of DC is a difficult one being a mediator, PR person, administrator, recruitment officer and guiding hand. We will not always agree with the DC's decisions but I hope we will always give our support even though we may not agree with a particular course of action. Congratulations to Andy affectionately known as ASBO and we wish him well with his new role. How long it will last I do not know as I heard something recently about the government doing away with ASBOs!

The District would like to send their best wishes to Julie, Andy's partner and Scout Shop helper who has recently had a major operation and is slowly recovering.

Enjoy your scouting

**Ron Enticott - District Chairman**



**The Bi-Monthly District  
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## Andy's Notes

I hope by the time you receive our newsletter that you have all had a good break from Scouting and for those that managed to get away had good camps (hopefully dry). Since taking over the hot seat from James it has certainly been a busy time, but I must say I am amazed at both the quality and enthusiasm of our Leaders in Runnymede. I would like to thank you all for this.

As we start the new term, I would like to reiterate that we must enjoy what we do as leaders for that will also translate to the young people in our care. During the coming year I would like to promote our theme "Fun and Friends" to all our members. Please also remember that our parents are our best source of new leaders so please include them where ever possible in your meeting programmes, camps etc. for we need to increase adult recruitment as much as possible if we are to maintain our growth in Runnymede.

Through this newsletter I would like to publicly congratulate Kevin Coombs and Steve Barrett-Jolley of 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Addlestone on their recently announced Chief Scout's Commendation Awards and also to congratulate 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Addlestone on reaching their centenary. I would also like to thank all those who nominated me for the role of District Commissioner and hope I can live up to your expectations in the coming years.

Yours in Scouting  
*Andy Sainsbury-Brown, DC.*

## Congratulations

To Jade T of 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Addlestone and Shellby T of 5<sup>th</sup> Addlestone on gaining their Chief Scout's Silver Award.

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Neil Kelly, ex Cub Scout Leader at Virginia Water, Mike Aldridge, ex Group Scout Leader at 3<sup>rd</sup> Addlestone and Syd Parslow who has been a long standing supporter at Chertsey.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Egham Hythe Scout night hike

Our Scout Leader, who also happens to be my Dad, had a mad idea to raise funds for our summer camp by doing a 25mile all-night Hike from Kew Bridge along the Thames Path back to our Scout HQ in Egham Hythe. At 5:30 p.m. 20 Scouts met up at Egham railway station with seven Leaders and a minibus. At the start the Scouts and Leaders were split up in to two groups (older and younger Scouts) which both had ten Scouts and three Leaders in each, plus a leader for the mini bus. The older group which I was part of caught a train to Kew Bridge where we started our hike. The older group walked the five kilometres to Richmond by the River Thames where we met up with the younger Scout group and stated to walk as one big group towards Kingston.

At first we were all fine and thought that we could walk the whole 25 miles, but that all started to change over the next 10 kilometres.



Five kilometres from Richmond we had our next checkpoint and we all took a break for 15 minutes. Next we started to walk a very long leg of seven kilometres to Hampton Court with only a small break at Kingston Bridge. After crossing Kingston Bridge we entered Hampton Wick at about 10.00 p.m. and it was getting dark and before we got to the next check point we had to walk passed Hampton court in complete darkness and this gave us all the creeps. During this leg unfortunately nine Scouts including myself were getting tired and our feet really started to hurt so at the next check point us nine got on the minibus. The minibus was used for picking Scouts up that needed to have a break and took them to the next checkpoint and waited there for the rest of the Scout group. I got on the first minibus because my feet started to hurt and I needed a rest. But I was determined to finish the rest of the hike. When we got to the minibus it was about 12:00 midnight and it was very dark. At 2 a.m. the Scouts walking arrived at the next check point just a few kilometres before Sunbury. Several other Scouts and I got out the mini bus and rejoined them. After walking another 3 kilometres my feet started to hurt again but this time I kept on going. Now it was very dark and I needed to put my head torch on. It was another mile and a half to the next checkpoint where the minibus was waiting. After we got there 12 Scouts got a ride back to the Scout HQ and we were left with eight Scouts walking but one more dropped off at the next checkpoint. At this checkpoint it was coming up to 3am and we were all offered a ride back to the HQ but we were all determined to complete it. By 4am the sun was rising in the morning and my feet were killing me and I was very tired as I only got about 20 minutes sleep. But now I could see Staines Bridge which was the end of the hike and I felt so relieved but it was still another good half an hour before I got to the minibus but when I did I felt so good that I did it and I walked 22 miles out of the whole 25 miles. When I got back to the Scout HQ at 5:30am all the rest of the Scouts were on the floor asleep so I joined them and I slept for an hour and forty five minutes until 7:15 and then my mum came and picked me up and I went home. Overall I enjoyed the hike and couldn't believe how far 25 miles is and I would definitely do it again.

*Isaac B, Scout, Aged 12, 1<sup>st</sup> Egham Hythe*

## The Not so Good and the Good

1. All of 1<sup>st</sup> Englefield Green Scout Group and especially the Beaver parents are going to miss their Beaver Leader, Greg Nicholls who at the end of June, sadly left the group. Greg has been Beaver Leader at 1<sup>st</sup> Englefield Green from September 2008 and we thank him for all he has done for the Beaver Colony during his time with us. Greg helped us make a walk-the-plank activity for the Beaver fun day in 2008 and much more. He will be sorely missed.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> Englefield Green Scout Group were fortunate to receive a cheque from Waitrose supermarket in Staines this month. This was part of their contribution to various groups within the community and we were fortunate to have been recommended by my mum, Mrs Joan Hunt who sadly died last year, but who was a regular shopper in that supermarket. We are going to put the money towards play equipment for the whole group and new axes and bow saws so that we can teach young people the correct use of such implements. In her time, Joan Hunt was a Brown Owl and a Guide leader and someone willing to lend a helping-hand where she could.

**Yvonne Edwards – Group Scout Leader.**

## 1st Egham Hythe Summer Camp

1st Egham Hythe Scouts have just returned from their annual Scout Summer Camp. 20 Scouts and 7 Leaders from the Egham Hythe spent 7 nights under canvas in Ashdown Forest in East Sussex. The Scouts had to cook all their meals on open fires in the traditional scouting way and forage and prepare all the wood needed for the fires. Whilst at camp they also had fun in raft building, walking on a high-wire rope course and the use of a climbing wall.



The picture shows them after having a sea swimming session on the beach in Eastbourne. The Scouts would like to thank Mr Mick Wells

of Gemimi Cars Egham for his continued support of their Summer Camp.

**Steve Turner - Group Scout Leader**

## The Vikings may have thought twice!

*"Chertsey Abbey was raided and sacked by the Vikings during the 9<sup>th</sup> Century, the Abbot Beocca and about 90 of the priests being killed in the various raids."*

This is what the history books tell us, but I think the Vikings may have carried on up the river if they had been confronted by this lot or even just decided to call the whole thing off and head home!

Cubs from 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Addlestone Tigers Cub Pack visited Chertsey Museum and as always we were well looked after by the staff. The basis of the evening was a walk around the Abbey Fields to see what is left of the Abbey and its surrounds – very little actually! But there are tell tale signs, the fish ponds, The Abbey River, drainage ditches and the odd bit of masonry – you have just got to know where to look. We made a Viking sword and they were then used to re-enact the monks being chased across the fields – but this time avoiding (if possible) the messy bit when they were hacked down by the rampaging Norsemen.

It was a lovely evening and luckily the monks chosen were pretty fast runners and survived the chase. I can imagine that if Noggin the Nog had returned at that point a quick discussion would have led to them beating a hasty retreat back down the Thames to safety as these new age monks looked just a bit too scary to take on!



A lone monk being chased across the Abbey Fields by some sword-wielding Vikings.

**Gareth Jenkins – Cub Scout Leader, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Addlestone (Tigers)**

## The Big Balsam Pull

Thanks to all that helped on the 14<sup>th</sup> July at Bourne Copse, where we tried to clear the woodland of "Himalayan Balsam". We may have been few, but we did the work of many.



**Steve Valiant- Assistant District Commissioner  
(Cub Scouts)**

## County AGM

It is the turn of Runnymede to host this year's County Scout AGM On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Magna Carta School in Egham. Egham Hythe Group will be looking after car parking and the Fellowship will be catering. All other members are welcome to attend.

## Fellowship Weekend Away

This year we are having a change and instead of caravanning, we are going half board at a hotel "The Albion" at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October. If you wish to join us please make a booking direct with the hotel, adding that you are with the Runnymede Scout Fellowship, and if you pay on booking you get a free return ferry crossing - call 01983 755755.

If you require any more details please contact George Kerr on 01932 566182.

## Change of Name

By the end of the year you will see a change in the Scout Fellowship, and with our new Burgundy Polo shirts we will be called "Runnymede Fellowship Active Support Team", same meat, different gravy, so look out for us at events.

## Runnymede District Diary

### September ( School Starts Thursday 2nd)

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Meeting
Thr 9 <sup>th</sup>	ADC's/GSL's meeting
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Cubs Sixer and Seconder Camp
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	County AGM at Magna Carta School, Egham
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Cub Scouts Fishing
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	First Response (Extended) Training
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	Getting Started - Training

### October (School half term 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Oct)

Date TBC	Scout Night Hike
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	Beaver Badge Day
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Weekend away
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	District Planning meeting
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Cubs Night Hike
??	Patrol Leaders Training
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chief Scouts Gold Award Presentation
Thr 28 <sup>th</sup>	District Executive meeting

### November

Date TBC	Scout Shooting
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship meeting
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	Cubs Craft Competition

### December (school Term Ends 18<sup>th</sup> Dec)

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Cubs Christingle Service
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Christmas Dinner
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Explorer Christmas party

### A Date for next year- make a note

Runnymede District will be holding it's St Georges Day parade and service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011