

Scouting in Runnymede

Andy's Notes

Sitting here thinking of what to say in the latest edition of Scouting in Runnymede, is very difficult with so much going on, to get over in so few sentences, what a fantastic District we have. Having attended meetings with leaders from other Districts it is clear we do more and achieve more than many other Districts thanks to you the Leaders. In the past few months it has been a pleasure to attend both Cub and Beaver Christingles plus to visit a few groups to see Scouting in Runnymede in action and hopefully I will be able to get around the rest of the groups in the coming months.

In looking at our packed diary for 2011 it is understandable why we currently have a lot of young people wanting to join us. To that end as I promised in our last newsletter, we have held our inaugural Network meeting under the leadership of Louise MacDonald who has an exciting programme ready for 2011 plus nine new members signed up already. I am looking forward to hearing about our Beavers who celebrate their 25th Anniversary in 2011, also under David Breakwell's leadership our Phoenix Explorer Unit is off to Slovenia skiing in 2011, the Scout section is looking forward to Scoutabout and the Cubs have a busy time of District activities in the coming months. What can I say?

We now have a District development plan in place which will give us a set of goals to achieve hopefully making Runnymede an even better District than it already is (If you want to know more ask your Group Scout Leader).

Have an enjoyable and fun 2011.

Yours in Scouting

Andy Sainsbury-Brown - District Commissioner

Congratulations

The district would like to congratulate the following on gaining their service awards.

Ron Enticott – District Chairman - 20 years
Nick Reeves – Scout Leader, 1st Virginia Water - 15 years
Don Neighbour – Treasurer, 1st Egham Hythe - 10 years
Clive Catherall – Assistant Explorer Scout Leader, Endeavour ESU - 10 years
Michael Patton – Former Assistant Scout Leader, 1st Englefield Green - 5 years
Lynn Alden – Assistant Group Scout Leader, 1st Ottershaw - 5 years.

Thanks

Many thanks to the team of Scouters from 1st Egham Hythe who bravely came out in sub-zero temperatures to carry out car parking duties at this year's Mayor's Civic Reception at Great Fosters. Our Mayor Cllr. Margaret Roberts has asked that her thanks be passed on and we also got several compliments from other guests.

No doubt you will read elsewhere that the District may soon have Network Scouts so a big thank-you from me to Louise MacDonald for setting this up. This is good news.

Ron Enticott - District Chairman



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Snowdonia weekend 29-31 Oct 2010

We set off from 1st/4th Addlestone Scout HQ at roughly 6:30 on the Friday night, for a long drive to Bethesda, Gwynedd in North Wales, just outside the boundary of Snowdonia National Park. After five and a half hours drive we reached the expedition base; this is owned by the Greater London South West District Scouts. It was a former chapel, which has since been converted into a centre for the Scouts to stay at while on expeditions in the local area. Inside there are good facilities, including bedrooms, bathrooms, a large kitchen and a wide open space for activities. Once we arrived at the base, we went to sleep to get some rest for the long day ahead of us.

The next day we were woken up around half seven by the sound of the cooks' **folk music!** We had a nice cooked breakfast, before packing our equipment ready to walk up the mountain. We left the base at about 9:30a.m. We arrived at a place called Idwall Cottage, a small cluster of buildings and a café, in the heart of the Nant Ffrancon Valley, a valley located one mountain away from Mount Snowdon.

We set off on our hike up the mountain towards Carnedd Dafydd. In doing so, we experienced a lot of scrambling. The ascent was uphill all the way. It took us around two hours to reach the top of the mountain, by which time it had clouded over and we could not see more than 30 metres away. We walked along the ridge towards a cairn on the other side of the ridge; this was the highest point we got to (978m). During that time, we experienced one of the best hailstorms ever. With hail stones as large as BB gun pellets, it was what I call breathtaking. The storm lasted for around 15 minutes, making the ground look like it had been snowed on.



Once we had finished our break at the top, we started our descent down a very steep back wall, towards a small corrie lake, on the other side of the mountain. The descent consisted of a very hard downhill trek, which resulted in all of us slipping over at least twice. Josh decided to show off and slip over more than the others, which resulted in him becoming **very** dirty! As

we reached the bottom of the mountain, we walked along a ribbon lake back towards the start point, where we eventually got a lift back to base. Once we got back, we had a shower, then dinner and relaxed the rest of the evening.

On Sunday morning we were awakened by yet more folk music, so no chance of a lie in or tea in bed! We had another good cooked breakfast to set us up for the day. We then set off to do some rock climbing on the Isle of Anglesey. We had access to a climbing wall that is owned and run by the Ministry of Defence; therefore it is not open to the public. After a few minutes of warm ups, we had some practice climbing on the walls without harnesses, then going onto doing the walls with harnesses, as well as the abseiling wall. After a couple of hours of fun, we left back to base, where we had lunch and packed up our stuff. We had our final talk and our picture taken, and then we left the base at around 2.30p.m., for a long six hour journey back down the A5 London to Holyhead road. It was a beautiful journey back, as the sun was shining and the views were spectacular. We stopped off at Warwick service station, to get some food, and then continued our last leg of the journey. We arrived home at roughly 8 o'clock, all tired. Time for some sleep was the last word from me!

Alex G - Explorer Scout, Intrepid ESU & Young Leader, 5th Addlestone

Beaver Banter

Yet another great attendance for the District Beaver Badge Day held in October. 79 Beavers enjoyed completing the Global Challenge. They had to go from country to country completing the tasks on their way, from China to New Zealand, from Italy to West Africa, many countries were offered. Huge thanks goes to all of the Beaver Leaders for their great organisation and imagination.

To finish 2010 our District Beaver Scout Christingle service was a great success. This year we had over 50 Beavers involved in the lively service. We even had a surprise visit from the mischievous Larry and Harry! Amazingly they did behave! We managed to raise just over £50 for the Childrens Society which is great news. Thank you to all who attended.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone Best Wishes for 2011.

Sarah Kinnaird – ADC Beaver Scouts

Success story

This sounds like an episode of Casualty, but it is actually the recent medical history of Oscar, a member of 1st/4th Addlestone (Tigers) Cub Pack.

Oscar had a brain hemorrhage 23rd September 2007 whilst he was still a Beaver. He lost the movement in his right arm and leg. The cause of the brain hemorrhage was a brain tumor (pilocytic astrocytoma). Oscar slowly recovered and learnt to walk again and returned to school after 6 months. He is left with right sided hemiplegia and speech and language difficulties. He joined cubs in autumn 2008. In January 2009 his tumor had grown bigger and they decided he needed steroids and radiotherapy which started Feb 2009 for 6 weeks. He was off school for 6 months again. In May 2010 he was scanned and the tumor has showed to be 50% reduced. His last scan showed it to still be stable.

A pretty traumatic time for anybody, but has it effected Oscar? Not on your life! When he first joined us in Tigers we were very worried about him and one of his parents always stayed to keep an eye on him. In the last two years he has represented us at the district 7-a-side football, been to all the camps, taken part in hikes and most games – in other words acted like any other Cub.

We have had some success stories over the years but Oscar is a real example for children everywhere. He has just left Cubs this month and it seems his life is on a real upwards curve –



Oscar building a Bivouac at sixers and seconds camp in September – it was very good.

Just to update you on Oscar who has just had one of the best weeks. He got a head teacher's award for his maths test. He got a 400m badge at swimming. He scored a goal for his team on Friday and assisted the winning goal. Last night he had a splint appointment and he has improved so much he is able to wear a far less

cumbersome one which is much softer and less noticeable. It's like Christmas has come early.

He has had a great time at cubs. It really has given him the opportunity and confidence to be more independent. He has made some great friends too. Thank you all for all your time, understanding and effort in including him for the last 2 years. You all do such a great job, we have been very lucky as a family to have found your Cub pack.

We all work hard to make sure all the Cubs have a rewarding 3 years, but just occasionally somebody like Oscar comes along and you realize you can make a difference! (words in italics are by Oscars Mum)

Gareth Jenkins

Cub Scout Leader - 1st/4th Addlestone Tigers

Scouts night hike

A **big** thank you to all the Leaders helpers and parents who helped out on Friday night, manning bases and helping scouts around the route, however a very BIG thank you goes to Heather without whose help in printing maps/typing the route and registration documents, plus organising the check in, it would not have gone so smoothly.

Well done 1st Ottershaw the winners. However to me all 72 Scouts/leaders who hiked were winners as they all completed the course in times better than we expected and all Scouts behaved exceptionally well both on the route and whilst at the H.Q.

Well done everyone, and thanks for a great "stress less" night.

Dave Kelly – ADC Scouts

A term with a torch

It might be a cold winter, but who needs to stay indoors? This term the Cubs of 1st Egham Hythe have spent more evenings out of doors doing activities by torchlight than they have spent in the H.Q. And, do you know, we haven't been rained on once!

After a very happy evening blackberry picking at the end of the summer holidays we started back in September with a guided walk around Coopers Hill on Runnymede with a National Trust warden (our very own Shere Khan) and learned about ancient trees, medieval field boundaries, King John and the Magna Carta and much more.

We continued our Local Knowledge badge in October with an evening at Chertsey Museum and a guided tour of the Abbey ruins in the dark – very spooky! We spent a happy half-term at Bourne Copse lighting fires and cooking, following a string trail with some gruesome feely bags along the way, munching doughnuts on strings by the glow of pumpkin lanterns and playing pumpkin bowling with see-through skittles lit by glo-sticks.

Then came the District night hike – that was a good one, and a planned evening at Egham Fire Station turned into another impromptu night hike due to a more urgent call on the fire crew's time than entertaining us.

And then finally our District Christingle, lit by the light of the campfire and a couple of hundred candles, a few lights in the trees and some glo-stick stars in the hedge. Lovely. I hope you all enjoyed it. It was nice to have so many Cubs there, and so many guests including Jan Jobson, the ACC (Cubs).

County Cooking Competition

Well done to the 1st Egham Hythe Cubs cooking team, Kyra E, Liam H, Aaron H and Ryan S for coming second in the finals of the Surrey County Cooking competition, being narrowly beaten by 1st Fetcham (Leatherhead District). Our menu of Sweet and Sour Chicken and Rice, followed by Strawberry Pancakes both looked and tasted delicious.

Mary Halls - Cub Scout Leader, 1st Egham Hythe

Runnymede District Diary

Note items in red are changes or additions.

January 2011 (School term starts 5th January)

Fri 7th to Sun 9th Frost Camp Gillwell
Sat 29th Cubs "Big Splash"

February (School half term 21st to 25th Feb)

Mon 7th Active Support meeting.
Wed 9th District Executive meeting
Wed 16th Appointments Committee
Sat 19th Active Support games evening.

Mon 21st Keeping Children Safe training

March

Sat 5th to Sun 6th County Explorer Night Hike
Sat 5th Scouts Cooking Competition
Sun 6th Cub Scouts Cooking Competition
Fri 11th to Sun 13th PLs/APLs Training Camp
Sun 13th 1st Response Course
Sat 19th District Swimming Gala
Sun 27th Beaver Family Rambleabout

April (School Holiday 8th to 25th Apr)

Mon 4th Active Support meeting
Fri 8th Cubs 5-a-side Football
Fri 15th Active Support St Georges Dinner
Sun 17th District St Georges Day Parade and Service

May

Mon 2nd Ottershaw May Fair
Mon 9th District Executive meeting
Wed 18th Appointments Committee
Sat 21st Keeping Children Safe – Training
Sat 21st Beaver & Cub leaders Trip to Brownsea Island

June (School half term 30th May to 3rd June)

Fri 3rd to Sun 5th Cubs Sixers and Seconds Camp
Mon 6th Active Support meeting
Thr 16th District AGM
Fri 24th to Sun 26th Scoutabout

July (School Holidays Start Friday 22nd)

Sat 2rd Beaver Fun day
Wed 6th "Big Balsom" Pull
Mon 18th District Executive meeting

August

September (School Starts Monday 5th)

Mon 12th Active Support meeting
Sun 18th Keeping Children Safe – Training
Wed 21st Appointments Committee
Sat 24th Cub Scouts Fishing Competition

October (School half term 24th to 28th Oct)

Sat 1st 1st Response Course
Fri 7th to Mon 10th Active Support Weekend Away
Sat 8th & Sun 9th 25 Years of Beaver Scouts - Legoland Weekend
Mon 10th District Executive meeting
Fri 14th Cubs Night Hike

November

Mon 14th Active Support meeting.

December

Tue 6th Cubs Christingle Service
Wed 7th Appointments Committee