

Scouting in Runnymede

Runnymede Explorer Success in the Surrey County Night Challenge!

The Challenge is an annual event for Explorer and Network Units throughout the County and is held annually on the first weekend in March and the venue changes each time. The Challenge is for a team to undertake a route which for Explorers is 12km or 24 km and for Network 36 km.

This year the event was based at Blacklands Farm Camp site near East Grinstead in Sussex. Intrepid Explorers entered a team for the 12km challenge. The Challenge is to undertake a set route which has manned checkpoints at which they are given a challenge as well as locations which are not manned and at which they must seek out details to demonstrate that they have actually been to that location.

Having arrived in good time they pitched their tents within the 30 minute allotted time then reported to the marquee for registration, kit check, safety talk, then given their route and a chance to discuss it before setting out. They got underway by 8.30 p.m. on a reasonable path to the first checkpoint near a reservoir. Having completed the challenge at that location the next section was through woods to an unmanned location where they had to locate a boundary gate in pitch darkness. Having found the gate they had to note how many sections of wood were within the 5 bar gate! They then completed further checkpoints before returning to the site at about 2.00 a.m. and straight to bed for a well deserved rest.

They were up next morning by 8 to cook their breakfast and joined the other teams at 9 a.m. for the results and presentations. They then had a shock, as much to their astonishment and joy; they had won the 12 km event!



Congratulations and very well done to the team: - Andrew W, Callum H, Dillon B, Joe W and Josh S (County Commissioner Richard Shortman on the left)



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Andy's Corner

At last the clocks have gone forward and lighter evenings and warmer weather have arrived, Scouting gets busy. In the past few weeks I have been hearing of the many good things going on in Runnymede so thank you all leaders for making this happen. However the best bit for me has been presenting young people with their Bronze and Silver Awards - well done to you the leaders for enthusing your young people and running great programmes to earn these awards. I look forward to seeing you in the coming months out and about but please remember when camping to get those NAN forms in to me in good time.

As you are aware Phil Rigolli has recently taken over the role District Archery advisor and to his credit he has been running some excellent Master at Arms courses for Scouts. Please make use of this facility in Runnymede for it is a cost effective way to introduce young people to new sports. With the AGM season approaching can I please ask you to let me know in good time dates of your AGMs so I can book in the diary.

Finally, sadly some of you may already be aware, Yvonne Edwards (GSL 1st Englefield Green) has decided the time has come to hang up her woggle. Yvonne, thank you for everything and enjoy your retirement.

Andy Sainsbury-Brown
District Commissioner

St. George's Day with a difference

The Cubs of 1st Egham Hythe decided to celebrate St. Georges Day with rather more than the traditional parade this year. We set off bright and early on Saturday morning to spend the day at Walton Firs. We started our morning doing archery.



Louie was the star of the show and will in future be known as Robin Hood!

After a drink and KitKat break we had a choice of climbing or caving – brilliant. If you haven't been to Walton Firs recently it is worth the trip for these activities alone. None of us (Akela included) quite made it to the top of wall but we all made a valiant attempt. The group that did caving loved it – and abandoned Shere Khan to his fate when some of the holes proved more child-sized than adult! And then after a spot of photo orienteering and a grand roly-poly contest down the ditch came the assault course – despite unseasonably dry conditions the site crew made sure there was plenty of mud and a nice smelly pool of water under the rope swing. It was a bit of a relief that only 3 cubs needed a shower when we got back to the HQ.....we had dinner, played football, built and lit a fire, sang a good few songs then settled down for a good night's sleep.



After breakfast it was off to St Georges Parade, roughly 5 or 6 miles or so via the fields and footpaths of Egham Hythe and Thorpe, through the middle of Thorpe Park – it was about a 50/50 split as to whether we would prefer to be scared to death on Nemesis or in the middle of a hot hike to Chertsey! Then on to Gogmore Park for lunch and a play on the zip wire and the slides before changing our shoes, brushing our hair (well, we tortured the flag bearer with a hairbrush anyway) and having a mini-parade to meet up with everyone else in the car park after a great weekend.

Mary Halls - Cub Scout Leader, 1st Egham Hythe

Why not join us

Runnymede Fellowship Active Support Group is always looking for new members. As well as supporting the Groups in the District on activities we also have a social side.

In October (7th to 9th) we are having our annual weekend away - this year at Burley in the New Forest. If you are interested, contact John Boreham or George Kerr.

My Faith at Virginia Water

On Sunday 6th Feb 2011 the 1st Virginia Water Scout Group attended a special service at Christ Church Virginia Water. Earlier that week the cubs had been working with the Rev'd Francis Blight, curate and Suzanne Derbyshire, children's worker on their 'My Faith' badge. They discovered the meaning behind the important objects in the church and the festivals in the Christian calendar. The Sunday service explained that the word 'faith' means to trust in someone or something; Christians trust in Jesus.

The Cubs all participated in the service; some lead the prayers, others gave a dramatised reading from the Bible (Matthew 14.22-36) and one group participated in a trust game (see photo). They all learnt and performed a contemporary hymn.



At the end of the service the new members to the Beaver Colony & Cub Pack were formally invested into the Scout group. Francis Blight commented: "The Sunday Service was a happy occasion. We were very glad to be able to involve so many of the cubs in the service and to welcome the Scouts to their local church."

Sandra Wentworth – Cub Scout Leader, 1st Virginia Water

Congratulations

The following leaders are to be congratulated on receiving awards:

Robert Calverley, Malcolm Leverett and Malcolm Wade all from 1st Egham Hythe have received the Award of Merit and Don Neighbour also of 1st Egham Hythe has received the Chief Scouts Commendation.

The following have received Long Service Awards:

Stephen Bassett 20 yrs, Stephen Turner 15 yrs and Ben Roydhouse and Susan Strainer each 5 years.

Beaver Scouts Awarded

5 Beaver Scouts from 1st/4th Addlestone Scout Group, Woodland Colony have achieved their Chief Scout's Bronze Award. Three were awarded at the recent Mothering Sunday Church Parade by our District Commissioner, scheduling clashes kept the other two away.



The five Beaver Scouts are Kieran S, Joseph L and, pictured, Harry C, Oliver B and Oliver A. (With someone important lurking in the background).

Stephen Liveley – Beaver Scout Leader, 1st/4th Addlestone

It's a family affair – Cubs District Cooking Competition

Early in March five Cub packs gathered at 1st/4th for the District cooking competition. As usual it was a close fought event and a tough job for the judges to select a winner (there always seem to be plenty of them at this....). Whether it was the home turf, we are not sure, but the top two teams were from 1st/4th! - but 2nd Thorpe, 5th Addlestone and Egham Hythe were very close behind. It was shame the event wasn't better supported, 5 cub packs was a very low number for such a popular activity with the cubs.



The winning Lions team
Matthew B, Noah J, Daniel N and Chloe H.



Second place: Tigers
Joseph W, Sadie J, Eleanor G and Danny W.

Cubs District Swimming Gala – It seems Tigers do like water!

On the 19th March the Cubs met at The XCEL Centre in Walton for the District swimming gala. Again, it was by no means a full turnout but those who did take part had a great time and there were some hard-fought races in both age groups. When all the points were added up the younger age group was won by 1st/4th Addlestone Tigers, the older group by 1st Egham Hythe and overall it was Tigers who came out on top. Thanks as always to the backroom staff manning the top table, starting and finishing the races and John Neale for handing out the trophies.



Team Tigers

Freddie T, Eleanor G, Kenny G, Jessica O, Jack M, Luke W, Chloe E, Joseph W and Sasha B.

Gareth Jenkins - District Cub Scout Leader

Gold Award Presentation

On Friday 4th December 2010 I received my Gold Award from my Scout Leader at Royal Holloway University in Englefield Green.

We went there for an ice skating evening with our Troop in the gardens of the University. We had a lovely time and at the end of the evening I was presented with my gold award. It was a great achievement and I worked very hard over the last few years in gaining all the 8 challenge badges.



Thomas R - 1st Englefield Green Scouts

Runnymede District Diary

May

Mon 2 nd	Ottershaw May Fair
Mon 9 th	District Executive Meeting
Wed 11 th	Scout Leaders Meeting
Wed 18 th	Appointments Committee
Sat 21 th	Keeping Children Safe – Training
Sat 21 st	Beaver & Cub leaders Trip to Brownsea Island

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

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

July (School Holidays Start Friday 22nd)

Sat 2 rd	Beaver Fun day
Wed 6 th	"Big Balsom" Pull
Fri 15 th	Scouts Football
Mon 18 th	District Executive Meeting

September (School Starts Monday 5th)

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

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

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

November

Mon 14 th	Active Support meeting
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December

Tue 6 th	Cubs Christingle Service
Wed 7 th	Appointments Committee

Copy date for next issue
25th June 2011
Email: chris.couzens@ntlworld.com