

Scouting in Runnymede

Andy's Notes

Hi all. I hope everyone in Runnymede has had a good break and recharged their batteries for the forthcoming year; looking at the diary it is already looking a pretty full and exciting year ahead. With the challenge ahead in the implementation of compass, as leaders, we must not take our eye off the ball which is providing Scouting for our young people as well as enjoying what we do.

To that end I will continue where I left off last term with the pushing of young leaders, as these people are our future. Also I will shortly be announcing another Queens Scout recipient in Runnymede which shows how we as a District are continuing to be the best in Surrey as far as I am concerned and that is thanks to you all.

I look forward to catching up with you all at forthcoming events. Let's see if we can do even better in Runnymede in the coming year to grow Runnymede and continue to be the best.

Andy Sainsbury-Brown - District Commissioner.

Congratulations

To the following on being awarded the Award of Merit

David Moore - GSL 1st Chertsey

Peter Reynolds - Treasurer 1st/4th Addlestone

And to the following for Long Service Awards

John Boreham - Scout Active Support – 40 years

Steve Turner - GSL 1st Egham Hythe – 40 years

Richard Mason - District Treasurer – 25 years

Rory Who?



At the end of last term Cubs from 1st/4th Addlestone Tigers visited Top Golf Addlestone to hit a bucket of balls (some of which actually reached the targets) and finished the evening with a very nice buffet meal. The staff really looked after us and the picture shows Bailey Walls having some 1 to 1 training. Congratulations to Reece McBride who high scored with an impressive 52 points.

Gareth Jenkins - Cub Scout Leader



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5th International Scout Meeting 2014 **Hosted by Bensburg Scouts Bergisch** **Gladbach Germany**

Just after 9.00 a.m. on Saturday 2nd August a group of Explorer Scouts and leaders from Runnymede left London on the Eurostar to Brussels for the start of our journey to the ISM 5. We arrived in Cologne at 3pm where we were met by some of our hosts then, driven about 70km North West to start week 1 under canvas in The Eifel National Park located in the Rhineland. The event is only held every 9 years and this year was attended by Explorer Scouts from Germany, Netherlands, South Africa and Palestine.

The event started by assembling at the flag post built from sturdy pioneering poles. The Palestinians made an impressive entrance wearing their dress uniform and accompanied by bagpipes and drums.

Each country had its own day to organize activities. By popular request we started our day with a full English breakfast including toast prepared on a large griddle over a charcoal fire. We staged a game of cricket with special rules to ensure everyone had a chance to bat and bowl with each side having 30 minutes at the crease. Unusual to play with as many as 18 or more in a team!

The South Africans were in their element and it proved so popular that we were given extra time and held a final in the afternoon. The entire camp contingent attended to watch as the game was played in brilliant sunshine in a temperature of around 26C. Many had not played before and were surprised as to how difficult it was to hit the ball. All took part and had a good time.

A camp fire was held every night. On the first night we were all issued with an ISM songbook that included a wide variety of songs in German and English. The evenings started with mellow guitar playing followed by traditional South African chanting and finally around eleven the Palestinian drums started followed by their bagpipes! They certainly can give a good performance of Scotland the Brave.

On Netherlands day the entire site, including toilets and washrooms, was covered in orange bunting and orange balloons. We sided with the Dutch by wearing our various orange tee shirts. The main game was mud ball which entailed a sack of mud being contested for by two teams. Heavy rain had provided plenty of ingredients for the game and those who took

part needed hosing down before taking a shower.

The South Africans had us all up between 6 and 7 a.m. Our explorers were awoken to traditional singing and dancing at their tent entrance. The day included more games involving getting muddy on a challenge course that included crawling under nets, three legged race, a blindfold challenge then finally bobbing for apples. In addition there was a chance to try some traditional South African cooking with plenty of rice of varying types.

The Palestinians were more refined and had an afternoon set aside. They demonstrated how they would march into their camp to the accompaniment of bagpipes and drums.



They showed us how to use the bagpipes and drums and given a chance to play the instruments. This was followed by a moving sketch about the wall built by the Israelis which has cut their communities into sections and the effect that has had.

The German day was an activity hike around the nearby lake with various challenges to be undertaken. A terrific thunderstorm with hail put an early finish to that event. An Oktoberfest experience was provided by our hosts with many of the leaders wearing the traditional Bavarian costumes.

At the end of week 1 we travelled by train and tram to our hosts' town of Bensburg about 35 km South East of Cologne. We were accommodated by participants' families and met each day for various activities in and around Bensburg. On Monday we were greeted by the local mayor at the town hall located within a castle that has modern offices for the council. Having signed the visitor book leaders gave an interview to the local radio station. Much to our surprise most of it was broadcast later that week.

We had a trip to Cologne where groups visited the zoo, Radio and TV station, FC Cologne stadium before enjoying free time to explore the city and its massive cathedral.

On Thursday afternoon a ten pin bowling alley was booked in its entirety for a mammoth bowling session lasting three hours.

The leaders had some free time on Friday morning which we used to visit Runnymede's twinned town Bergisch Gladbach, larger than any town in Runnymede with a mixture of old and new buildings.



Kathryn & Stuart outside the town hall.

The event closed on Friday evening with a celebration and food in a traditional style German beer garden. The sponsors attended this event and were thanked by leaders from all groups. After a blessing in the Bensburg Scout Unit's local church on Saturday morning, we said our farewells then were taken to Cologne to catch the train to Brussels for our return journey.

A very good and certainly interesting two weeks enjoyed by all, and we look forward to building links with some of the units that attended the event.

Malcolm McGahan – District Explorer Scout Commissioner

District Diary 2013-2014
(updates in red)

September 2014
(School starts 2nd)

Mon 8th Fellowship/Active Support

Wed 17th Meeting - **Cancelled**
Sun 21st Scout Leaders meeting
Fri 26th to Sun 28th Scouts Cardboard Rafting
Cubs Sixers & Seconders Camp

October 2014

(School half term 27th to 31st)

Sat 4th Cubs Fishing Competition
Fri 10th to Mon 13th Fellowship/Active support
Weekend Away
Mon 13th District Executive Meeting
Sun 19th 1st Response Course
Sat 25th Poppy Collection
Sainsburys

November 2014

Mon 3rd Fellowship/Active Support
Fri 14th Meeting
Fri 21st Cubs Night Hike
Scouts Night Hike

December 2014
(School ends 19th)

Sat 6th Cubs Day Trip

Caption Competition

The winner is Mary Halls with her caption:-
Conga....tick! Pole dancing....tick! Now for the Dance of the Seven Veils....Pass me those tea-towels, Mum!

Contact Steve Livesley for your prize



Copy date for next issue
25th October 2014
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