

# Scouting in Runnymede

## Homes for Birds

In January, Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> Ottershaw put their DIY skills to the test when they used wood saws, electric drills, power drill with hole cutter, hammer, nails, glue, square and pencils to cut and built bird boxes from a 4ft plank of wood.

The first week was spent carefully cutting the pieces from the plank following a set of instructions – always a challenge!

Week 2 saw them putting all the pieces together to create new nesting boxes for the birds around their homes.



Hopefully this will create an explosion of Blue Tits around the Ottershaw area!

**Mike Waine - ASL, 1<sup>st</sup> Ottershaw**

## District Equipment

From tents to traffic cones, marquees to mugs there is a vast amount of equipment that is either available to hire or just borrow from the District stores. There is also a large amount of equipment that belongs to the suspended group 1<sup>st</sup> New Haw that can similarly be loaned or hired. It's on a first come first served basis, and as no Scouting event happens without prior planning, please give the QM as much notice as possible.

A link to the lists and loan forms has been added to the District web site, and are available to download, and equipment can be booked at any time by e-mail.

The District Quartermaster Alex Couzens, whose contact details are in the District directory, has requested that all leaders adhere to the Collect and Return times as listed below.

Collections If possible Thursday evenings at 7pm.  
Returns if possible Monday evenings at 7pm.

**Editor – on behalf of District Executive**



**The Bi-Monthly District  
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## Egham Scouts are Back

Introducing Runnymede District's newest troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Egham Scouts, as they unveil their brand new flag at their base in the United Church of Egham: (Photo: M. Griffiths)



*Back row: L-R Leaders Shere Khan, Bagheera, Andrew, and Treefrog.  
Front row: Scouts Elliot, Josh B, Luke, Daniel and Josh W*

1<sup>st</sup> Egham held their first meeting back in November, as some of our First Egham Cubs had reached the age of 10 ½ with no follow-on group to move up to. Since then, our small but burgeoning troop have not only gained a number of badges – to date, Local Knowledge, Level 3 Navigation, Level 3 First Aid and Global Issues, but have also taken part in exciting activities such as geocaching, as well as enjoying success in recent District events, namely the Night Hike and the A-Z Challenge.

Their next challenge will be rock climbing, with kayaking to follow, and as more of our Cubs move up, we fully anticipate the troop going from strength to strength – well done 1st Egham!

***Karen Coutts - ACSL 1<sup>st</sup> Egham***

## Cubs Gain Fire Safety Badge

1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Water Cubs have been busy working to gain their Fire Safety badge. We spent an evening at our hall identifying fire risks, spotting fire safety equipment, drawing a fire escape map of our hall and having a fire drill. We also had some dangers and risks to spot at home and to see what fire safety equipment we had at home too. We have now established safe fire exit routes and a fire assembly route at the Scout hall. We will choose a Cub-a-week to test the smoke detectors too.



Then it was time to get to pay a visit to the fire station so we arranged an evening with Blue Watch at Chertsey.



We spent time learning about fire safety, stop drop and roll and what to do in an emergency, then off to see the fire engine equipment, chance to sit in the cab and then the most exciting part... spraying the fire hoses across the yard!

***Sandra Wentworth - CSL 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Water***

## Premier League Sponsored by Jumble

Sometimes the jumble at our HQ comes in handy and rather than us leaders just grumbling, there is (very occasionally) something lurking in there that proves very useful.



We found this table football game and during the evening we ran a knock out competition which resulted in a really tight fought final that ended in a penalty shootout.

I had to keep a close eye on the players and here I am issuing Becky with a warning for some overly skilful play. Jade and James didn't really want to leave the table, so I let them be scorers to keep them happy.



I decided to introduce a sin-bin as they have in Rugby Union and Robert was sent there early in the evening. He never actually came out and was quite happy playing on his mobile while play progressed.

**Gareth Jenkins - Head Referee**  
**1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Addlestone Table Football League**  
**(Tigers Division)**

## Scouts A to Z Challenge

On the bright Sunday morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> January, teams of Scouts from the District took part in the A to Z challenge in which they had to navigate from 1<sup>st</sup> Englefield Green HQ to 1<sup>st</sup> Egham Hythe HQ via the Runnymede memorial, and on the way take a photograph of objects starting with A to Z, as well as take a group selfie.



*The winning selfie*

The results were judged by members of the Active Support Team, who had also manned the check points, and after much deliberation the winners were announced as 1<sup>st</sup> Egham, and the winners of the group selfie as 1<sup>st</sup> Egham Hythe 'A'

**Editor.**

## Changes to Gift Aid

HMRC have published new simplified model wording for Gift Aid Declarations, also removing references to Council Tax and VAT. Groups can claim Gift Aid on membership subs and donations for sponsored events, and should use the new declaration form from 5 April 2016. Declarations already in place don't need to be updated. The new wording can be found on [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) or obtained from me.

**Richard Mason - District Treasurer**

## District Diary 2015-2016

Changes and additions shown in red

### March 2016

(School ends 24<sup>th</sup>)

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Beavers Badge day  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Chief Scout Gold Award  
Reception (Runnymede Host)  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> **Cubs Cooking Competition**  
Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Scouts Shooting

### April 2016

(School starts 11<sup>th</sup>)

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> St George's Day Rehearsal  
Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> **Active Support St Georges  
Dinner**  
Sun 24<sup>th</sup> St George's Day Parade

### May 2016

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Cub Fishing Competition  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Beaver Ramble About  
Mon 16<sup>th</sup> District Executive meeting  
Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Scouts Football  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> **Adult & Young Leader skills day**

### June 2016

(Half term 30<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June)

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Scout Fishing Competition  
Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Beaver Paddle day  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Cubs SCRAM 2016  
Thur 30<sup>th</sup> District AGM

### July 2016

(School ends 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> **Beaverabout**  
Mon 18<sup>th</sup> District Executive meeting

### August 2016

### September 2016

(School starts 5<sup>th</sup>)

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> to Sun 18<sup>th</sup> District Centenary Cub  
Camp / Beaver Celebration  
Sun 25<sup>th</sup> **Scouts Rafting**

### October 2016

(Half Term 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>)

Fri 7<sup>th</sup> to Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Active Support Weekend  
Away  
Sun 16<sup>th</sup> **County Cubs Cooking  
Competition**  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> District Executive meeting

### November 2016

### December 2016

(School ends 21<sup>st</sup>)

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Cubs Big Day Out  
Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Cubs Christingle Centenary  
Service

Copy date for next issue

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**

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