

Scouting in Runnymede

A POSTCARD from AUSTRIA

1st Englefield Green travelled to Zellhof near Saltzberg in Austria for an amazing Summer Camp. We took 14 Cubs and 17 Scouts and Young Leaders.

Day 1 - The Journey....

Phew.... what a journey it was. Thanks to a combination of obdurate French customs officials, and coach drivers who preferred the 'scenic route', our journey to Zellhof was an exhausting 33 hours long. The coach became known as The Ankle Sweller, an apt moniker. The kids remained upbeat throughout, and frankly, it was their cheerfulness that got us all through the ordeal. Walking into Dover along the verge of the M20 was a fairly surreal experience.....

Day 2 - The Journey cont:... / wind surfing, sailing, splashing

After we eventually made it to the camp site, we put up the tents in record time and headed off to Lake Mattsee. To our relief the sun came out and the lake glimmered invitingly in the warm sunshine. The Scouts tried their hand at windsurfing, while the Cubs enjoyed sailing and kayaking around the lake. What the kids really enjoyed was the beach area in Mattsee which had diving boards, inflatables and a huge water slide.



Amid much squealing and delight the kids cooled off while the Leaders kept an eye on all the little heads bobbing up and down in the water. On returning to camp, no one quibbled about going to bed, and our weary troops turned in gratefully for a proper night's sleep.

Day 3 – Berchtesgaden Salt Mine

Salzburg translates into Salt Town, so visiting a salt mine seemed like the right thing to do, although I was not expecting a particularly exhilarating morning's adventure learning about salt..... How wrong was I? The salt mine in Berchtesgaden was brilliant. The tour started with our group changing into mining overalls which caused much amusement in the ranks. The tour turned out to be the perfect combination of history and excitement. There were light shows, train rides, two *huuuge* slides, an underground lake, a boat ride, and on it went.... If a round featuring the 'excavation of salt' ever appears in a pub quiz, I'm playing my joker.

Continued:-



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Day 4 - Salzburg

Although the rain continued throughout most of the night and into the morning, we got back on the 'ankle sweller express' and headed off for an enjoyable day in Salzburg. It is a beautiful picturesque place, with fabulous architecture, cobbled streets, ornate gardens, large open squares, fountains, (lots) of Lederhosen shops and Hohensalzburg Castle offering an imposing backdrop, peaking out high above the city. It is also home to the excellent Stiegl brewery, whose fabulous product is worth the trip alone, yummm!



After lunch we had a great tour of the castle, visited the torture chamber, viewed the armaments, took in the glorious views of the city below, and all bought fridge magnets in the castle's shop.

One of the delights of the campsite was their bar that sold beer, wine, badges and mountains of sweets, which basically kept everybody happy. While the children enjoyed Tango and lollipops the adults had a few local Trumer beers and enjoyed a night of frivolity around the camp fire, the perfect end to a great day's adventure.

Day 5 - High ropes / night of pots

Our last full day started with our group heading off for a morning of fun on some 'very high' ropes. The kids clearly didn't share my anxiety of heights and put on their safety harnesses with much enthusiasm, whilst I looked upwards with trepidation. The Cubs and Scouts spent the next couple of hours swinging through the tree tops and flying through the air on zip wires. They clearly enjoy this type of activity more than I do.



Having worked up a considerable sweat, the kids then jumped into Lake Grabensee to cool off before preparing for the international night of pots. There were Scout groups on the site from the UK (Spelthorne, Beckenham & Horsham), Ireland (Cork and Dublin), Italy, Holland, Germany and Austria. Each group had to prepare a meal for the other Scout groups. Our Chicken and Lamb Tikka Masala clearly went down well judging by the size of the queue and how quickly the food disappeared.



Due to more rain, the campfire was cancelled, so all the kids on the site gathered indoors for a sing-song. I performed a few silly songs to the assembled Scouts. I'd clearly lost a bit of weight on the trip, realising this, the audience threw lots of vegetables and fruit at me at the end of my set, which I thought was very kind.

Auf Weidersein Austria, we had a fabulous time, made friends and fond memories, and will hopefully return one day....by air.

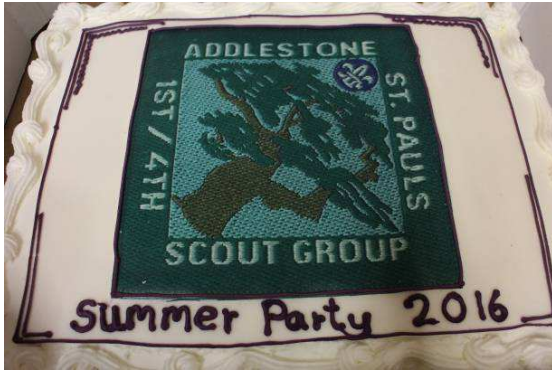
Nigel King - 1st Englefield Green

Summer Party

You know how these things sound like a good idea in the comfort of a spring evening when you are generally thinking of what events you might put on for the summer? Well, the 1st/4th Exec Committee got a little carried away with thoughts of the Cub Centenary, Beavers 30 years and of course the Queen's 90th celebrations.... and came up with the idea of a garden party at the HQ. After all, how hard could it be?

When the day came, it was a lovely sunny day which was just as well as we had around 150 guests. Thanks to the SAS and Heather from 1st Ottershaw, we had some traditional side-shows including splat the rat, hook a duck, throw the dice and some less traditional ones including archery courtesy of Kevin and Victoria, and pets corner courtesy of Zoe and Daniel. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped—Lisa and Lyn for organizing the food, all the Leaders who ran the bases, including Andy who thought he was in for an easy afternoon but was hijacked to run an activity.

Every celebration needs a cake and this was no exception, with a specially decorated cake to commemorate the event (I won't say anything about the first cake Lisa ☺).



As is traditional at such events, there were also some awards to be presented, so many congratulations to Lyn Taylor who was presented with her 50 year certificate and Jenny Fuller who received her 25 years certificate.



Lyn Taylor



Jenny Fuller

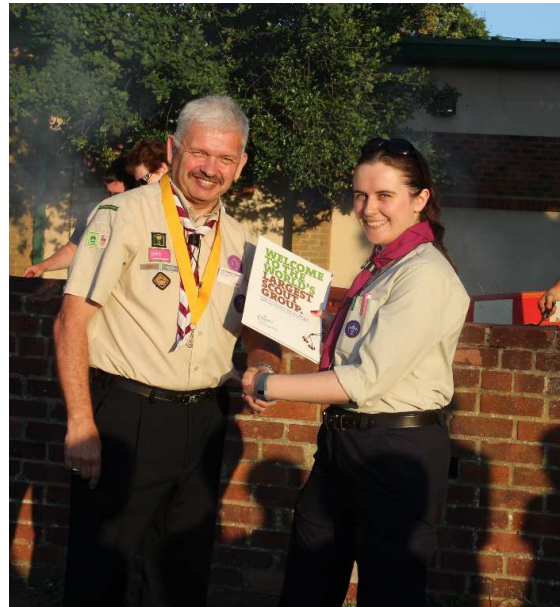
Penny Lympny - GSL 1st/4th Addlestone.

End of term

1st/4th Addlestone Lions Cub Pack had a great end to the term, with a family bbq and rounders evening. The weather was glorious and over 100 parents, Cubs and their brothers and sisters came along for the evening. Lawrence took on the task of organizing a 25-a-team game of rounders while Lisa, Steve, Katy and Richard took on the task of arranging the food.



We were pleased to welcome Andy to the event to award Hannah Russell her Wood Badge although there were some mixed emotions as we were also saying goodbye to Richard and Hannah as they are leaving us to take on new Scouting roles nearer their home in Hampshire. We wish them both all the best for the future, and we hope they will come back as special guests from time to time.



Hannah Russell

Penny Lympny - CSL 1st/4th Addlestone Lions

2NH Scouts Summer Camp

2nd New Haw Scouts had an amazing summer camp in the Peak District.

We set up camp on the Saturday at the picturesque Gradbach Scout camp site. Sunday was spent on site making camp gadgets, cooking a roast dinner and exploring the river that runs through the site.



Monday was our water activity day at Carsington Water. The Scouts enjoyed sailing and rafting and the Leaders got to go paddle boarding on a 6 man board. I think we spent more time in the water than on the board.



During the evening we went on a spooky walk up to the cavern, where several of our Explorer Scouts had lit candles to help set the spooky scene.



Tuesday was spent on a hike exploring the roaches in some very wet and windy weather. The sun did come out in the afternoon and we all had a well deserved ice-cream.

On Wednesday we had a short hike to the local trout farm where we all caught our own fish for

dinner. (Some took a lot longer than others to catch their fish). On return to camp the Scouts competed in the camp cooking competition, as Leaders we got to taste some delicious starters, some interesting trout mains, and some scrummy puddings.



Thursday was spent in Millers Dale where we all abseiled from a very high bridge, many overcoming their fear of heights. We also had a lovely stroll along the river.

On Friday we went to Alton Towers, and luckily the queues were short so we managed to get onto all the rides.

Saturday we broke camp and travelled back, arriving home with very tired happy Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders.

David Breakwell - GSL 2nd New Haw

Tree Hugging at St. Ann's Hill



We visited St Ann's Hill in early July and took part in a history walk led by staff from Chertsey Museum. We have been a few times over the years but they always manage to come up with one or two new facts:

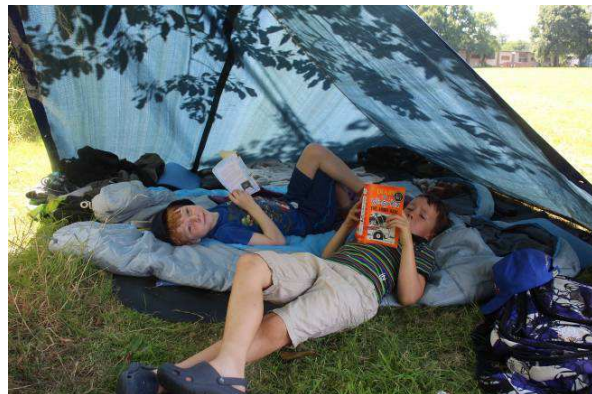
St Ann's Hill was used as a fort in the prehistoric period. In the early medieval period there was a vineyard on the hill, probably on the southern slope. Landscaping works, including an octagonal summerhouse (dated 1794), were undertaken on St Ann's Hill in the late-18th century.

After 1842, the Dingle was landscaped with raised paths, three fishponds, a summerhouse, and a rustic bridge. Public access was extended. In 1927 Sir William Berry gave St Ann's Hill to Chertsey Urban District Council as a public recreation ground. Percy Cane was commissioned to landscape the hilltop and it was officially opened in 1928 by Neville Chamberlain. Allegedly it is haunted by an old time coach and horses, which are seen thundering across the hill, in the dead of night possibly from the track that was part of the old coach road between London and Winchester. The cubs took all that in obviously....and during the walk we carried out some science experiments to measure the three large trees, a 4th was blown over in the big storm back in the 80's. I think 10 Cubs is a recognised measure by The Forestry Commission?

Gareth Jenkins - CSL 1st/4th Addlestone Tigers

Lions going back to basics

During the summer holidays, 15 Cubs from the 1st/4th Addlestone Lions Cub pack took part in a back to basics camp. The Cubs arrived on the Saturday morning to make a start on building their shelters to sleep in over-night.



"Did I say basics??"

Then they had the task of making fires to cook their lunch – burgers on cabbage leaves – what else? In the afternoon there was a pioneering challenge – to build a camp gadget. The girl's team assisted by Ben built a magnificent table, which stood up all weekend.



Hollie putting finishing touches to the table

Then it was time to cook dinner – a beef and vegetable parcel followed by baked bananas with chocolate buttons – yum! After a busy day, the Cubs were keen to try out their shelters, with just a few deciding that home comforts beckoned! Then on Sunday it was time for a proper cooked breakfast and before long it was time to strike camp. Just time for a last sausage sizzle though!

A great time was had by all and the Cubs also learned the advantage of backwoods cooking is that there is very little washing up!!!



Burgers on Cabbage leaves- and no washing up

District Diary 2015-2016

Changes and additions shown in red

September 2016

(School starts 5th)

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

October 2016

(Half Term 24th to 28th)

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

November 2016

December 2016

(School ends 21st)

Sat 3 rd	Cubs Big Day Out
Wed 7 th	Cubs Christingle Centenary Service

Copy date for next issue
22nd October 2016
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