



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



A New Year starts and the 21st Romsey Scout Group wish you a happy one. However, as I write this article the autumn term programmes are still continuing apace, working towards various badges and with subjects as diverse as cycling and recycling. Ready, Steady, Cook is an old favourite, resulting in the sort of comments normally associated with camps, when the young people have cooked for themselves:

Before: *"I won't like this, I hate ..."*

After: *"Yum! That was great, I love ..."*

The fact that the children also learn to wash-up properly is a bonus appreciated by parents.

The Cub and Beaver sections joined with others from around Romsey District for a disco, and the two Scouts (soon to be Explorers) who are going to the World Jamboree in 2019 ran a stall at the Village Christmas Showcase and Community Fair, raising £128 towards their trip.



Keen not to let the young people have all the fun, three of our adult volunteers took part in a weekend's archery course. It did have a serious purpose in that we are now qualified to instruct archery within Scouting. Regular readers will know that 21st are already the District's lead Group for air-rifle shooting, so this will be another string to our bow (groan!). As yet we do not have any equipment of our own, but the permits will enable us to make better use of kit that is already within the District, and run sessions at Scout activity centres without having to rely on the availability of other instructors.

Improvements to our HQ have continued as the CCTV system, that was nearly as old as the building itself, has been replaced. Like the original, the new equipment will be used solely for the prevention and detection of crime. Its fixed cameras give a good view of our premises without intruding into neighbouring properties.

Once again we are indebted to the Co-op and the people who shop there: for the 6 months April to September we were one of three charities chosen to receive funds raised by local Co-ops though the sale of plastic bags and 1% from own-branded products. At the end of November representatives of the Group, including Terry dressed in his full town crier regalia, met at the Nursling store to receive a cheque for our share – an incredible £2148. This will undoubtedly help us to meet the equipment needs of our Group, which has doubled in size over the past 3 years.



A few days later Terry and I were again outside the Co-op, this time to thank Jan and her team for their support in collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. The picture shows Jan, myself and Terry with the three Terrain Haven 300 tents we "bought" with the vouchers donated through the shop.



Here's to another year of successful Scouting in Nursling and Rownhams!

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader