



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



The Autumn Term programmes ended with the usual Christmas parties, followed by trips to local pantomimes – Cubs to the Mayflower and Beavers to Romsey Plaza. The photos I've seen indicate that the young people had a great time.

Leading up to Christmas one of the Beaver sections collected 20p pieces, raising £80 for WaterAid. Getting into the Christmas spirit, and to spread some seasonal cheer, a number of us went carol-singing in Rownhams Services. We couldn't have sounded too bad as we raised £128 for the Group (I don't *think* they were paying us to stop).

The New Year brings the annual national Scout census. It looks like we'll be reporting a youth membership of about 130*, which is 19 (18%) up on last year and double that of 2015! Note these figures do not include the Explorers' section (age 14 to 17) which is also thriving but which, under the Scouting hierarchy, is officially part of Romsey District Scouts rather than our specific Group.



This number is nearing our capacity – to go further we would need more adult help, not only leaders but also behind the scenes with administration, maintenance and fundraising. Don't get me wrong, we are extremely fortunate with both the quantity and quality of people we have, but running a voluntary organisation of this nature and size is increasingly like running a small business. To maintain good quality Scouting the leaders are trained and have regular meetings to communicate and plan; the HQ has to be maintained and improved; and we have to conform to the requirements of the government, Scout Association and the Charities Commission with regard to safety, safeguarding, finances etc. If you have business skills that you could contribute I'd love to hear from you.

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If you don't have time you can still support Scouting locally without any cost to yourself: a lot of our members now do their on-line shopping through Easyfundraising. Basically many common retailers and suppliers will contribute between 1% and 3% of the purchase price to charity if you sign-up with Easyfundraising and go to the company's website through the Easyfundraising link. As I said, it doesn't cost you any more and, having used it for several years, I can assure you that it does not result in being bombarded with spam (the retailers you use will already have your details). Further information can be found at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> . To sign up and direct their

donations to us either look for 21st Romsey Scout Group in the 'Find your cause' box, or use this direct link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/1N98LK> . Thank you in anticipation ...

Next time we'll be well into the Spring term, so I will return to reporting primarily on the sections' activities.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader

- Final reported figure was 117, however there were another half-a-dozen who started this term, so had not been invested by census day.