



## 21<sup>st</sup> Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



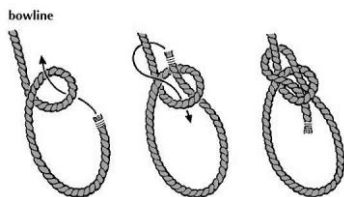
Having last month digressed into administration of the Group, it's back to the more usual reporting of our programme of activities – and what a diverse range it has been.

“Scrapheap challenge” is a favourite of our younger members and this time it was the turn of our Wood Beaver Colony to transform items you'd find in your recycling bin into models – spaceships and robots are normally in evidence. The other Colony, River, has been learning about the basics of first aid. Both Colonies have been encouraging health and fitness.

Meanwhile both our Cub Packs have worked on some home skills – for example, making tea, ironing, washing-up and sewing. Phoenix pack started the term with a trip to Pets at Home, gently handling animals from guinea pigs to snakes. As part of their faith badge they visited a mosque, behaving respectfully and asking a lot of good questions. Taurus pack have had a sports theme, including a couple of the Cubs demonstrating and teaching some of the skills they had learnt at karate club. However entitling an evening “Six Nations cooking” did little to disguise it being an excuse to eat.



Not surprisingly pancakes were on the menu of several sections. This regularly features in the programme, not simply because of the season, nor that pancakes are quick to make and good to eat, but also because it gives opportunity to teach the young people how to use our camping stoves safely.



Also looking forward to the camping season, Scouts have learned that packing a rucksack is more than just stuffing everything in, and several sections have learned or revised a few knots. A Scout on my base with their arm in a sling gave me a golden opportunity to show the advantages of being able to tie a bowline using only one hand.

The benefit of practice during the winter months was clearly demonstrated when Tim and Joe, two of our Explorers, gave a presentation to the Scouts about the Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition they did on Dartmoor. Map-reading there can be a challenge at the best of times but fog really put them to the test – well done to them and the rest of their team.

At half-term we said goodbye and thank you to Elaine, leader of our Wood Beaver Colony. Until a new leader is appointed her able assistants will continue the programme.

I have mentioned previously that two of our Scouts have been selected to represent Hampshire at the World Jamboree in the USA in 2019. I'm now pleased to say that a third has been selected to go on a parallel trip and Cassi ran a successful quiz evening, raising over £300 towards her adventure.

Randell McKay  
Group Scout Leader