



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



Late April / early May is always a busy time for the Group. Besides the weekly programmes we have, in quick succession, the St George's Day celebration, the N&R May Fair and our own Target Sprint event.



As usual, on a Sunday close to St George's Day, members of Scouting and Guiding from all around the District paraded through Romsey town centre, then packed into the Abbey. Here we celebrated being part of two great organisations, renewed our Promises and gave out a few awards to long-serving adult members, including our own Terry Hamer (25 years). This year's event was led by the Scouts and Guides of North Baddesley and they brought a fresh feel to it, with some "magic" illusions and Disney and camp-fire songs instead of hymns; all done with serious points behind them. It will be our turn to lead next year so we have a hard act to follow, but at least know that we have a fairly free rein.

The section flags were out again a week later, as we took part in the opening of the May Fair. It was good to have the Romsey Old Cadet band to lead us around the field - even if they were dressed as leprechauns! The day will be remembered as the hottest early May Bank Holiday on record and the sun may have lured some of the public away. Consequently, our stalls were not as busy as normal. However the takings were still over £800, so thank you to all concerned.

Our Rifle Club joined with the Shackleton club to run another successful Target Sprint event, attracting entries from both within and outside of Scouting, and from as far away as Woking and Crawley. The concept is simple: run 400m, shoot 5 targets, run another 400m, shoot another 5, then run again. However shooting when out of breath isn't easy, so a fine balance of speed and accuracy is needed. Congratulations to the individual winners of the different categories, but a particular mention to Sophia, Jasmin and Matt who took the team trophy for the 21st.

At the end of April one of the regular Chief Scout Award presentation evenings was run by the District. 21st and Draco Explorers were again well represented, with the young people being presented with bronze, silver, gold or platinum awards, depending on their section. The Chief Scout Award is the highest level of badge that can be obtained in the section. It represents a considerable level of participation and achievement in the whole range of the Scouting programme, so congratulations to all who received recognition that evening. The skills you have gained will surely stand you in good stead in the future.



The number of big events seems to be easing off, so next time I should have space to update you on the regular programmes of the sections.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader