



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



As you can see above, Scouting UK has a new logo. Gone is the old “swirl” and in comes one with a more modern-looking *fleur-de-lis*. At the same time the strategy for Scouting for the next 5 years has been updated, with a strapline of “Skills for Life: Our plan to prepare better futures”. The programme will not change radically, but we want to emphasise that going on a hike, for example, isn’t only about learning to map-read, as useful as that is, but is also an opportunity to gain skills and attitudes than can help throughout life: team-work, initiative, leadership, reliability, communication, perseverance ... I’m sure many of you who were Scouts in younger days can relate to that, I certainly can.



Over recent weeks the Scout section programme has included an evening led by the Southampton judo club. Besides the Scouts enjoying and learning from the activity, it gave the leaders opportunity to highlight some of the similarities between the core values of Scouting and those of judo: honesty, courage, respect, courtesy, self-control and friendship.

Other Troop evenings have been leading up to the District’s annual camping competition: pitching a tent, hygiene at camp and pioneering. The competition is a weekend of hard work, when many of the “Skills for Life” come into play. Well done to all those who took part.

The Explorers also had a weekend camp, this time a relaxed one at the HQ. They called it a “slob out camp” but, as you can see it did include bivvy-building, pioneering and cooking on a fire.



The traditional skills of camp-craft, knots and pioneering featured on the programmes of the Beavers. One of these younger sections have also been growing some salad vegetables and undertaking their photography badge. The other section has included various aspects of keeping safe, and their pioneering utilised bamboo skewers and marshmallows! World Environment Day was marked by learning of the dangers of discarded waste plastic and a short litter-pick from the recreation ground – sad to see how much a dozen Beavers could pick up in 10 minutes.

Meanwhile the Cub sections have been out walking – one doing a quiz around the local area; the other round the historic walls of the city. Showing that Scouting is as relevant in 2018 as it was in 1907, one of the Cub Packs had a very enjoyable and interesting evening at the Apple computer store, where they produced, directed and acted in their own video clips.

It cannot have escaped your notice that data protection regulations were updated in May and are now known as GDPR. Whilst we already complied with the concepts, it did spur us on to produce a written policy and privacy statement – both available on our website. Just one of the many things that the Executive Committee oversees so that the Group runs properly.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader