

21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



Our sections made good use of the good weather in June and early July, with many activities taking place out of doors. Besides the usual summer games ...

Beavers have continued their nature studies with gardening and bug-hunting, and one Colony had an evening at Oasis Down to Earth Farm. Here the Beavers had chance to meet the usual farm animals, plus some unexpected ones such as a gecko and a corn snake – credit to them, I think most, if not all, were willing to gently handle the snake. This gave an opportunity to speak to some about less friendly snakes and how to recognise an adder. Some of our Beavers attended the District-run Beaver day, enjoying a variety of bases with the general theme of "pirates"



Our senior Cubs also joined with others from around the District for "Sixers Day", where they tried out a range of activities from knotting to soft-archery. Meanwhile their normal section evenings have included some involving parents, such as building dens and a picnic and games at Lepe Country Park. Taurus Cub Pack continued their cyclist's badge with an evening cycling round the Common.

Meanwhile the Scouts planned and undertook an evening hike in the Forest; and Explorers, despite some having important exams and music concerts, included an evening of pottery.

Most sections have been learning and practising camping skills, such as pioneering and firelighting – for many of the Cubs this was the first time they had struck a match so adventure, with safety and responsibility were the watch-words.

The same could be said for our Rifle Club, who again put us on the map with a visit from a member of the marketing team of the National Small-bore Rifle Association. This resulted in a full-page article in "On Target", the NSRA's magazine, praising our success in introducing young people to the sport.



3

At our AGM we reflected on another successful year and looked to the future. It was also an opportunity to recognise achievements, amongst which were the "section member of the year" medals (congratulations to Evie, Jake, Kai, William and Bethan) and the presentation of the Chief Scout Gold Award to Isobel. As usual my thanks go to all the volunteers, both in uniform and behind the scenes, who make all this possible.

Randell McKay Group Scout Leader