



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



As is the case in many households and businesses the run-up to Christmas brings a familiar pattern. Within the Scout Group various Christmas crafts have been made, with complexity according to the age group, and the end of term programmes included the usual Christmas parties. Moreover some sections organised trips to local pantomimes (oh yes they did!).

Programmes also included things without a seasonal theme:

- One of the Beaver sections visited Pets at Home, where they met guinea pigs and rabbits, as part of the "Animal Friends" badge. They also had a session on making "African drums" (I'm sure their parents loved that). The other Beaver colony have sponsored a guide dog.
- Appropriately the Phoenix Cub section visited the fire station, where they learned about fire-safety and some of the kit the service use. They also had chance to clamber in and over a fire-engine.
- Science was a theme in both Cubs and Scouts, with some making lava lamps and also rockets, powered by vinegar and sodium bicarbonate.
- Explorers had a visit to St Boniface Church and also made crafts for the Nursling & Rownhams Christmas showcase, where they had a stall and generally made themselves useful.



Our Rifle Club have again been raising our profile and that of Target Sprint. They had a 2 minute section on BBCs South Today, talking about and demonstrating this new sport, and were the featured club of the month in the national Air Rifle Shooter magazine.



By kind permission of the management, for the past few years members the Group have gone to Rownhams Services, to sing Christmas songs, old and new. This year we branched out with a visit to Grove Place retirement village. Although the residents kindly made donations to the Group, the primary aim of this one was not to raise money, but to be an all-age community sing-along, with a break in the singing for refreshments and a chat. It was interesting to hear of their experiences of Scouting and Guiding, which included me meeting a previous County Commissioner and an ex-Brown Owl. A good time was had by all and we hope to be back next year.

All that remains is for me to wish all readers a very Happy New Year.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader