



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



As I write this, with one eye on the submission deadline, the sections are only beginning to return from the Christmas break. Consequently there is little new to report about their activities. That's not to say that the leaders have been completely idle – their planning meetings have resulted in exciting programmes that I look forward to telling you about. The badge secretary has also been busy ordering the literally hundreds of badges that will be needed when their respective requirements have been met.

The end of January brings the annual national Scout census. We will again report an increase in the number of young people in the Group, to about 125 between the ages of 6 and 14 (the older, Explorer, age group is reported separately, at District level). This will be the 5th consecutive year of growth, though the rate of increase is understandably tailing off as we reach capacity. The number of adult volunteers in the sections has remained constant, but we have to be prepared for turnover owing to family, work or university commitments so are always on the lookout for help. If you think Scouting may be for you then please contact me (details in the front of the magazine, or via the website). Help in the Beaver (age 6 - 8) and Scout (10½ - 14) sections would be particularly appreciated. Though useful, previous experience of Scouting is by no means essential as support and training is available.



If running children's activities isn't for you, then what about helping behind the scenes? At the moment we are looking for people to take over the running of our twice-yearly jumble sales: the team who have done it for many years are standing down, so unless we can replace them the sale scheduled for Saturday 9th March may well be our last – which would be a shame as the sales provide funds for the Group and enable unwanted items to be reused rather than being dumped.

Failing both of those, please shop in Waitrose, Romsey, at least once in March! Our Scout Group is one of the 3 local charities chosen to have a share of £1000 in their monthly "Community Matters" scheme. However, the size of our portion depends on the green tokens given out at the tills being put into our box, sited behind the checkouts. If you are a regular Waitrose shopper please save any tokens you get in February put them in our box in March.

Waitrose Community Matters

We support good causes.
You decide who gets what.



Enough of the recruitment pitch! There will be plenty of activities for me to report on in the next edition, so normal service will be resumed.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader