



## 21<sup>st</sup> Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



As I composed this article I realised that my problem would not be knowing what to write, but what to leave out. It has been a packed month for all our sections, so please take it as read that between the highlights mentioned here we have continued with our regular programme of Scouting skills, crafts and games.

In mid-May our Rifle Club ran its annual Target Sprint competition, a biathlon of running and shooting air-rifles. It is always well-run and popular, such that this year it extended to two days, rather than one, with sections for members of Scouting, an open category and one for GB team ranking.

During camps our Scout and Explorer sections still cook some meals on open fires, so learning to build one is a basic skill for the Cubs to learn. For added interest we usually get them to have a go at starting one using a fire-steel instead of matches – once you have the knack it's not difficult, particularly with the help of cotton wool smeared with Vaseline!



Phoenix pack had an evening of climbing at Rock-up. Meanwhile Taurus pack went to the sports centre to experience “donutting” – basically sliding down the artificial ski-slope in a rubber-ring. Needless to say the Cubs thoroughly enjoyed doing these activities with their friends.



An example of collaboration and economy in Romsey District Scouting is that different Groups lead on various adventurous activities: for example, us with shooting and North Baddesley with kayaking. Taurus Cubs were grateful for the help of leaders from Bramshaw who instructed them in an evening of archery.

During half-term the Scouts and Explorers held a week-long camp on the Isle of Wight. Besides “Scouty” things they found time to visit some of the island's main tourist attractions, Robin Hill, Carisbrooke Castle and Osborne House.

Having barely had time to catch their breath, let alone for Mum to wash their kit, a patrol was off to the District's annual camping competition for Scouts and Guides. It's hard work, especially as this year the weather was wet and windy for the first half of the weekend, but is an opportunity for the Scouts to measure their camping ability against that of their peers. Moreover, although they may not appreciate it at the time, I'm sure that it builds valuable attributes for their lives, such as determination, team-work and leadership skills.

Finally, in mid-June, we held our Group's Annual General Meeting. It's obvious from these articles that our programme is in good health, but I can report that our finances are too, with a small surplus that will be put towards improving the energy-efficiency of our HQ. Should you be interested in reading the AGM reports, including the accounts, they are available in the members' area of our website (no password required).

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Group Scout Leader