



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



As I predicted, now the Spring term has got under way there has been plenty of action, including traditional skills, old favourites and some new ones. Maybe that's a good way to divide this report, rather than by section:

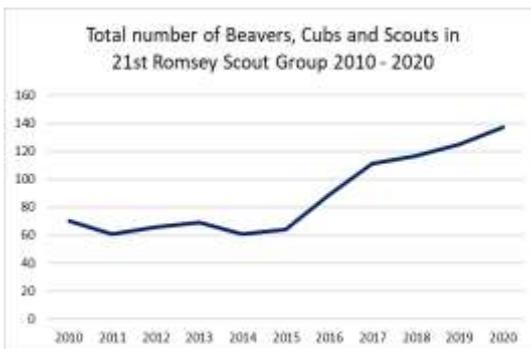
**Traditional skills:** With their 6 to 8-year olds, River Beavers started the foundations with sessions on the basics of using a compass and with some simple knots. At the other end of the scale Scouts (10½ to 14) put rope-work into practice with mini-pioneering. In the middle Taurus Cubs have been working towards their Home Help badge and had a session on first aid.

**Old favourites:** Chinese New Year provided a good excuse for several sections to make masks and lanterns, as well as practising with chopsticks. Phoenix Cubs and the Scouts did variations of Ready, Steady, Cook, making a meal from the ingredients provided.

**New ideas:** One of the benefits of having new leaders is that they bring in fresh ideas and different contacts. Wood Beavers took full advantage of this with a visit to the Marine Simulation Centre at Solent University, where they steered their virtual ship across the ocean and into port (from the photos it looked great fun, I am so envious). They also had a visit from Wessex Archaeology, learning about our history and handling some artefacts.



One of the stated aims of Scouting is to provide the young people with "skills for life". Besides the practical ones, such as first aid and cooking, some of our Patrol Leaders learnt some less tangible ones as they attended a county-run training course which covered the basics of leadership.



With such varied, useful and exciting programmes it's no wonder that our numbers keep growing. Two years ago I thought that we were nearing capacity, but the January 2020 national census showed that our numbers are up again – to 137 young people between the ages of 6 and 14, with a couple of dozen more in the Draco Explorer section (aged 14 to 17).

If you think you have something to offer Scouting, whether it's helping with traditional skills, providing new ideas, or working behind the scenes on administration or maintenance, I'd be pleased to hear from you. Contact details are at the front of the magazine.

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