



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



In those far off days B.C. (Before Covid) members of our Rifle Club participated in the annual Hampshire Scout shooting competition. All acquitted themselves well, but a special mention to two members of our Explorer unit: Jazmine who gained bronze in rifle and silver in pistol, putting her in top place for the combined event in her category, and Matthew – silver in rifle, gold in pistol and gold for combined event in his class. A terrific result, you'll agree. Nor should we forget Steve, one of the leaders and main driving force behind the club, with gold in pistol and silver in combined.

Also squeezing-in before face-to-face events were prevented, one of our Cub Packs had a climbing session at Golden Gecko and Wood Beavers had a go at sand art.



You will appreciate that our normal weekly sessions have had to stop, but Scouting at Home goes on! I'm very grateful to my leaders for their inventiveness and enthusiasm in providing parents with ideas for activities and badgework that can be done at home, and also for their skill in using social media and conferencing apps to provide virtual sessions over the internet. The younger members of the Group clearly enjoyed seeing their faces on-screen and being able to see and talk to their school friends. Once their exuberance had died down it was possible to get onto things like quizzes and crafts, with tasks set for completion by the next meeting.

Unfortunately the Romsey District Scout and Guide celebration of St George's Day had to be cancelled, as were several short camps that our sections had planned for late spring and early summer. At this stage we are still wondering whether or not it will be possible to go ahead with the main summer camps. However, we are very grateful to the Barker Mill Foundation, who have donated £1.8k towards the purchase of some 8-person tents, which we will make use of as soon as possible. These were needed partly to enable us to pension-off some existing ones and partly to increase the capacity, enabling both of our large Cub Packs to camp at the same time.



The timing of this donation was very welcome, coming as it does when other sources of income have taken a hit. However sound financial management over many years, led by successive Treasurers, means that our reserves are in pretty good order and we expect to come through this a bit bruised, but not knocked-out.

It has been great to see the community spirit that has been demonstrated locally – may this continue long after the pandemic has passed.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader