



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



“A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room”

Baden-Powell

I think most Scout leaders would say “Amen” to that. Scouting started 110 years ago with a camp, and it has been an integral part of the programme ever since. Not only does it give the young people opportunity to experience outdoor adventure and learn new skills, it is a great way for everyone to get to know each other better, which helps for a long time afterwards.

The 2017 summer season was kicked off by our River Beaver section who stayed at Butcher’s Coppice Scout Camp, near Bournemouth. The theme was “Mini Beasts”, so they crawled on the activities like beetles, climbed the tower like spiders and jumped on trampolines like crickets. For many it was their first night away from home, and they can’t wait for the next one!



Courtesy of the owners, our two Cub packs joined in a camp at Broadlands Lakes fishery. There they exercised the traditional skills of pioneering, den-building and starting fires using a fire-steel, rather than matches. Parents were invited to the camp-fire when several new Cubs were invested.

Our Scouts also had a joint camp, this time with some from 3rd Romsey (Braishfield) at Bentley Copse Activity Centre, Guildford. Activities included climbing, orienteering, crate-stacking, quad-biking and laser tag. The young people thoroughly enjoyed cooking for themselves in patrols, working as teams to produce new meals, whilst cooking on open fires. During the camp, a team of four completed their Expedition Challenge - an independent hike over two days, planning and organising their own route and overnight camp.

I also need to mention the excellent results of our air-rifle shooting team, some of whom camped at Bisley for the Junior International Rifle Championships. Here they formed part of the UK Scouting squad, competing against teams from as far away as South Africa and the USA. Congratulations to Matthew, of our Scout troop, in achieving silver in the 10m Springer Air Rifle Sporter class Grand Prix and Bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Springer Sporter. Not to be outdone by her younger brother Lauren (Draco Explorers) picked up a Gold in the 10m Sporter team event.

Early in September Connor and Matthew from 21st's Scout Troop and Sophia & Jasmin from Draco Explorers competed in the British Shooting Target Sprint finals. All of our squad shot and ran well, in particular Jasmin, who reached the final of the Junior Women’s class where she improved on her heat performance with some excellent shooting and a 100m sprint to the finish line, shoulder to shoulder with another competitor, beating them by one second and finishing in 6th position with a time of 6m 32s.





Having started with the River Beaver Colony, the summer season of camps was ended by the Wood Beaver cClony, who joined with several hundred other Beavers from around Hampshire at the county's Scout camp-site, Ferny Crofts. Thanks to the organisation of the County team, the children had chance to experience events such as climbing, archery, the assault course and pedal carts.

Our Autumn Term programmes are now well under way – more of those next time.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader