



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



I'm pleased to be able to report another month of interesting and exciting activities:

Only a few miles away, near Beaulieu Road station, is Ferny Crofts, a major Scout activity centre. Besides being an excellent place to camp and a base for hikes, it's also the location of many events run by Hampshire Scouting. The following are two recent ones:

Our two Cub packs held a joint sleepover at our HQ, but during the weekend they went to Ferny Crofts for an afternoon of activities – holding corn snakes and barn owls, having a go at a coconut shy, shooting targets with nerf guns, becoming the players in a human version of table football and playing on other inflatables. The evening was rounded off with a camp-fire and the next day the Cubs went home happy, but exhausted (as were the leaders!).



Some of our Beavers went to another activity day at Fernys. Amongst other things they went on trampolines, over the assault course and down the abseiling tower. It's fantastic that these young people, only 6 or 7 years old, are able to do things that I didn't experience until twice their age. Meanwhile our other Beaver Colony have continued their Fitness Challenge with a session at Frankie's Fun Factory.

The annual Chiltern-20 is a tough hiking / map-reading competition of about 25km in the Chiltern Hills. It's becoming a regular event for our Scout section, with this year's team coming 47th out of the 65 teams in the "senior" category.

Whilst the entrants for the Chiltern 20 mostly came from the south-east of the country, our Rifle Club was meeting wider competition, from over 600 participants, at the Scout National Rifle Championships held at Bisley. All our team members acquitted themselves well, but a particular mention of: Jazmin (7th of over 80 in own Springer Rifle); Colin and Matthew (silver and bronze respectively in 300-yard, small bore); and Thomas (bronze, Target Sprint). Furthermore, on the back of his performance in small bore, Bradley has been offered a place on the Scout national squad – if he takes this up it will mean 3 members of Romsey District in that elite group. In the October edition of the News I mentioned that Steve, joint lead of our Rifle Club, had been granted the Chief Scout's Commendation for good service, so it was fitting that this was presented during the weekend, together with the trophy as British Open Sporter Champion, 2018.



Although we use air-rifles for sport we recognise that guns are also a weapon of war. As usual we are grateful to St John's Church for including us in their annual service of Remembrance. Together we remembered all who have died as the result of war, but particularly those named on the local roll of honour and the 1500 members of Scouting who were killed during WW1.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader