



FRESSINGFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report to our Communities

2023

The 1st Fressingfield Scouts provides wonderful opportunities for young people of all ages to contribute to their communities, gain confidence, and learn new skills. But we can't do this without input from our friends and supporters for which we are very grateful.

This year has seen an enthusiastic return to post COVID activity especially camping with 9 camps, ranging from a Group Camp with 63 camping and 18 Beavers visiting for the day to a 4 person overnight camp as part of an Expedition Challenge Hike. In between these we had a 6 night Scout and Explorer Summer Camp, attendance at the Norfolk County Scouts organised Water Activities Weekend, Beaver, Cub and Scout 1 and 2 night camps and a Patrol Leader Team "Middle of Nowhere" 2 night Camp a mile from the nearest road or tap.

Our members and friends were busy over the Jubilee weekend. A party of Scouts, Explorers and Leaders attended the Norfolk Scouts Water Activities Weekend four day Camp at Decoy Broad and had a fantastic time although the last day was rather wet! We had a Beacon Lighting Ceremony on Thursday at our Headquarters with bar, barbeque and tree planting work carried out. Thank you to Cowham's Car and Commercial for providing the tower for the beacon. On Friday we ran a barbeque at the very successful Hoxne Playing Field Jubilee Family Fun Day and on Saturday provided First Aid cover and a couple of side shows at the Fressingfield event. Unfortunately, because of the weather, the organisers had to cancel our barbeque at the Stradbroke event on the Sunday.

The Sections' main focus for the end of the year was their contributions for our first Gang Show since 2019 which was in Hoxne Village Hall. The evening went very well with a close to capacity audience, all Sections contributed and most members either performed on stage, helped behind the scenes, or ran craft and refreshment stalls.

We have recently completed our annual membership return to the Scout Association, this has revealed that we have grown by 25 youth members in the year. This is spread across all sections but around half the increase is the new 4 and 5 year old Squirrel Section and is around an overall 15% increase which is very pleasing but results in an increasing strain on our Leader Team.

Work continues to improve our Headquarters site. At the moment we are constructing a cart lodge to house our mountain bikes, pioneering gear, marquee trailer and kayaks. This has only been possible with significant amounts of volunteer labour and a generous discount from the builder. Partial grant funding was provided by Mid Suffolk District Council.

Scouting is fun, rewarding and challenging not only for the young people from our communities but also for the dozens of adult volunteer Leaders and helpers that support the Scout Group. Subject to the necessary safeguarding checks and some training and support, we are also seeking to expand the number of adults that volunteer with us. Opportunities in a number of roles exist for anyone aged between 18 and, well, anything really! Get in touch through our website, Facebook, twitter or Instagram pages or speak to any Leader. You can also email Andrew the Group Scout Leader at andrew.aaldersdunthorne@talk21.com

1st Fressingfield Scout Group is affiliated to the Southern Norfolk District Scout Council, Norfolk Scout Association. It is operated by volunteers and is funded solely by our members, fundraising and the generosity of sponsors and public subscriptions.

We are a registered charity (No. 1181154) our governance arrangements and accounts can be viewed at the Charity Commission website.