



# **FRESSINGFIELD SCOUT GROUP**

## **Annual Report to our Communities 2024**

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 been very busy, we've completed construction of the cart lodge and this now houses our marquee trailer, a dozen new mountain bikes, 8 donated bikes of various sizes, our pioneering ropes and our barbeque collection which has grown this year after a couple of generous donations!

The shooting range has been completed and thanks to the generosity of Laxfield Parish Council it has mains lighting to allow us to use it in the evening.

Our first aid provision has improved with the addition of a defibrillator part funded by Fressingfield Parish Council.

As always we are very grateful for the support, both financial and in other ways from local parish councils.

We continue to fundraise to fund developments and maintenance at the HQ, there are Group events like the Santa Run and Open Evening and each Section has a target of £500 to achieve from events that they organise. Events have included bric a brac stalls, cake stalls, barbeques and sponsored activities. Thank you to everyone from the many villages that our members come from for their support at these events.

We continue to have many camps over the year ranging from a Group Camp at an activity centre for 70 Young People and 15 Leaders to a 4 member and Leader camp in a wood a mile from the nearest road or tap. We have begun to develop our backwoods camping skills by building bivouac shelters to sleep in rather than using tents and Hoxne Parish Council have helped us by funding the purchase of additional bivouac tarpaulins so that bigger groups can be taken.

The highlight of our year has been the Explorer Expedition to Mothers Mercy Mission orphanage in Kenya at Easter. This was our fourth visit over ten years and our members and Leaders get an enormous amount from the experience of joining orphanage community for two weeks.

We have recently completed our annual membership return to the Scout Association, this has revealed that the Fressingfield based sections have grown by 15 youth members in the year. This is spread across all sections and is around an overall 15% increase which is very pleasing but results in an increasing strain on our Leader Team. Our linked School Sections have also grown by 10 members.

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](mailto:andrew.aaldersdunthorne@talk21.com)

1<sup>st</sup> 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.