



FRESSINGFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Annual Report to our Communities 2025

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.

Regardless of the title that we have we like to think of ourselves not as just Fressingfield Scout Group but as the Scout Group for the area and it is good to see enthusiasm for what we do and to have so many members and such great support from the surrounding villages.

We continue to develop and improve our site and this year have installed more hedging for wildlife and shelter. Unfortunately, the next door building development has stalled and we do not yet have our own mains water and sewer connections and whilst the new access from New Street has been laid out it isn't finished or accessible to us. This is making it impossible to finish our carpark and the temporary surface has suffered badly.

We continue to fundraise to fund developments and maintenance at the HQ. There are Group events like the Open Evening and Santa Run which this year finished at the Village Christmas Market, where we were pleased to provide the barbeque. There was much positive comment about Scouting and support for what we do which was very pleasing.

Other fundraising events have included bric a brac stalls, cake stalls, quizzes, barbeques and sponsored activities. Thank you to everyone from the many villages that our members come from for their support at these events.

We have been pleased to support Christmas Tree Festivals in Hoxne and Weybread.

As you would expect camping and outdoor activities are a big part of what we do. Our biggest camp was Group Camp which was again at Eaton Vale Activity Centre. 75 Young People and 16 Leaders had a very active weekend camping, climbing, canoeing, pedal go carting, crate stacking, raft building, shooting both air rifles and bows, grass sledging and playing wide games. The smallest camp was the overnight stop on a two day Expedition Challenge hike where four 13 year old members navigated, mainly on footpaths from Eye to Stradbroke via, Brome, Oakley, Hoxne and Denham completing a survey comparing and assessing the churchyards for wildlife benefit. We have twice had camps for small groups in a remote wood. Firstly, for our annual Middle of Nowhere camp where we go back to basics with cooking on a fire, butchering wild game for dinner and sleeping in bivouacs. Secondly, as an overnight stop off on their first experience of hiking carrying all their kit and cooking expedition food on lightweight stoves.

The Explorer Summer Camp was to Corfe Castle where much hiking, swimming, sea kayaking and exploring was done. The highlight seems to have been a “mud run”!

Pioneer Troop Scouts had a very busy and successful joint activity camp with Warriors Beavers at Hallowtree Scout site in Ipswich, apparently many of the Young People slept in the car all the way home which is usually a good indicator of a successful camp!

Our contingent had a great time at the annual Bank Holiday Norfolk County organised Water Activities Weekend at Decoy Broad.

Unfortunately, the weather was unkind and although we set up on Friday evening and finished on Monday afternoon in warm sunshine the two days between had a lot of rain, the occasional thunder clap and a few flashes of lightning!

The outstanding highlight of our year has been the Explorer Expedition to Iceland last Easter. This was our third visit over ten years and this year we combined with Long Stratton Explorers so there was a much bigger group. Activities included hiking across glaciers, pony trekking, having a dip in hot springs and a snowball fight! Our members and Leaders gained an enormous amount from the trip and joining with another Scout Group added an extra, and very positive, dimension to the experience.

We have recently completed our annual membership return to the Scout Association. This has revealed that the Fressingfield based sections have grown by 10 youth members in the year. This is spread across all sections and is around an overall 11% increase which is very pleasing but results in an increasing strain on our Leader Team.

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 either in roles in the Sections with our Young People or in support roles in the background. Opportunities in a number of roles exist for anyone aged between 18 and, well, anything really!

Get in touch through our website, www.fressingfieldscouts.com Facebook, twitter or Instagram pages or speak to any Leader. You can also email Andrew the Group Scout Leader at: gsl@fressingfieldscouts.com

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

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.