



# 1<sup>st</sup> Fressingfield Scout Group

## REPORT to the Fressingfield Parish Council

In this extraordinary year we have continued to provide Scouting to our Young People and support to our members and communities through virtual meetings using Zoom, activities and online resources. There have been quizzes, mini raft building and testing, conversations about various hobbies, unusual Scavenger Hunts, games of bingo and kahoot, a whole Group virtual visit to the Army Air Museum a Cub and Beaver visit to Wye Valley Alpacas, escape room challenges, Virtual Hikes to Snowdonia and the Lake District and lots of cooking evenings for all sections. Norfolk Scouts (yes, Fressingfield is in Suffolk but for Scouting we have been part of Norfolk for many years!) have run three Virtual Jamborees called BOXJAM with many activities and events which several of our members enjoyed. Southern Norfolk District have run a Lockdown Challenge of activities that can be completed at home and lead to a badge. Both gave the opportunity to interact on screen with members from other Groups.

Some of our members joined Northumberland Scouts in a World Record Camp at Home; it seems over 84,000 members of Scouting and Guiding from 67 countries took part. However, the “Main Event” in our Virtual Scouting programme has been a Virtual Camp. This took place from Friday evening May 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday lunchtime May 3<sup>rd</sup> and replaced our normal Group Camp. 70 members camped at their home, either in a tent in the garden or a homemade den in the house. We had cooking sessions shared on Zoom, a short Scouts Own service, a “hike”, a campsite modelling session, a crazy hat challenge, a quiz, a work out session, a campfire, a “necker” challenge and an outdoor cookery demonstration. BBC Radio Suffolk took an interest and some of our members explained what we were doing in a few slots. Park Radio from Diss broadcast a bedtime story, read by some of our Leaders at 9pm on Friday evening. Members, and often their families, attended the sessions that they were interested in and everyone had a good time. We have had some very positive feedback with comments such as:

*He had a brilliant weekend.*

*The fitness challenge was right up his street too.*

*Thank you all so very much, for a truly outstanding V-Camp.*

*The range of activities over the weekend were so imaginative.*

*We loved taking part in many of them as a family.*

*I am enormously grateful to you all, and the other leaders.*

*The Scouts have brought this bit of fun in his life.*

*I could never have imagined the sense of community and cohesion that would develop over the coming days.*

*Thank you for a wonderful weekend.*

Early in the first lockdown 19 members of the Group got involved in a “Hike to the Moon”. This was in support of BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief. It involved using our daily exercise sessions to walk a mile or two and donate to the BBC event, the Scout Association had hoped that enough members of the movement would be involved to tally up enough miles to reach the moon. In the event there were enough miles to be only 6,000 short of getting there and back! That is a 477,710

**Registered charity number: 1181154**

**Visit our website at: <https://www.1stfressingfieldscouts.org.uk/>**



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mile journey. This raised an incredible £328,000 which provided vital support to people and communities affected by COVID-19. Our contribution was £170. Every single penny we've raised, including funds from the sale of Hike to the Moon badges, will be match-funded by the government. This means Scouting will ultimately contribute over £650,000 for BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief.

To give our members a reason to camp, if only in the garden, we have challenged every member, including Leaders, with the Camp and Cook Mission, which involves camping and cooking at home in every month of the year. Gold Standard involves all twelve months camping outdoors, Silver if any are in an indoor den. There is a Bronze level for Beavers which involves preparing breakfast rather than cooking. No beds allowed!! There are a many pictures from our members' home camps on the Facebook page.

We have been donated two excellent gazebo shelters by someone that no longer has a use for them. We are very grateful for this especially as one that we were using was twisted out of shape beyond use at a Cub Camp towards the end of last year during a storm. In the last year or so we have also been gifted a table tennis table, a table top football game and some rucksacks. Prompted by these gifts we started a camp cooking equipment appeal which has had a fantastic response with metal pots, pans and utensils, frying pans, cooking pots, dishes and trays and things like ladles and spatulas and even redundant grids from barbeques and grills. We are sure that much use will be made of it when we are allowed to camp again. If anyone has anymore, or small axes and logging or pruning saws please get in touch with Michael on 07761827053.

For a period last Summer and Autumn we were allowed limited Face to Face meetings for small groups outdoors with Social Distancing and other COVID safe precautions, there were scavenger hunts, hikes and night hikes, archery sessions, pumpkin carving and activities on our new Headquarters field but by November we were back to Virtual Scouting on Zoom.

The Explorers are thinking about their proposed trip to Mothers Mercy Mission in Kenya during Easter 2022. They have cooked chapatis and ugali and learned some basic Swahili. Cautious planning is going ahead in the hope that conditions will allow the trip to take place.

We had hoped that our new HQ building would have been installed just before Christmas, after securing a loan for the final amount. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons that was delayed, however we are working hard to get things back on track. We hope that by September we will have a new and much needed building at our Priory Road site. While the building has been delayed, we continue to get the site ready, and have had UK Power connect the site to the national grid, so we now have power but also an electricity bill!

We are now working on the water supply and waste connection and hope to have all services connected ready for the arrival of our modular building. The site is also now a registered address and we have a post box.

A grant from the Tree Council has enabled the purchase of further hedging plants to fill the gaps in the existing hedges and replace those in the new hedge that didn't survive the hot weather. We also



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have a stock of heritage fruit trees – some already planted and the final ones to go between the new building and fence.

Thank you to everyone that has supported our Crowdfunder campaign, although we didn't get to our rather ambitious target, we have achieved getting on for £6000 and are still accepting donations! We have been doing as much fundraising as lockdown and COVID safe restrictions allow. A Virtual Auction of donated items has raised a significant contribution towards our new HQ fund, many thanks to all that donated items and supported this. The chair of our Executive Committee, with one of the Scout Leaders, undertook a sponsored parachute jump which also raised around a thousand pounds.

We are grateful **to Fressingfield Parish Council for the donation of £350, this funding has been allocated to equip the medical room at the new HQ** and to a couple who have donated their Winter Fuel Allowance to the New HQ project.

Thanks to everyone who is collecting empty crisp bags and thanks to Karine, one of our Executive Committee Trustees for organising the campaign. An unseemly amount of bags have been sent in for recycling and we have received £360, this cash will go towards purchasing new kayaks (made from recycled plastic). We have raised over three quarters of the cost of the first kayak.

Our website and social media coordinator has started a project to gather archive material relating to Fressingfield Scout Group to display in the new HQ and form part of the website. If you have any photographs, memorabilia or even stories that you are able to share please get in touch with Ciaran at [scouts@ciarancarr.co.uk](mailto:scouts@ciarancarr.co.uk) or telephone Michael on 07761827053. We will also be launching an Old Boys (and Girls) Network. Details can be found on our website 'History tab' found here: <https://www.1stfressingfieldscouts.org.uk/history>

At the moment, the Section Leaders are planning on the return of Face to Face Scouting after the Easter break with section programmes being planned and whole Group activities being discussed

We intend to relaunch local Scouting and the Scout Group at the new headquarters in the autumn.

We have a video review of the year available to view on Youtube  
1st Fressingfield Scouting Year 2020' <https://youtu.be/Pr3y9JaXWYM>

To find out more about 1<sup>st</sup> Fressingfield Scout Group speak to any Leader or have a look at our website <http://www.1stfressingfieldscouts.org.uk>

I am immensely proud of the work that the volunteer adults have done this year to keep Scouting providing an outlet for the young people of the area.

Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne  
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1<sup>st</sup> Fressingfield Scout Group  
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