

Group Leaders' Report

1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024



The photo above is taken from our group's St George's Day celebration back in April 2023, with all of our sections coming together to entertain friends and family in honour of our patron saint. It was the first of many group get togethers in the last year - we also joined forces for a trip to the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum, honoured the fallen and represented the community at Costessey's Remembrance Sunday commemorations and took the train to Great Yarmouth for a workshop and dazzling aquatic performance at the famous Hippodrome Circus.

I've been writing this report for 8 years now but this year we have some fantastic news in that we're presenting the section reports of not 3 but 4 sections as we welcomed our newest, and youngest cohort in October 2023 - our fabulous little Squirrel Scouts for young people aged 4 - 6 years old. Spearheaded by the boundless energy and enthusiasm of Claire, the section has grown from strength to strength and has been a real boost to our group.

After 8 years, there's bound to be some repetition; I'll always talk about the amazing work done by our fabulous volunteers, about the fantastically fun things they make a reality for our young people and the dedicated behind the scenes work of those volunteers you don't always see but are vital to running our group - the trustees who look after the legal and financial side of things, think of them like a school's board of governors.

Once again this year so much good work has been done - both literally at the hall with our new fencing and lick of paint inside, and in our sections with a huge number of fun and adventurous things going on week in, week out.

My huge thanks go to our whole volunteer team for making all of this happen. Unfortunately we are saying goodbye at the moment to Tim in Scouts and Chloe from our Board of Trustees who are stepping back from their roles with us as of this weekend. In more positive news though, we have welcomed three new volunteers in our sections this year; Carl in Squirrels, Mandie in Beavers and Anna in Cubs who are all fantastic additions to our team and really getting stuck in and making a positive difference to our group and its young people.

If you'd like to join them, give something back, be a part of something truly special and have fun yourself along the way, volunteering is a hugely rewarding experience and vital to keeping us going. Even if all you can do is cut the grass once a month, or take some notes at a quarterly meeting, it all helps and makes a massive difference to us.

We'd love to speak to you about how you could get involved and, in the words of our founder Robert Baden-Powell, "try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate, you have not wasted your time but have done your best."

James Higham Group Lead Volunteer

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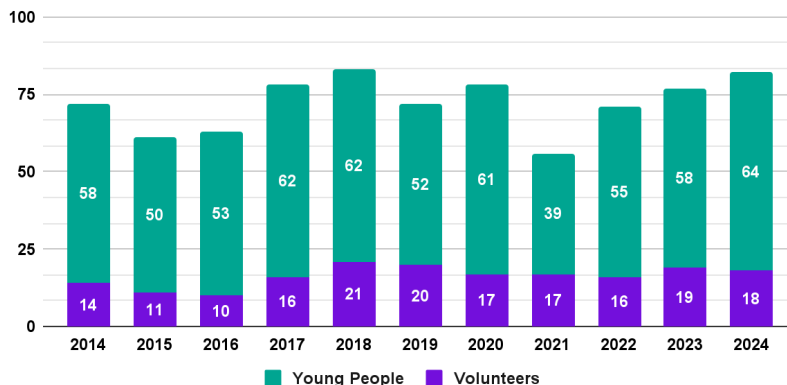
27th Norwich (New Costessey)
Scout HQ, Gunton Lane, Norwich, NR5 0AE
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www.27thnorwich.org.uk

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27th Norwich Scout Group Membership

Figures taken on 31st January each year.



Squirrels

Squirrel Scout team:
Carl Smith, Claire Lee, Jan Moll



It's incredible to think that our Squirrel drey has nearly been open for a year, time has flown! In our first year we've welcomed our first 12 Squirrels into the group and enjoyed lots of different activities, stories and topics together.

Since we opened in October 2023, we've been on several hikes, cooked on a campfire, built model boats and bridges for our toys, got creative to celebrate several festivals, been bug hunting and tried lots of new things - including a joint camp with our friends in Beavers. We've also seen our first 3 squirrels earn their Acorn badge (top award for squirrels) and move up to join Beavers.

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BEAVERS

Beaver Scout team:

Claire Lee, Dawn Wale, James Higham, Mandie Miller



We've been busy Beavers once again this year, with fun and adventure at every turn, at Gunton Lane and beyond!

A highlight this year has been making friends with our fellow scouts; 1st Drayton Beavers for a night of raft building and paddling, our younger friends in Squirrels for a joint camp and end of term celebration, or the Cubs and Scouts at the group events we've had this year. These days aside, we've not been short of things to do on a Friday evening either; getting creative in the kitchen, exploring the local area, learning about different global festivals (and their associated tasty treats), or inviting our special adults to join us for a Mother's Day cafe.

More young people are continually joining the fun, with our highest number of Beavers in a long time, but we've said goodbye to Claire and Jan this year who have concentrated their volunteering into running our Squirrel section, so we'd love to hear from anyone who's interested in getting involved with Beavers - it's a really rewarding experience and lots of fun too!

cubs

Cubs Scout team:

Anna Lemmon, Emma Horsfall, Keith Whittaker, Lindsay Stansbury



The 27th Norwich Cubs have had an action-packed and memorable year! One of the highlights was our camp, where, despite the pouring rain, everyone had a fantastic time. We also had a fun-filled Scottish-themed evening, complete with caber tossing and a taste of traditional haggis, neeps, and tatties. Our Cubs earned their Astronomer's Badge and DIY Badge, sanding and painting benches with enthusiasm. A visit to the local fire station allowed them to use a real fire hose, and they've been sharpening their outdoor skills with fire lighting.

We also enjoyed a thrilling group visit to the Yarmouth Circus, where the Cubs were amazed by the performances, and had a blast at the Northern Norwich District Water Activity Day. Next up, we're excited to dive into nature as we work towards earning the Naturalist Badge!

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SCOUTS

Scout team:

Alan Moll, David Stansbury, John Thompson, Tom Green, Vicky Green



Over the past year the Scouts have camped at Wolferton, on the Sandringham estate for our first week long summer camp in many years, and at Decoy Broad for a district-led Scouts on water weekend and have also had a sleepover at the HQ.

They have taken part in a night hike competition, at Horsford, doing well and completing the hike. We have sent Scouts to a District shooting competition, with Sam Wilkins, and Louis Woodvine, winning and being placed in the top three.

The Scouts have had a varied programme, with camping and outdoor skills such as lighting and cooking over open fires, pioneering, and map reading skills, we also went on hikes, abseiling at Hellesdon, and had a joint meeting with our friends at the 16th Norwich in Old Costessey, raft building and getting on and in the water.

We have had some changes to leaders, in that Tim Fancy has stood down, and we will see two of our young leaders, Lizzie Green and James Wilson leave for university. We wish them all the best.

We the leaders; David Stansbury, John Thompson, Vicky Green and Alan Moll welcome Tom Green, a former youth member who's now grown up and joining the team and helping out when he can. We look forward to giving your youngsters more scouting skills and experiences, including the Norfolk Jamboree in 2025, which we will be taking some of the Scouts to.

On the subject of the Norfolk Jamboree, this is a unique opportunity for the Scouts, sharing the Norfolk showground with Scout groups from around the world. To try to help with the cost the Scouts themselves will be trying to raise funds, in an attempt to lower the cost for them all. More news to follow!

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