

ONE GREAT YEAR OF ADVENTURE



27TH NORWICH

27th Norwich Scout Group Annual Report
1st April 2016 - 31st March 2017

Welcome from the Group Scout Leader

After my first report as Group Scout Leader for last year's AGM, I'm thrilled to report that this year the group has grown from strength to strength in so many ways. The first real indication of this came at the annual Scout Association census in January 2017, where we saw that both youth and adult membership were at a record high since the new millennium.



As you look around you, you won't be able to fail to notice our success in other ways, namely the improvements to the hall & grounds and to some new faces in the 27th Norwich team. I'd like to welcome Nathan Pegg and Ebby Gawn as Section Assistants in the Beaver Scout section along with Carla Steele as Assistant Cub Scout Leader. On the Executive Committee, Vicky Green has moved from being a lay member to Group Secretary and Val Don was co-opted onto the committee at our first meeting.

It is the role of the Executive Committee to look after the group's assets and ensure we have enough resources to continue providing great Scouting for another year after each AGM. This tireless work in the background has never been more evident than this year, where nobody will have failed to notice the vast improvements made to the hall and grounds.

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I'd like to especially thank William Gallop, Group Treasurer, for his astounding work in securing another £30k+ grant allowing this work to be completed and pulling all the various quotes together and to David Stansbury for his countless hours spent at the hall this year, not only delivering high quality Scouting but also installing our new heating unit completely free of charge during his own time.

As you'll see from the section reports and photos, the quality Scouting theme continues across the group with 454 badges being awarded this year – almost double last year's amount!

There has been so much happening this year and next year looks set to be no different, with new initiatives and events already in the pipeline and another trip to Norjam later in the year. Scouting in New Costessey is growing and we'd love to let you in on the adventure!

James Higham
Group Scout Leader



As a leadership team, we are slowly gelling together and I hope making progress, but are more than happy to welcome extra help and ideas. As a new team we haven't been as adventurous as previous teams, and are hoping to include some district events in the future and hopefully a sleepover, soon.

We have had a varied and balanced programme including working towards our challenge badges, and activity badges including; cycling, safety, stage one aircraft, international, explore and experiment.

We have spent time indoors, outside and away from the hall, adding to the variation.

Would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents that helped and supported us last term. Thanks also to my team, Alan, John, Jean, Nathan and Ebby. And to everyone involved in the major improvements in the hall and grounds during the last year.

Jan Moll
Beaver Scout Leader



The Cub Scouts have had another exciting year. Some of the activities that we have done, include backwoods cooking, Diwali lights, and a "fix it" evening, also we did the astronomy badge.

We had a competition for the most disgusting sandwich (one that springs to mind is a severed finger). We tried our hand at tracking in the dark (quite tricky!) and had a night of basketball.

We took part in Costessey Hike and had an enjoyable time on our annual May Bank Holiday camp at Holt Hall. To earn our cyclist badge, we completed a ride along the Marriots Way to Halfords and back. A fire

lighting evening saw the Cubs literally flame-grilling burgers and most recently a very challenging night of abseiling so a very busy year! We currently have 18 members with 4 about to join the Scout section.

Keith Whittaker
Cub Scout Leader



After our last AGM, we entered 2 teams of 6 (4 scouts & 2 cubs) into the Horsford Hike in November, with one team winning and the other coming a respectable fourth place. All the young people enjoyed the event and we will be entering another 2 teams again this year to retain our trophy!

We then organised an overnight sleep at the HQ where the scouts slept outside under their own shelters (mostly cardboard boxes), with the leaders who stayed spending a night under the stars.

Once again we organised our own annual Costessey Hike in February for mixed teams of cubs and scouts from across the district. 12 teams entered this year but the competition was stiff and although we didn't win, all the young people had a great time and were smiling in the end!

23 of our scouts attended the Water Activities Mayhem (WAM) district activity camp in June and took part in activities such as archery, air rifle shooting, sailing, rafting, kayaking, sit-on canoes, catapults, tomahawk throwing and crafts.

We entered 2 teams into the district shooting and archery competition, with 2 of our scouts being selected to represent Northern Norwich Scout District at the county archery finals. Unfortunately, the date for this clashed with the WAM camp and a large majority of the eligible scouts across the district preferred to be at the camp so the district was unable to raise a team.

As ever we've done a lot of badge work this year, with first aid, problem solving, map work, fire lighting (without matches or lighters) and cooking – including a "Ready, Steady, Cook" evening where the scouts are given a bag of food to make a meal from.

We've just seen 6 scouts move on to Explorer Scouts, with another 4 now moving up from Cub Scouts and have been approached by 2 young people from outside the group which now takes us to around 26 scouts.

We will be attending Norjam Scout Jamboree 2018 at the Norfolk show ground in August for a week. There will be around 3000 scouts and guides from around the world there. The troop are looking at ways to fundraise this to help reduce the cost to parents, any ideas for this would be gratefully appreciated.

David Stansbury
Scout Leader