

1st Lingwood & Strumpshaw Air Scout Group has been providing Skills for life in Lingwood and Strumpshaw communities since 1963.

The Group is made up of Beaver Scouts 5 3/4, we currently have 24 and are full, Cub Scouts are 8 to 10 1/2 years and we have 21 at present, Scouts are 10 1/2 to 14 years and we have 15. Some of the young people we have in the group have additional needs and alongside this we have 2 new leaders adding to our team giving us 11 in total. If we had the adults the group would be able to open a Squirrel section for 4-6 year olds in the local community.

Some then go on to be Explorers and or Young Leaders from 14 to 18 years. We have successfully helped 2 Young People to gain their Young Leader Belt in the last couple of years out of 4 that we have had taking part in this scheme and D of E. The Young Leader Belt is awarded when they have completed 11 modules of training and 4 Missions, which are tasks they have to perform to support the section or group they work with ranging from running games to helping plan activities and camps, These Young Leaders also benefit from UCAS points and credits on their CV.

The Group is fully inclusive with race, religion, and gender & ability.

They have very dedicated Team Leaders in each section, and their Team Members, all of which are Volunteers. They must complete Leader training such as Safety and safeguarding, and First aid, and we always welcome anyone wishing to volunteer their time in any capacity. For some of the more adventurous activities more training is required.

Recent activities have included Beaver Scouts doing disability awareness, air rifle shooting, archery, going on District Sleepovers and Badge days with other Beavers from Eastern Norwich District.

Cubs have recently done an Afternoon tea for the mums for mothers day, Air Activities, DIY badge and Camping, cooking & taking part in a variety of events. Also they will be going on another camp with a group at Hallowtrees in Ipswich for a Sixer and Secunder camp.

Scouts have taken part in District and community activities including, the Great Tommy Sleep out to raise awareness and funds for the RBLI and homeless veterans, We have also been recognised by the RBL for our community involvement in partnership with them such as re-dedicating the war memorial at the village hall, poppy selling and our participation the Remembrance day parades. Archery, Rifle shooting, Camping, Glider Flying with the 35th Norwich Sea Scouts, and taking part in some of the national awareness days alongside all the traditional Scout training. They recently met with both Lingwood and Strumpshaw Parish councillors Ian and Michael respectively, to discuss their local community and what they think the local area would benefit from, we then discussed what was and wasn't viable due to the Village being a dark sky area and therefore having no streetlights impacting other things that highways will and won't do, they also gave their views on what they think should happen in relation to the Buckenham Ancient Woodland Trust as part of a survey.

As you are aware the Scout Group has been given notice to move from their current H.Q. in Chapel Road, Strumpshaw, as the lease has been sold.

We have until 2034 to find new grounds and move or replace the H.Q. It seems some time away, but we must now look for about 1 acre of land to build on. To aid this we have been actively trying to fundraise, and took part in Park Run Takeover in January, when the weather gave us its absolute worst, and since then some of our young people have since joined park run. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parish Clerk Sonya for her help in contacting Jerome Mayhew our local MP and pushing our predicament further into the forefront of peoples minds.

We are one of the very limited numbers of Youth groups locally, and probably the one with the widest variety of activities available.

Colin Goff
Group Scout Leader
1/4/2025