

SPARKS HALL, PYNE ROAD, TOLWORTH, KT6 7BN.

OUT OF THE BLUE

**A Happy, Active
And Adventurous,
New Year
To All Uniformed
Members**



SCOUTS

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1040958

Group Scout Leader	John Bowman	gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk
Group Chair	Martin Smith	chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com
President	Mrs Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk
Vice President	Mr Graham Warnes	graham.warnes@blueyonder.co.uk
Circle Chair	Mrs Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Tue 10 GROUP EXECUTIVE.

Social Gathering of ExEc Members and Guest at Surbiton Royal British Legion.
20.00.

FEBRUARY

Tue 7 GROUP EXECUTIVE. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.

Thu 16 CIRCLE MEETING. Annual General Meeting.
13.30 – 15.00. Venue to be advised.

MARCH

Tue 7 GROUP EXECUTIVE. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.

Thu 17 CIRCLE MEETING. Sparks Hall.

Other events and any amendments are advised by Leadership Team members and for the Circle by the Vice Chair.

All contributions for the **MARCH** issue of **OOTB** to be delivered

by 11TH FEBRUARY

to

Martin Smith, E-mail: chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com

SHEILA JONES

29TH OCTOBER 1934 – 9TH NOVEMBER 2022

Not all of you would have known Sheila. She was a long serving Executive Committee member and as such one of those people within 1st Tolworth Scout Group that are mostly in the background.

Sheila, like a lot of the volunteers at 1st Tolworth, became involved with the Group when her and her husband Ivor's son, Duncan, became a Cub in the late 70's. When Duncan moved up to Scouts, Sheila volunteered to become the Troop representative and was duly elected at the 1978 AGM and started her journey as a member of the Group Executive.

She continued serving 1st Tolworth in a variety of roles up to November 2021, serving as Troop representative, Venture Scout Unit representative, GSL's nomination, Group Secretary and Out Of The Blue editor, then typist, editor and collator.

As Group Secretary Sheila took the Minutes of monthly committee meetings and AGMs, sent invitations to invited guests to attend the AGM, produced and distributed weekly requests to parents and local companies for donations to our annual November Fayres up to 2009 and helped with the Raffle Draw for many years. Sheila was also an active member of the Group's Circle.

Sheila's dedicated service to 1st Tolworth Scouts on the Group Executive committee spanned an incredible 43 years and 7 months from AGM April 1978 to November 2021. This service was made up of the following:

32 years and 3 months as Group Secretary from AGM May 1989 to July 2021.

and Out of the Blue:

33 years and 7 months as editor, then typist, editor and collator.

From October 1977-April 1984 Sheila typed the pages for OOTB and from April 1984 to April 1996 as well as typist she took on the additional role of OOTB editor.

During the period, October 1977-April 1996, OOTB was published every month and in the earlier years being pre-computer, the reports would have been submitted as hand written copies, so Sheila would have to type out each report. This was done onto stencils which were then used to print copies on a Gestetner machine.

Sheila had a short break from OOTB duties from May 1996 to April 2001 resuming as typist and editor from May 2001 to November 2022.

As the years passed Sheila, like the rest of us, joined the new world and started to use a computer. Reports eventually arrived by e-mail and the compiling and editing was done on the computer. Not sure that made life easier for Sheila as I'm sure she missed the good old

days and her typewriter. Although Sheila stepped down from her role as Group Secretary in July 2021, she continued her role as OOTB editor and collator until November 2022.

This made Sheila the longest serving editor with 33 years and 7 months dedicated service.

During Sheila's time with the Group she received the following justly deserved Awards:

1984 Thanks Badge.

1997 Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service.

2014 Chief Scout's 30 years Service Award.

2019 Chief Scout's 40 years Service Award.

You may notice that the 30 years and 40 years Awards are only five years apart. Sometimes the system goes wrong, resulting in the 30 years Service Award being five years late.

And at the 2022 Annual General Meeting Sheila received the Award for Merit which she was so proud of.

So we have to say goodbye to a dear friend a 1st Tolworth family member and dedicated administrator or as we in Scouting say,

Gone Home 

Or as I am reliably informed as Sheila would say

Popped Her Clogs.

God Bless You Sheila.

Martin Smith. Group Chair

GSL'S REPORT

The past year has had some good and tough times. We have had to say goodbye to some incredibly good friends of 1st Tolworth who have "Gone Home". It is never easy to lose "Family" members, as everyone connected with 1st Tolworth are part of the 1st Tolworth family and are a sad loss to us all.

Over the past year our Group has begun to recover from the loss of younger members not joining due to COVID but things are now changing. We are getting more requests from parents for their child to join our Beaver Colony.

I am pleased to say that Courtney has taken over the role of Beaver Leader after Rachel left, and along with Peter and the Young Leaders are doing a fantastic job with the Colony. The Beaver numbers are growing and there are currently 13 Beavers with another 11 on the

waiting list, the youngest being 2 years 11 months!! We know 1T are the best so getting your name down early is a must!

Courtney has a Whatsapp Parent Group set up so please, if you are not on it, can you get Courtney to add you. I know this has been said before, but if you can spare one Friday every so often to help would be great, especially as the numbers are going up and an extra adult or two would really help. Courtney will be going back to work soon after maternity leave, so maybe a Parent Rota via the Whatsapp group would work?

Megan and her team are doing an excellent job with the Cub Pack!

Megan has a new Leader to help her. Giacomo (Jackamo) has come through the Group as a Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer Scout and Young Leader.

When Giacomo turned 18, he decided he wanted to continue to help the Group and became a Section Assistant with Cubs. Luke and his partner Marina have had to take a step back for a time while Marina recovers from a knee operation and hope to help again soon. Megan's partner also helps as an Adult Helper when he can.

It is brilliant to see the young people continue their Scouting when they become 18. We have some who are at university and are still helping out at other sections during holidays, and when they can.

There are currently 17 Cubs in the Pack, with some more to come up from Beavers. Megan could do with extra adult help!

You are all aware of Meg's medical condition which can cause her to faint at any time. Thanks to the brilliant nose of Rowley, he can alert Meg when this will happen so she can make sure she is in a safe place. If there is any way you could be a Parent Helper, it would help enormously. It does not need to be every week. Maybe you could set a Parent Rota up with Whatsapp? It's just one thing that will help.

The Scout Troop is going great! They currently have 35 members and in the New Year 10 or so will be moving to Explorers but there are some to come up from Cubs.

The Scout Leadership team are doing a great job with an active program and loads of badges being awarded to the Scouts.

It won't be long before Stuart and Alex return from their one year's travel around Australia. it will be great to see them back, no doubt with plenty of stories and photos!

Although Atlas ESU is not part of 1st Tolworth but comes under the Royal Kingston District banner, Millie, Keira and Peter have taken it forward and it is now a fast-growing Unit. Most of the Explorer members are from 1T but there are some from other Groups. The numbers will continue to grow in the New Year as there are about 10 to move up from 1T Scout Troop and I know there will be more from other Scout Groups to join.

The November Fayre was an amazing success. Well done to Gayna, Brenda, Fiona and Terry for all the hard work they put in to raise over £1200. Also, to everyone who helped on the day on stalls, and to ferry equipment and items from the hall and homes. Thanks also to RBL Surbiton for allowing us to have our Fayre there.

This only leaves me to say I hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and wish everyone a very Happy New Year and see you all in 2023.

John Bowman
Group Scout Leader
gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to start as always in my Report by wishing you a Happy New Year.

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break.

This, you may have noticed, is our 600th edition, which you must admit is some achievement.

It was in January 1965 that someone had the bright idea of producing a monthly newsletter to keep everyone in touch. The idea came to him he said "out of the blue" so that is what you are reading today. It has been regularly produced monthly except in August and from July 2017 became bi-monthly. In the early days all the reports were typed and then copy printed, collated and distributed by hand by the dedicated team of volunteers. Very time consuming.

The use of computers made this process a bit quicker but up until Covid each edition was still printed, collated and distributed by hand. During Covid we tried electronic distribution and that was so well received we have stayed with electronic distribution since.

A couple of events of note have taken place since the November edition was published.

Remembrance Sunday

I attended the Service at Surbiton War Memorial and was pleased to see so many people in attendance and great to see so many youth group members attending including those from 1st Tolworth all looking really smart.

The 1st Tolworth Group wreath, which is normally laid at the Polyapes Memorial, was again laid at the Surbiton Memorial by two of our younger members.

Group November Fayre

This is the fifth year we have been able to hold our November Fayre at the Surbiton Royal British Legion and again we used the bar area which proved to be so successful the previous four years. We were fortunate to have The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor Yogan Yoganathan attend to officially open the Fayre. The Mayor, who was accompanied by the Mayoress Mrs Saro Yoganathan, were escorted around the Fayre by John and myself. The Mayor in particular spoke at length I think to almost all the volunteers running a stall. Both the Mayor and Mayoress enjoyed their time playing many of the tombolas before they left.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped out with running a stall, setting up, clearing away, carrying bits and pieces from Hall to Fayre and all those jobs that need doing before, on, and after the day. It really was a smooth operation on the day, so thank you all. Thanks to Lee Perkins for running the door and being the occasional compare. A big thank you to Ted Hodges, assisted by Joan, who arranged and ran the raffle. Also, a special thanks to the Fayre Co-ordination Team, Gayna Brice, Fiona Perkins, Brenda Pawley and Terry Goodall for all the hard work during the year in organising this special day. Without their hard work this event would not happen.

Also at the Fayre John, our Group Scout Leader, presented the Award for Merit to Julie Ford and Reg Lefevre. Well done to you both. So well deserved.

Unfortunately in November, we lost a dear friend and dedicated member of the 1st Tolworth family. Sheila Jones, a long time Group Executive member, suffered a severe stroke from which she did not recover and sadly passed away on 9th November 2022.

We extend our condolences and sympathy's to Sheila's Family, Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

Full details of Sheila's service to 1st Tolworth are in the Obituary on page 3 so I will not repeat them here.

Sheila's funeral and Celebration of Life were held on 14th December.

In attendance, representing friends and 1st Tolworth, were Pat Tomlinson, Pauline Littrell, Anne Eggington, Margaret Warry, Graham Warnes, Brenda Pawley, Pat and Trevor Coxon, Terry and Carol Goodall, Ted Hodges, Marilyn Jennings and myself.

Goodbye dear Sheila.

Proud to be 1st
Martin Smith Group Chair
chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com

THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT

NO REPORT

Courtney Bell
Beaver Scout Leader
Thames Beaver Scout Colony
Boys and Girls age 5 ¾ - 8
Fridays 17.45 – 18.45
beavers@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT

NO REPORT

Megan Taylor
Cub Scout Leader
Everest Cub Scout Pack
Boys and Girls age 8 – 10 ½
Wednesdays 18.30 – 20.00
megan.1sttolworthcubs@gmail.com

SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Hi everyone!

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over for another year, maybe we will have had some more snow, Stuart & Alex should be back from Australia and bring Squirtle the Turtle with them and we will be looking forward to the spring, some warmer weather and the camps we have planned for the Summer.



Newcomers

We have invested 7 new members since our last edition – Julia, Armin, Lucian, Ida, Emilia, Thomas and Xander. A couple seem to have run away but we hope that Elspeth will be with us by the end of January. Time will tell!

They are all joining in and starting to make a mark on the Troop. It is all a bit crowded, but we will miss a whole lot of the older ones when they progress to Atlas Explorers in February.

Due to issues within Raven Patrol, Alfie has taken on the role of Assistant Patrol Leader. He is doing his best to take the lead, showing a good example to the younger members of the Patrol.

Friday Evenings

Since Half-Term we have been working on Local Knowledge Badge. Each Patrol had a map of the area where they marked masses of local points of interest (bus-stops, churches, schools, Scout HQs, tourist spots), then had to prove that they knew the area well enough to give directions between two points. We try to do stuff that is useful! Especial thanks to Matthew (Young Leader) for master-minding the testing on that one!

We had two groups of Patrol Leaders & APLs who ran an evening for the Troop. Evannah's group (to be fair, Evannah & Lucy) ran an excellent inter-patrol Cooking Competition where each Patrol had a different foreign dish to prepare, just using Trangia Stoves for cooking. Guess who did the shopping? I have never been to Tesco with such a long list of ingredients that I hadn't heard of before, in my life! Mind you, I learned a lot. They nearly all landed up cooking something that they didn't know how to cook either, but they did have instructions! Actually, I was really proud of how the organisers and the Scouts coped. I'm not sure the parents were though, because we finished the meeting almost half an hour late! I know that I am not known for finishing exactly on time but this was embarrassing! All the parents were brilliant about it and stood patiently in the entrance hall until we were done. Thank you!!! Lessons learned all round.

Esme's group ran a "New Games Evening" where they had found a whole lot of games that we haven't played before, or for a very long time, anyway. Again, they did very well and I hope this will increase our usual Friday evening Games Repertoire. I do get bored with the same games all the time, but then again, I don't actually play them!

We had a Badge Testing evening involving testing Local Knowledge plus Artist & Hobbies Badges. See further down for those who gained one or more. Apologies to the Treasurer but I do love an armful of badges, plus the learning that goes with it!!!

Expedition

Federico has written his account of the weekend for you:

"After our the first day of treacherous terrains, a humongous golf course and a confusing lefts and rights we ultimately didn't finish our first hike and we were defeated, we were the second last team to get back to the campsite and we made a vow to be the first to finish the hike and to keep more focus than before. It was time, we had mapped out our route and it was time to start - unlike before we were first to set off on our journey. We were focused, determined on our goal. We followed the map religiously and we made sure every turn was calculated and correct. We chose not to stop for lunch but to eat as we walked to keep us in first place and ahead of our made up competition. We had corrected all our mistakes from the night before- we kept our eyes on the map, we didn't take frequent long breaks and we took the right path for a change. After hours of being successful beyond imagination we made it, the final destination - our hardships had paid off. We analysed, adapted and overcame the difficulties and mistakes we made the other day and we improved beyond our thinking. We had done it. We achieved what we set out and we basked in our success with a wonderful ginormous chocolate bar as reward."

The thing about doing a weekend when you walk all day Saturday, get to the campsite and pitch the tents, cook a meal etc. then strike the whole thing in the morning so you can walk on again is that it is not easy. Cool and dry weather makes things better, but this is England. I don't have to explain meteorological challenges to you all, do I? Add to that the challenge of map reading, equipment & teamwork, and you will understand where Federico is coming from!

Remembrance Day Parade

We were proud to join so many others to pay our respects as part of the Remembrance Day Parade & Service. It was good to have 18 of the Troop & Leaders there plus our Cubs too. Matthew carried the District Flag. An honour!

November Fayre

Always a fun event with a serious purpose. What a good excuse to try out a lot of sideshows and a bit of Arts & Crafts as well. And all in a good cause! 13 members of the Troop were there to make sure that all went well. And they had a good time trying to win some prizes themselves!

Cubs and Beavers

We try to run one meeting for Beavers and one for Cubs each term. This time we took the Trangia stoves down to Cubs and helped them cook Hot Dogs. Hopefully they will remember something about how to use the stoves when they are up in the Troop themselves!

We took all the paints, as well as glitter and jewels, to make Christmas Cards, with the Beavers stamping Christmas Motifs – anything from Santa himself to angels, teddy bears and snowmen.

Thanks to all the Scouts who came on either occasion, or both, to make these evenings happen.

Cooking Competition

We went into this County event with three teams. As I said before, they had to cook "A Meal fit for a New King" in three courses in two hours on two gas rings.

Evannah's Team (Evannah, Abbey & Lee) provided Salad as a starter, Creamy Bacon & Mushroom Tagliatelle and Pancakes & fresh Fruit.

Warwick's Team (Warwick, Tom, Armin & Lucian) prepared a Vegan meal – Hummous & vegetables, Spaghetti Bolognaise and Fruit salad & dark chocolate.

Federico's Team (Federico, Alfie, Joshua & Jonah) cooked Eggs Royale, Chicken Korma and Apple Crumble.



In this competition, you are Winners in my opinion if you manage to get the meal on the table, hot and edible at one o'clock. However, the placings in the competition on this occasion did not put us in a starring role. Mind you, not at the bottom either, and that is without considering the other hundreds of Scouts who didn't even enter!

We came 12th and equal 13th with 85 & 84 points out of a possible 110.

The Winners got 101 points!

Nothing to be ashamed of! Gives a goal for next year though and I am pleased that so many of the Scouts who will be here to give it a go next autumn, already have that experience!!

We also have to say a big "Thank You" to all the Mums and Dads who helped their Scouts with choosing menus, advising, lending equipment from the kitchen and going shopping. I really cannot do all of that for 3 teams. We needed your help!

Badges

There is quite a bit of sewing to be done at the end of term! Virtually the whole Troop has gained Local Knowledge Badge.

The Scouts have worked on their own on Artist & Hobbies Badges and brought their artwork for Keira to approve and explained and shown their favourite items for the others to see.

Artist so far – Ella, Alice, Esme, Charlie, Federico & Lee.

Hobbies so far – Finley, Charlie, Tom, Oliver, Jonah, Lukas, Lee, Emilia & Federico.

Working on their own, Lee has gained Martial Arts & Physical Recreation Badges.

Federico has achieved Musician Stage 5.

Millie has been working with a group on Modelmaker (Warhammer) Badge on Saturday afternoons, aided & abetted by Jamie plus Steve & Chris, two of "our Dads". Warwick & Jonah have completed the badge but there are a whole lot more who should finish in January. They are even talking of starting a Warhammer Club and are working out the details. Keeping busy!

Some new Badges were started earlier this year and it has taken a while for this poor old Scout Leader to get her head around them! They are called "You Shape" and are all about the Scouts themselves planning and organising activities for the Troop. Watch out for these colourful additions which are worn on the right arm. There are four parts to the badge, which makes up a large circle if you get all of them. Several of our PLs & APLs have gained some parts but Esme & Alice have gained the whole lot. Well Done to you all!

Coming soon

Christmas – not quite a Party, but not our usual Friday either!

Summer Camp 2023 – Saturdays 22 – 29 July.

Summer Camp 2024 – This is a special one. An International Camp at Braggers Wood near Christchurch, Dorset. Saturdays 27 July - 3 August.

Caroline Marsden
Scout Leader
Scout Troop
Boys and Girls age 10 ½ - 14
Fridays 19.30 – 21.30
Contact: Mrs Caroline Marsden – 07889 192 765
marsden697@btinternet.com

CIRCLE REPORT

Six members visited the Epsom Playhouse on Sunday 6 November for an afternoon's musical entertainment. We listened to the Central Band of the Royal British Legion under the baton of the energetic Captain David Cole, OBE, MVO, Director of Music.

The “Platinum Celebration” in honour of the late Queen, had over 50 musicians playing a huge variety of military marches, tunes from musical shows and music from the films including Star Wars and ET.

The band included a saxophone quartet, clarinet quartet, a brass quintet and a soloist playing her flute.

A pleasant afternoon.

Our Circle meeting on the 17 November was entitled “Read that Again! - a look at previous Out of the Blue's.” Many copies were laid out on a table and members were invited to take three, have a look through them and read out some interesting articles.

As it happened, our Chair found a report that she had written, advising that her Niagara Beaver Scout Colony, and Thames Colony, were invited to Polyapes camp site for a BBQ, some games and to discover the camp site. This was to be held after a Group Church Parade that had to be attended. What a surprise!! Almost all Beavers attended.

Margaret thought of this idea as the Beaver's attendance for monthly Church Parades was dropping quite dramatically.

There was mention of Trevor Coxon who had talked to members about his recent fishing trip to Alaska.

A letter from Pat Tomlinson thanking Heather Mason, Margaret Warry and Graham Warnes who were the committee charged with making all the arrangements for the Group's Centenary Parade and afterwards, a grand tea.

An article by Scout Leader, Caroline Marsden about a wonderful and successful Summer Camp that included a visit to a paper mill.

A Circle Report mentioned Pat Frith and Joan Spencer being in hospital.

There were many more observations.

Graham Warnes. Treasurer/Secretary.

POSTAGE STAMPS

The charity Dog A.I.D. (Assistance in Disability) is collecting Great Britain and International stamps. They request that they are cut from envelopes, leaving about 1cm/1/4" of paper around each stamp. Thanks for doing this.

Please leave them in the box in the kitchen at Sparks Hall.

Margaret Warry. Group President.

UNIFORMS – HELPING WITH THE COST OF LIVING

We have in stock various items of uniform for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Please speak to your child's Leader as the stock is kept in Sparks Hall. Thank you.

We also accept donations of unwanted uniforms.

Brenda Pawley