

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

OUT

OF

**Go for the
OUT
in ScOUTing
This Year**

THE

BLUE



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

MARCH

Fri 10th-Sun 12th	PLs and APLs Training Camp.
Tue 14th	NEW DATE Group Executive. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.
Thu 16th	Circle meeting. Graham's Quiz. Sparks Hall. 13.30-15.00. Bring your lunch. 12.45-13.30.
Sat 18th-Sun 19th	GLSW County Night Exercise. Based at Boidier Hurst Scout Camp Site.

APRIL

Sat 1st April.	Easter Bunny Race Night. Sparks Hall. Doors open 18.30. First race 19.00. Ends 22.00
Tue 4th	Group Executive. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.
Thu 20th	Circle meeting. Margaret's Talk. Sparks Hall. 13.30-15.00. Bring your lunch. 12.45-13.30.
Sun 23rd	St. George's Day Service at St. Matthew's Church and afterwards Yearly Awards at the Royal British Legion, Hollyfield Road.
Fri 28th-Mon 1st May	Troop Camp.

MAY

Tue 2nd	Group Executive. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.
Thu 18th	Circle meeting. TBA.

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

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

by 11TH April

to

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

Easter Bunny Race Night

www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

charity No. 1040958



Come along to our Fun for all the family fundraiser

- Free Entry
- Bring your own drinks and nibbles
- Roll the dice to race the rabbit
- Sponsor your favourite rabbit or place a bet
- Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult

Saturday 1st April 2023

Doors open - 6.30pm

1st Race - 7.00pm

Finish - 10pm

Sparks Hall,

12 Pyne Rd,

Tolworth



GSL'S REPORT

The Group has started the year on a positive note. I have recently completed the yearly census for 2022 and it is great news that 1st Tolworth is growing! The census records start in 2001 and the number of young people in the Group at that time, bearing in mind we had two Beaver Colonies and two Cub Packs, was 90.

The total remained between 64 and 99 from 2001 to 2012.

2013 we were back up to 81 and stayed between 81 and 77 until 2019 when it dropped to 66.

Covid then took hold of the Group just like all other Scout Groups. Our numbers dropped to 58 in 2020 and 30 in in 2021!

As Covid restrictions eased and we could all get back to Scouting, we had more people wanting their children to join. In 2022 our young people numbers doubled and we were up to 60 and this year we have a small increase in young people and we are now at 62.

We have a lot of work to do to get our numbers back up! We currently have a small waiting list for Beavers. If we continue to grow we will need more people to help run the sections, as we are almost at the stage where our current leaders can't take any more young people.

Congratulations and welcome home to Stuart Duffell and Alex O'Sullivan, who are both Assistant Scout Leaders with the Scout Troop. They have been in Australia for the past year working and travelling. While they were away I received their Wood Badge beads which means they have both completed their training!

Depending on what role you do depends on how much training you need to do. If you volunteer, it doesn't mean you have to wear a uniform and commit to a lot of training. As an occasional helper you only need a DBS check. As a Section Assistant there are four on line modules you do at home and each one takes no more than 45 minutes and do not have to be done all in one go.

We had intended to have a Reindeer Race Night before Christmas but due to the football it was cancelled. I am pleased to say we are having an Easter Bunny Race instead!

It is on Saturday 1st April from 18:30 to 22:00 at the Scout Hall. Look out for the posters, one of which is on the previous page, and emails!

Come along and support the Group and help raise much needed funds!

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

GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

I hope you all enjoyed the Half Term week in February.

You may remember we were going to hold a Reindeer Race Night before Christmas which we cancelled as it clashed with a football fixture which they would not postpone. So we have decided to hold an Easter Bunny Race instead!

This is the perfect opportunity to come along, have some fun and help raise funds for the Scout Group.

Children take turns throwing the large dice to make the Easter Bunny run. This is a fun for all the family so children must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 1st April. Sparks Hall. 18:30 for 19.00 start. Prompt 22.00 finish.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles. No admission fee. No unaccompanied children.

St George's Day is fast approaching and as you know this is the day when all Scouts renew their Promise. Once again, we are privileged to be able to hold a service at St. Matthew's Church. This will be on Sunday 23rd April. Please don't forget that this is where we all get the chance to show how proud we are of 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group.

As always, the Service will be followed by the usual yearly Awards Presentations held at the Surbiton Royal British Legion. Further information and arrangements will come from your Section Leaders.

Another thing fast approaching is the introduction of the ULEZ in our area.

This will affect the Group as the minibus is not compliant.

We are investigating the Scrapage Scheme. Hopefully, we will be successful and get some money. Whatever the outcome we will have to retire the minibus. We have been fortunate in the past that the funds raised by Graham and Margaret have enabled the Group to keep and run what is, after all, an expensive luxury. The cost of keeping the minibus on the road was paid for using Group funds with only the cost of the fuel needed to be covered by the section using the bus. So owning our own minibus in the future is something we can no longer afford.

As you will have seen the new website is now live, still some things to sort out.

New website <https://1sttolworthscouts.org.uk/>

The next edition of Out Of The Blue will be in May. This will be the Group's Annual Report and will give you time to read how the Group is performing before the Annual General Meeting to which you are all invited to attend.

The Group AGM will be held on Tuesday 6th June 8pm at Sparks Hall.

All dates for March, April and May events are on the Diary of Events page.

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

Our Cubs have been very busy this term learning new skills, earning badges, and having lots of fun!

On our first evening back in January we ran a Life Skills session which covered a large portion of the Skills Challenge Badge. Cubs learnt how to change a light bulb, pump up a flat bicycle tyre, tie a tie, iron their scarf and sew on a button (with varying degrees of success).

The following week we played some team games and also began working on our Community Impact Badge. This badge enables Cub Scouts to make a positive difference by tackling issues faced within their local community. Our topic was disability discrimination and Guide/Assistance Dog access.

I shared some of my personal experiences of discrimination and talked about the impact of being illegally refused access to taxis, shops, restaurants and more, due to having a Guide/Assistance Dog. Being turned away from somewhere because of my disabilities leaves me feeling upset, vulnerable and like a second-class citizen. It is against the law, but is unfortunately something that I and many other Assistance Dog handlers encounter regularly. It should not be happening.

For our project, the Cubs wrote letters to the Prime Minister, asking him to strengthen the laws protecting Guide and Assistance Dog handlers from discrimination and introduce clear penalties for breaking this law. We have received a reply from the Correspondence Officer at 10 Downing Street and our letters have been passed on to the Government Equalities Office.

For the Teamwork Challenge Badge, Cubs worked together in groups to recreate Tower Bridge using biscuits and sweets which they thoroughly enjoyed eating afterwards! I was

pleasantly surprised with the results as they all looked fantastic. Picking a winning team was very difficult.



We also had a go at soap carving this term, which left the hall smelling beautiful! Cubs carved their bars into hearts, fishes, rabbits, stars, cats, and even the World Scout logo. This was again done with varying degrees of success, but everyone gave it a good go and had fun trying something different.

For our final meeting before half term we went to Hollywood Bowl. Everyone had a good time and it was great to see several of the Cubs progress from using the ramp to bowling independently by the end of the session.

We have lots of exciting activities planned for the rest of term and are looking forward to the warmer weather so that we can do some more outdoor based activities.

Thank you as always to our fantastic leadership team, all of whom volunteer their time freely to make Scouting possible for the young people. If you would like to help, please get in touch or speak to me at the end of the meeting. Parent helpers are always welcome!

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!

My goodness! By the time you read this, Half-Term will be gone and we will be thinking of Easter holidays and chocolate Eggs.

At last, we will also be looking forward to longer days, warmer weather and getting back under canvas. Sorry ... from my very first camp aged 11, I have always thought that living in the outdoors was the very best bit of Scouting & Guiding!

Comings & Goings

Elsbeth has returned to us after a gap after Cubs through the autumn. Grace has also joined us from Everest Pack. Emmie has defected from Guiding (Did I say that?) but so many of us have, over the years, haven't we? We haven't been able to invest them yet, but as soon as they have their uniform, this will be done. Welcome to the Troop, all of you.

Stuart & Alex are back! So many changes during 2022 that they may seem like "newcomers" to a lot of our Scouts but they have just slipped back into the leadership team as if they have only been gone for a month! Maybe they will tell us about some of their adventures when they have had time to catalogue all the photos?

We are losing a whole group of our oldest Scouts to Atlas Explorers - Federico, Ella, Nina, Esme, Emily, Kabi and Alice. To be honest, we haven't done very well at saying a formal "Goodbye" because we split the Troop for the last two meetings before Half-Term. We are hoping that some of them will be staying with 1st.Tolworth as Young Leaders and they won't really be going far away, will they?

This mass departure means that we will have new Patrol Leaders & APLs.

Our new Patrol Leaders are Evannah, Lucy & Oliver.

New Assistant Patrol Leaders are Joshua, Reuben & Tom.

Alfie & Lukas will be in charge of Raven Patrol as Joint APLs.

Lucy will decide who she wants as her APL in due course!!!

Friday Evenings

On our last meeting before Christmas, we had a Christmas Games evening. Each Patrol chose a game. Since we have been back after the holidays, we had our traditional Games Evening to start the term. In those evenings we have tried a variety of new and old games, Curling, Hungry Hippos and all the old favourites and some of those new ones we discovered last term.

We spent one evening working on Navigator Badge in preparation for putting those skills into practise. Millie and Peter ran Rifle Shooting with Graham in charge of Computer Games. On the last two evenings we have split the Troop with half staying at Sparks Hall doing Robot Wars – creating balloon-powered vehicles to battle each other – you must have seen this on TV at some point! (Thank you, Matthew et al.)

The other half have been out on an evening walk. A chance to practise those mapping skills as well as coping in the dark, prior to the County Night Exercise in March. We started at Chessington World of Adventures (with Caroline trying not to get into trouble with the Security Guards) then across the road to Chalky Lane, left into Green Lane and right into

Horton Country Park, emerging back into Chessington, a walk beside the Hogsmill up to the Kingston Road and right to walk to Tolworth Station. Each walking group had a couple of Leaders following close behind to teach, advise and generally ensure safety. (Thanks Stuart & Alex, Millie & Amelie.) I had fun leap-frogging between places where I could meet them, provide biscuits etc.

Presentations

We were happy to present Chief Scout's Gold Awards to Maddy, Shreya and Federico. Maddy actually completed her "Gold" way back in the summer. Shreya more recently. Both have already moved up to Atlas Explorers but we are allowed to finish it off in a few months after moving. Federico has completed his since Christmas, before he made that move. Well done, all three of you, and your families – because they helped far more than you realise!

Warhammer

Thank you to Millie for organising the Warhammer sessions. The rest of the group have now completed their badge - Joshua, Emilia, Raghav, Alfie, Armin, Lucian and Reuben.

Coming soon

PLs & APLs Training Camp – Friday 10 – Sunday 12 March

GLSW County Night Exercise based at Boidier Hurst – Saturday 18-Sunday 19 March

Troop Camp Friday 28 – Bank Holiday Monday 1 May

Summer Camp 2023 – Saturdays 22 – 29 July

Summer Camp 2024 – This is a special one.

An International Camp at Braggers Wood near Christchurch. 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

NO REPORT

NOVEMBER FAYRE – THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported the November Fayre last year. As you will have read in the last edition we raised £1,407.

This money all goes towards enhancing the 1st Tolworth Scouting experience and enables us to keep the weekly subs low. Something we are trying to do at this difficult economic time.

We particularly want to thank the Royal British Legion for allowing us to use their bar area and the following companies for supporting us by donating prizes:

Adventure Island Stockvale LTD.

Boden UK

Camp Beaumont

Cook

Dance Direction

Garson Farm

Headmasters Surbiton

Joy

Light Republic photographic studio

Lucinda Walsh School of Dance

Nuffield Health

NumberWorks'nWords

Squires Garden Centre

Sweat Society

Team-Sport

Venture photography

Many thanks.

The November Fayre Team

Gayna, Brenda, Fiona and Terry

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 at Sparks Hall. Thank you.

We also accept donations of unwanted uniforms.

Brenda Pawley

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.