

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

**OUT**

**OF**

**Annual Reports  
Edition**

**AGM - Tuesday 6 June  
at 19.45 for 20.00.**

**Sparks Hall**

**THE**

**BLUE**



**SCOUTS**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1040958**

<b>Group Scout Leader</b>	John Bowman	<a href="mailto:gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk">gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk</a>
<b>Group Chair</b>	Martin Smith	<a href="mailto:chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com">chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com</a>
<b>President</b>	Mrs Margaret Warry	<a href="mailto:margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk">margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr Graham Warnes	<a href="mailto:graham.warnes@blueyonder.co.uk">graham.warnes@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
<b>Circle Chair</b>	Mrs Margaret Warry	<a href="mailto:margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk">margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk</a>

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### MAY

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

### JUNE

Tue 6th            Group AGM. Sparks Hall. 19.45 for 20.00. All Welcome.  
Thu 15th           Circle meeting. TBA.  
Wed 28<sup>th</sup>          District AGM. Southwood Activities Centre. 20.00 for 20.30.

### JULY

Tue 4th            Group Executive. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 2015  
Sun 16th          Circle Meeting. Visit to Borde Hill Gardens, Haywards Heath.  
Sat 22nd-Sat 29th. Troop Summer Camp.

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

All contributions for the **JULY** issue of **OOTB** to be delivered  
**by 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

to

**Martin Smith, E-mail:** [chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com](mailto:chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com)

## *GSL'S REPORT*

Over the past year there have been so many highs and so many lows. The Queen's Jubilee year was shattered at the beginning with the news that Russia had invaded Ukraine, putting the whole world on edge!

The Jubilee continued with an amazing ceremony recognizing our patron Her Majesty the Queen's 70-year reign as Monarch, but in September everything changed when Her Majesty died, the whole country mourned the loss, the country now has a King!

King Charles continues to be the patron of Scouting and as such, our Promise has had to change in that we now promise to do our duty to the King. This has for some taken a little longer to remember, as most Leaders have only ever known "to do our duty to the Queen". As a Group the sections have remade their promise at the earliest opportunity and all new members make their promise to the King.

1st Tolworth has been busy. We have had some changes within the Group in that we now have a new Beaver Leader. Courtney Bell has taken over from Rachel who stepped down last April and along with Peter Keen are running a successful Beaver Colony. With some Beavers moving up to Cubs, the Colony numbers are low at the moment. If you know anyone who would like to join Beavers (6-8yrs) or help by passing the word that would be really great! Apply via the website <https://1sttolworthscouts.org.uk/beavers/> or email [beavers@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:beavers@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk) for an application form. If you would like to be a parent helper, then use the same contacts.

We have also had to say goodbye to our Cub Leader Megan, who for personal reasons has moved away from the area so cannot continue with 1T.

Megan will be greatly missed! I have known her since she was a Beaver and have seen her progress through her Scouting career. She is a great ambassador for Scouting but also for Disability Awareness. Megan's Assistance dog Rowley is an Honorary Cub Scout with 1T and I know he will be missed by the Cubs!

Megan is not leaving Scouting but moving to a new Scout Group as Cub Scout Leader, so our loss is their gain! I wish Megan every success and feel certain we will see her again.

The Cub Pack now has new Leaders! Luke Taylor, who is Megan's brother together with his fiancé Marina, has agreed to take on the roles of Assistant Section Leaders!

I owe a big thank you to them for stepping up and accepting the challenge of running the Pack. Luke, like Megan, has come up through Scouting and helped as an assistant before stepping back due to work commitments. Marina is new to Scouting and I think finding it a bit of a challenge. Hopefully she will see the benefits Scouting has to offer to the young people as well as herself.

I must say a huge thank you to Matthew Pearson who is the Young Leader with the Cub Pack. Matthew is starting his exams this year so the time he can spend at Cubs is limited, but

I know he will be there when he can, so I want to say hello to Cloe Nicholls who is joining Cubs as a Young Leader.

Cloe is also a Young Leader with Brownie Guides who also meet on a Wednesday but she is going to alternate the weeks with 1T and Brownies.

Because of the pandemic most Scout Groups were not getting younger members to join. This means that Beaver Colonies & Cub Packs are suffering, so if you know anyone who is 8-10½ and would like to join Cubs, please use these contact details: <https://1sttolworthscouts.org.uk/cubs/> or everestcubs@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk for an application form.

The Scout Troop continues to flourish! It currently has 39 Scouts, 2 Young Leaders and 11 Leaders, although 2 Leaders are currently at university so cannot attend weekly. They still have an input into the program and help when possible, on camps.

Congratulations go to Keira Pearson and Peter Keen who have both now completed their training and gained their Wood Badge. Keira has taken on the role of Scout Leader at 22<sup>nd</sup> Wimbledon so a huge well done to her. She continues to be part of 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth as an Assistant Scout Leader and an Assistant Explorer Scout Leader with Atlas Explorer Unit based at 1T. Keira has also taken on a shared role of District Network Commissioner for Wimbledon and Wandle.

Peter continues as an Assistant Scout Leader at 1T and Assistant Beaver Leader, but now all the hard work and training is over he can sit back and relax (Ha! Ha!). Peter is also an Assistant Explorer Scout Leader with Atlas and has also taken on a shared role of District Network Commissioner for Royal Kingston.

Good luck to both of them in their new Scouting ventures!

Caroline is still working hard (towards her retirement!) in the Troop, ably supported by Graham, Stuart, Alex, Millie and Jamie. The Troop numbers continue to grow and with some Cubs who have recently moved up there are now 39 Scouts.

I must thank Martin Smith our Chair and the Group Executive Committee for all the work they do to help keep the Group functioning. Thank you to Tina Lefevre for taking on the role of Group Secretary. She recently broke her wrist which makes it hard to be Secretary so has had to step down. I hope you recover soon! Thank you to Gayna Brice who has taken over the role of Group Secretary. Big thanks also to Terry Goodall, our Treasurer.

The fund-raising committee and the Exec. recently held an Easter Bunny Race Night which was a great success. Everyone enjoyed themselves and helped the Group raise £264.56. This means that the Scout Strategy Camp fee has been reduced by £20 per person!!

The running of a Scout Group is not just the Leaders you see, it is like a play. There are all the behind-the-scenes people you don't see, holding it together.

Yes, we need volunteers to help run sections but we also need volunteers to be on the Executive Committee. The Exec, like Leaders, can't go on forever and we do need people to help. They Exec. meet once a month, except August, on the first Tuesday and discuss what

the Group needs. If you would like to help then please contact Martin Smith at [chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com](mailto:chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com) or me, John, at [gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk)

I wish everyone all the best for the future.

Very best regards.

John Bowman  
Group Scout Leader  
[gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk)

## ***GROUP PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

As I look back over the past year I am delighted to say that 1st Tolworth Scout Group has continued to flourish. As always, we have our ups and downs which means we need some new Leaders for our Beaver Colony and Cub Pack. Megan has moved away and I know we all wish her every success as she copes with her health problems.

Some of our Youth Leaders are off to Uni. whilst others have started jobs. So, we are looking for more leaders.

Scouting trains its leaders with fees paid for by our Group and we also provide new leaders with uniform. Please spread the word. To be an adult Leader you need to be 18+ with no upper age limit. Volunteers will also need to be DBS cleared.

We want to continue offering the best Scouting to all our young people. We also need more fund raisers to keep us solvent.

Before I close, I want to express all our thanks to everyone who has helped to run 1st Tolworth.

We march forward in our 114th year!

Margaret Warry  
Group President

## ***GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT***

I would like start my report as always by inviting all members, families and supporters to the 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group's Annual General Meeting to be held at Sparks Hall on Tuesday 6 June. The Agenda is on the last page.

Please do come along and join us. It would be great to see as many of you as possible. The meeting will start at 20.00 and again we have the opportunity to reflect on the previous year's activities. The formal meeting is usually a reasonably short affair. Refreshments, drinks and nibbles will be available following the meeting. Use this opportunity to raise any concerns you may have regarding the way the Scout Group is managed or just come along for a chat. It would be great to see you there.

As you are aware, over the last two years, we have seen changes to our Leadership teams and Group Executive Committee. Unfortunately this year we have more changes impending.

To continue:

This report as always will be a review of the last year.

During the summer 2022 break our Hall maintenance team installed some much needed storage racking, enabling us to better manage the storage of all the equipment and paraphernalia that a thriving Scout Group need to operate efficiently.

The yearly fire extinguisher maintenance and safety checks were carried out. This is another expense that many are probably not aware of.

In September we were all saddened to here of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I will not repeat what John has so eloquently written regarding the highs and lows of the last year in his report, apart from, to say, Long Live the King.

The Remembrance Service at Surbiton War Memorial was well attended and it was great to see so many youth group members attending including members 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.

This was the third year we were able to hold our Group November Fayre at the Surbiton Royal British Legion and again we used the bar area which proved to be so successful the previous two 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, accompanied by the Mayoress Mrs Saro Yoganathan, were escorted around the Fayre by John and myself. The Mayor in particular spoke at length to almost all the volunteers running a stall. Both the Mayor and Mayoress enjoyed their time playing many of the tombolas before they left.

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

As always, a big thank you to everyone who helped out with running a stall, setting up and all those important unseen jobs that need doing before, on, and after the event. 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, for organising and running 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.

Unfortunately in November we lost a dear friend and dedicated member of the 1st Tolworth family. Sheila Jones, a long time Group Executive member, sadly passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Sheila's Funeral and Celebration of Life held on 14<sup>th</sup> December was well attended by friends and members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth family. God Bless you Sheila. I will certainly miss you.

Over the last two years we have been working in partnership with a company called STAXO, designing and building a new Group website and I am pleased to say it went live in January. This coincided with the 600<sup>th</sup> edition of this Group newsletter Out Of the Blue. The Chief Technology Officer at STAXO is Peter Goring, a former member, Beaver, Cub, Scout and for a couple of years, a uniform Leader with 1st Tolworth. Our thanks go to Peter and the team at

STAXO for their help and support in not only working with us but actually sponsoring the whole process.

A major topic of discussion at many of the Executive meetings has been the impending introduction of ULEZ in our area. This will affect the Group as the minibus is not compliant, so we will have to retire it. Terry, our Group Treasurer, is investigating the Scrappage Scheme. Hopefully we will be successful and get some money.

In the past, the funds raised by Graham, Margaret and Ken 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 in the future, owning our minibus is something we can no longer afford.

The Reindeer Race Night planned for December and cancelled as it clashed with a football fixture which they would not postpone, was re-imagined into an Easter Bunny Race Night. The event held on 1<sup>st</sup> April was an “eggstatic” evening, well attended and great fun was had by all. Thanks to Ted for making the Bunnies and Gayna and Brenda for the backdrop. Thanks to Ted, Joan and Gayna for running the races and the Tote and thanks to all that attended, especially the youngsters who all took an active part in the races. It raised enough funds for the Group to help with the cost of hiring a minibus for a forthcoming Scout event.

On March 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 the Group celebrated its 114<sup>th</sup> year since being founded. None of those years would have been possible if it wasn't for the volunteers, past and present, who take on the roles as Group Scout Leader, Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Young Leaders or Executive Committee members and the regular helpers who all do so without any payment, and in some cases, with cost to themselves. Thank you all.

I would like to thank the Group Executive members for their support during the past year and look forward to their continued support in the next. Although mainly in the background, the Executive Committee does a wonderful job in managing the Group's funds and assets so I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone in the 1st Tolworth family to thank them for their support. Terry our Treasurer is continuing to do a fantastic job and I thank him for all his time and efforts in managing the Group's finances. And a big thank you to my wife, Viv, as without her continuous support and understanding I could not fulfil my role as Group Chair.

Sadly, three of our Executive Committee are standing down. Reg Lefevre has been a dedicated and active supporter of 1st Tolworth for many years as Parent Helper, Assistant Cub Leader, Assistant Group Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader and also holding various other roles within the District. Tina Lefevre in 2021 took on the role as Group Secretary and did an excellent job until an unfortunate accident left her with a fractured right wrist making it impossible to fulfil her duties. Tina has supported and helped the Group in many ways, not only giving much needed support to Reg with his many roles but as Parent Helper with Cubs, particularly with looking after the Cub's finances. You will both be missed enormously. I personally will miss you and the support you have both given me immensely.

Our third executive member leaving is Jonathan Knight, Jonathan joined the Executive in 2016 but recently due to work commitments has found it almost impossible to attend the monthly meetings so has decided to step down, I would like to thank Jonathan for his time and commitment to the group over the last seven years. I would like to thank Gayna Brice who has volunteered to step up to the role of Group Secretary.

Courtney, our new Beaver Leader, is a long term member of 1st Tolworth, being a Beaver, Cub and Scout. You may not have seen reports in OOTB from Courtney but as you would have seen in John's report she is doing a wonderful job and putting into practice some of the skills she learned as a Beaver, Cub and Scout.

I would also like to say thank you and sadly goodbye to our Cub Leader Megan, who for personal reasons has moved away from the area so cannot continue with 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth. Megan will be greatly missed. Like John I have known Megan since she was a Beaver and have seen her progress through her Scouting career. Good luck Megan for the future.

At the time of writing this report, we had plans in place for our St. George's Day Service and Yearly Awards presentations. The service is due to be held at St Matthew's Church but the presentations will now be held at the Parish Hall behind the OLI church in Ewell Road. The change of venue was due to a booking error at the Royal British Legion. Hopefully this event will be another success for the Group.

With all the changes of leadership and Executive members it reminds me that we are all just custodians, looking after something far greater than we are. I emulate Terry's Treasurer's comments. We are both entering our 15<sup>th</sup> year in our roles and our personal circumstances could change at any time. As a Group we are fortunate that we have younger people stepping up to take on Section Leadership roles but our Committee needs new members. We should have on the Executive Committee a parent representative from each Section, something we haven't had for a while.

### **Is that something you could do?**

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month apart from August, with the January meeting more of a social gathering than a formal meeting. Please do give this some thought and contact me on the e-mail below.

Hope to see you at the Group's Annual General Meeting. Stay Well, Stay Safe.

I am so proud to be part of 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group.

**Proud to be 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Martin Smith Group Chair  
[chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com](mailto:chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com)



## *THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT*

Since I have taken over the Beaver Section all the children have achieved lots of badges to go towards their bronze award. The last couple of terms we've been focusing on book reader, teamwork and safety badges and have also achieved some of these whilst having lots of fun. I have given out lots of badges. Well done!! Almost every Beaver has achieved at least 1 badge in the last 4 terms.

Going forward, we will continue working towards our faith, skills, outdoor and creativity badges. Some of these also go towards their bronze award. We will also be doing a bring a friend night as we still have lots of spaces within the section. I will be sending out more information about the term soon. If you do have any questions about joining the group please let me know.

This is my first Out of the Blue report and I would like to say thank you to all for welcoming me back and for all of your support. Looking forward to having lots more fun.

Thanks.

Courtney

Courtney Bell  
Beaver Scout Leader  
*Thames Beaver Scout Colony*  
*Boys and Girls age 5 ¾ - 8*  
*Fridays 17.45 – 18.45*  
[beavers@Istolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:beavers@Istolworthscouts.org.uk)

## *EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT*

The first half of the summer term was packed full of fun activities and new skills. We celebrated World Autism Acceptance month by watching a short animated film about Autism and then had a discussion Q/A.

We went to Surbiton Fire Station to work towards our Fire Safety badge and had a go using the powerful hoses which was great fun.

The Pack joined up with the Kingston Scout's Canoe Club for a taster kayaking session at Ravens Ait Island.

After half term we started working towards the International badge. This included learning about the different parts and meaning behind the World Scout emblem. We learned about the different Cub Scout uniforms around the world.

In June, the Cubs took part in a Robot Wars team challenge. This involved arming their remote-control cars with whatever they thought might give them an advantage during battle and was excellent fun!

The Cubs arrived at Walton Firs on a Friday evening in July and as the weather was so nice, we decided to have a water fight! During camp the Cubs learnt some knots and lashings, were introduced to basic map skills through Orienteering, conquered their fears on the high ropes course and explored underground caves.

In January, we ran a Life Skills session and the following weeks we played team games and 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. 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 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. I was pleasantly surprised with the results.

We also had a go at soap carving which left the hall smelling beautiful!

The Pack went to Hollywood Bowl. Everyone had a good time and it was great to see several Cubs progress from using the ramp to bowling independently by the end of the session.

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 with John, our GSL. Parent helpers are always welcome!

Megan Taylor. Formerly Cub Scout Leader.

*Everest Cub Scout Pack  
Boys and Girls age 8 – 10 ½  
Wednesdays 18.30 – 20.00*

[everestcubs@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:everestcubs@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk)

## *SCOUT TROOP REPORT*

It almost feels “back to normal” after Lockdown but it is still taking a toll on the progressive learning opportunity the Troop provides. Surprising gaps in skills, badges on arms and willingness of the Scouts, and parents, to tackle new challenges. Perhaps we are lucky to have had a stable leadership team for a long time, and we notice the history built up over the years?

We have taken in several members from 2<sup>nd</sup> Hook who still haven’t managed to get their Troop going again since Covid, as well as from 2<sup>nd</sup> Tolworth who had the same problem. Quite a few of these were 12 year olds who have now progressed to Atlas ESU. The younger ones are adding a boost to the Cubs coming up from Everest Pack. Our total number in the Troop has remained in the 30’s throughout the year, despite all the comings and goings.

Meeting every Friday, organising a different programme each time, covering plenty of skills, badges and having fun is taken as read. We were sometimes lucky with the weather when we tried to get outdoors, but not every time! Millie organised a model maker course using Warhammer on Saturday afternoons too. We always seem to be busy with something. Usually more than one “something”.

I am glad to say that we had 5 Chief Scout’s Gold Awards completed this year. It was much tougher for this group, having missed so much of our usual activities for over a year in the middle of their time in the Troop. Not that it is easy under normal circumstances. I’m so pleased that they all achieved this goal.

We have 3 more coming on and the current 12 year olds are on their heels!

We entered three teams for the County Cooking Competition in the autumn. The theme was “A meal fit for a new King”! All three teams did well and produced food with regal names – original or embroidered. We had several of our newest Scouts joining in, with the oldest ones in the Troop taking the leading roles. Excellent teaching opportunity.

We entered one team for the County Night Exercise in March, plus another member joining 4<sup>th</sup> Tolworth’s team. The final scores kept changing after the event! At one point we thought we were equal third, but in the end, it was equal 5<sup>th</sup>. Two of our experienced Patrol Leaders led the team of 7, walking through the night to find all the checkpoints and attempt the task when they got there. Again, plenty of our youngest members learning from the oldest. Well done to all involved!

Our weekend camp at Buckmore Park near Maidstone was a success. This was in May ’22, between writing the Annual Report and the AGM. We enjoyed outdoor activities that we hadn’t tried before, including caving and mountain biking, as well as practising our basic Scouting skills for a few badges. Holly and Lex came with John and me but the hero of the weekend was Matthew, one of our Young Leaders, who was absolutely brilliant at making everything work.

Summer camp was at Youlbury, near Oxford. Atlas ESU came with us and we were together when we wanted, often apart and doing our own thing.

We had 8 of our Troop plus 5 Explorers. Holly and Peter master-minded the catering. Keira with Lex and Marcelina were the Explorer Leaders leaving John and me with the Scouts. We

took 4 Scouts from 4<sup>th</sup> Tolworth with us, plus their ASL, Tia. It worked well bringing friends with us, even though Tia managed to break her arm on the second day! The disadvantage was we lost our Young Leaders as they were being Explorers instead, but you can't have everything.

They did so many activities on site – crate-stacking, climbing, fencing, zip-wire, plus getting off-site to enjoy swimming, foot-golf and Ringos. We had a good time. Perhaps 4<sup>th</sup> Tolworth will come with us this year too?

We did an overnight Expedition in October, enabling 6 Scouts to gain Expedition Challenge and two to be practising for next year. We went back to one of our favourites, walking from Witley Station to Garners Field Scout Campsite in Tilford, continuing to finish under the A3 at Compton, for a quick ride home. We again took friends from 4<sup>th</sup> Tolworth, and their Chairman, Aidan, driving one of the minibuses.

As we had a gang of 8 going up to Atlas in the spring, we organised a weekend camp specifically for our new Patrol Leaders and Assistants at Southwood. They needed some help to understand their new roles and the whole Troop needs them to do a good job to benefit us all. We worked them very hard but they seemed to enjoy getting out and doing something without the younger ones. Perhaps we will do another similar weekend next year?

We have another weekend camp planned for May this year, at Polyapes. This time Stuart and Alex are in charge of the camp, preparing to obtain their Nights Away Permits. We are inviting the Sixers & Seconders from Everest Pack to join us so we can get them under canvas this summer. We will have some help with a major Pioneering Project, as the central event of the weekend.

I must say a big “Thank You” to my Leadership team. We nearly all have other Scouting roles within Royal Kingston, GLSW and beyond. We are able to bring in ideas and experiences from outside 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth, and send some back in return. We don't all have to be there every week or every camp so we mix and match with who is able to commit to different events. The younger Leaders are now working towards getting the qualifications and experience to gradually take over from the older generation. I am also pleased to see that the working together and supporting each other is working well with our neighbouring Groups. Thank you all and long may it last!

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](mailto:marsden697@btinternet.com)

## *TREASURER'S REPORT*

Report for the AGM of 1st Tolworth Scout Group. I have prepared the accounts for the period from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Once again I thank Maurice Grant for auditing and approving our accounts as a true record for another year.

Our Group has fared quite well since the pandemic although now, new challenges lay ahead. We are all facing a period of uncertainty due to high energy bills, rocketing food prices, interest rate hikes and the war in Ukraine. This has led to the inflation rate being the highest in 40 years. It is said to be a perfect storm and we are all going to have to weather it for some time to come. At the moment there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

The Group's overheads have now increased, not just due to the current circumstances but also due to our fundraising steadily decreasing. Even with the last 12 months, showing funds coming in from car boot sales and outdoor fairs, these will probably be very rare, if any, in future, leaving the November Fayre as our main fundraiser. Our yearly expenditure will now exceed our income which will be the norm from now on. Our only monthly source of income will be the monthly subs from members and any donations. I must admit it is worrying but it is what it is.

My grateful thanks to Graham Warnes, Ken, Margaret Warry and others who have contributed much of their time over the years and kept our funds topped up. Your help these last 12 months have helped boost our income but sadly I know there will be no more to come in the future. I think your fundraising retirement is well deserved and we all salute you for all your efforts. Well done!

All parents should be signing a Gift Aid form to help me claim back 25% for the Group from HMRC. This costs nothing to parents or the Group and puts funds into our account. Yet, we still do not have a full complement of parents filling in Gift Aid forms. In fact, there are about 20 parents who have failed to do so. I am afraid if matters do not change there may be a decision taken to increase subs to help with the running of the Group. Please note subs have not increased for at least nine years.

I recently changed our energy supplier away from EDF as the new contract increased our unit cost by over four times. The new supplier is costing more but nowhere as costly as EDF.

The new contract with Octopus Business Energy will be reviewed in 12 months time when I will reassess the energy usage and prices on offer.

Council Tax and water rates remain reasonable and the hall and contents insurance was changed last May. This again was a saving from our previous insurer and I am hoping the new premium will be on par with last year's costs. Fingers crossed!

The minibus has lately been the bone of contention. Having reinstating it to be roadworthy once again after the Lockdowns, we are now faced with the expansion of the ULEZ area being extended to all 32 Councils by TFL from 29 August 2023. This means because our minibus is non-compliant with the ULEZ rules and conditions, our Group would have to fork out a daily charge of £12.50 to drive it when required.

We have had our minibus since July 2010 and it has served us well during that time but it is showing its age. Also, insurance, MOT, road tax and wear and tear is costing the Group £1500 a year. So the decision was taken to either sell it or apply for TFL's Scrappage Scheme which by no means is as easy as it seems. I am hoping to get £7000 from the scheme. At the time of writing this, I am now on application number four! My thanks as ever to Richard Ford for all the years he has spent helping to maintain our mini-bus. It is much appreciated.

Of course, the Group has agreed to fund some of the costs towards hiring of a vehicle when the sections require one for future camps, District and County events etc.

Membership of 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth at the time of the census was 62, thus costing the Group £3193 for the year. It is probably our biggest expense and each year it is increasing. I remember when you could get three members per £100 but now you cannot get two members per £100!

The Group has also spent a fair sum at the Scout Shop. Even the cost of badges has risen in the past few years. The shop has received to date £1250 so far and it will not be long before another cheque is heading their way.

We did raise £1402 at our November Fayre which had returned to normal after the previous year's downsized event. Also, having the raffle again definitely boosted our return. It was well attended and had a nice atmosphere. Thanks to everybody who helped out and I must mention Ted for all his help with the raffle and the Fayre team of Gayna, Fiona and Brenda for their organising.

From now on our Fayre will be our biggest source of fundraising income so we must make the most of it when we stage it. Final thanks to the Royal British Legion for allowing us to use their premises.

Whatever happens during the next 12 months, our Group is well prepared for anything. We do have back up funds to cope with financial difficulties which may arise. Of course, fundraising is a worry and hopefully we will address this in the future. As long as our sections function in a safe environment and have leaders and helpers committed to our cause, then we are all doing a great job.

As always, thanks to the Executive Committee members for their commitment and input over the years. Unfortunately, some members are now standing down but there seems to be no 'new blood' to replace them.

I, along with our wonderful Chair, Martin, are entering our 15<sup>th</sup> year in our roles. We are not getting any younger and there will come a day when I feel I will not be able to do my job as best as I can. Also, personal circumstances could affect my position in the future. What I am trying to say is that our committee needs new members to be committed and take on these roles or there will be problems within our Executive. I am only a custodian of my position and one day hope to hand over the baton!

Finally, thanks to my wife, Carol for her patience and understanding for another year with me coping with my paperwork, cheques, receipts and mutterings. As always, I try to do my best for something which is close to my heart.

May the Powell be with you.

Terry Goodall  
Group Treasurer

## *CIRCLE REPORT*

In April 2022, members enjoyed the musical “Made in Dagenham” and two weeks later we ate at the Fairmile restaurant. The following week saw us riding the Bluebell Railway.

In May, four members visited Brooklands and had a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

At the Group’s AGM in June, Sheila Jones was presented with an Award for Merit for her outstanding and dedicated service as Group Secretary and OOTB Editor.

Margaret Warry was presented with her Bar to the Silver Acorn for further specially distinguished service.

I was formally asked by the Group Chair if I would accept the honorary position of Group Vice-President which I accepted.

In June we honoured the Queen’s 70 years on the throne by having our own Platinum Afternoon Tea in our garden when ten members enjoyed a variety of food and a good chat. Later in the month we visited Epsom Playhouse to see Happy & Glorious, a production covering the Queen’s 70 years on the throne.

Six members went to the North Star in August and enjoyed their personal choice from the menu.

Thursday 22 September was third time lucky that we actually got to Bognor Regis for our day at the seaside. Five members were met by Brenda and Michael Pawley where we all enjoyed an easy-going day.

Our October’s meeting was Margaret and Graham’s presentation called “29 Years of Car Booting”, a brief history of their time selling goods for Group funds.

In early November we were greatly saddened by the sudden death of Sheila Jones who was a Circle member for many years and had been active since she joined 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth in 1978.

Six members visited the Epsom Playhouse in November for an afternoon’s musical entertainment by the Central Band of the Royal British Legion. Later that month we were at the hall for a look at previous editions of Out of the Blue where we found many interesting articles.

On 23 February we had the postponed Christmas lunch followed by the AGM at our house.

In March I organised a General Knowledge quiz at the hall asking the two teams to answer as many questions from the 100 as they could. The winning team achieved 90 points out of a possible 107 answers.

So, we enjoyed a full programme and would be happy to welcome new members.

Currently we have 9 members.

Graham Warnes  
Treasurer and Secretary

## ***FUNDRAISER'S REPORT***

1st APRIL 2022-18th DECEMBER 2022

### **CAR BOOT SALES £838-70**

Ken and I attended 10 sales – 3 at Hook Road Arena, 5 at Shepperton and 2 at Dorking Rail Station. Of those, there were 3 events at full price, 3 at half price and 4 at 20p an item. We were lucky enough to get an end position on 3 occasions, thereby allowing us extra space for display of goods.

### **OUTDOOR FAIRS £1042-50**

Margaret, Ken and I went to a new venue, the Oatlands Village Fair in Weybridge, where we made £153-90 for Group funds.

In June it was back to the Ham Fair, on a fine sunny day, when customers were eager to buy items from our stall. At the end of 8 hours trading and lots of space on the tables, we were pleasantly surprised to find that our profit was £535-30. The previous year the delayed Fair was held in September where we made another record profit here of £374-70.

In July we attended another new venue, this time the St. Margaret's Fair, where we made £353-30 for the funds.

### **GRATEFUL THANKS**

My grateful thanks to Ken for his help at 6 Car Boots, and to Margaret for help at 3.

Also thanks to Margaret and Ken for help at Oatlands Village Fair, Weybridge, Margaret, Ken and Pat Tomlinson for help at the Ham Fair and to Margaret and Ken for help at the St. Margarets Fair, Twickenham.

The Richmond May Fair was again cancelled and in its place we went to the two new venues.

Graham Warnes

### **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  
Group Executive member

### **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



**1st TOLWORTH (ST MATTHEW'S) SCOUT GROUP**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GROUP COUNCIL**

**To be held at Sparks Hall**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 8.00 pm**

**A G E N D A**

- 1 Welcome by Chair
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of AGM held on 7th June 2022
- 4 Matters arising from Minutes
- 5 Approval of Annual Report
- 6 Approval of Accounts
- 7 Approval of GSL's nomination of Chair
- 8 Election of Secretary -
- 9 Election of Treasurer –
- 10 Election of independent Examiner -
- 11 Approval of GSL's Nomination for Group Executive.
- 12 Election of further Members of the Group Executive.
- 13 The District Commissioner.
- 14 The Group President.
- 15 Any other business.
- 16 Meeting Closure: Followed by Refreshments.