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OUT

OF

TROOP

**Enjoy your Summer
Camp in Somerset.**

Loads of Activities.

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

JULY

- Tue 4th Group Trustee Board meeting (formerly Group Executive).
Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.
- Sun 16th Circle meeting. Visit to Borde Hill Garden, Haywards Heath.
- Sat 22nd to Sat 29th Troop Summer Camp. Huish Woods Scout Campsite, Taunton.

AUGUST

- Thu 17th Circle meeting. Restaurant meal.

SEPTEMBER

- Tue 5th Group Trustee Board meeting. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.
- Thu 21st Circle Meeting. TBA.

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

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

by 11TH August

to

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

GSL'S REPORT

Summer has certainly arrived!! Hopefully it will stay like this for camps over the summer.

I want to start this OOTB by saying thank you and goodbye to some dear supporters of 1st Tolworth. It was announced at the AGM that Reg Lefevre, his wife Tina and Bob Taylor were stepping down from the Executive Committee.

Reg has been an amazing supporter of 1st Tolworth, first as a parent helper, then as an Assistant Cub Leader with Julie Ford, followed by Assistant Group Scout Leader and then GSL.

He was also, along with Bob, the founders of 1T Shooting Club, which is still going strong with Millie, Peter and Alex. It started when Reg's son Sam and daughter Jade, Bob's daughter Megan and Julie's son Craig, really got into air rifle shooting. At various stages they were members of the Scout National Air Rifle Squad. We have some excellent new members in the club and I hope they in turn will carry on representing 1st Tolworth in shooting.

Bob Taylor had done a brilliant job of being our Hall Manager and along with Ted Hodges kept the hall going. Bob is an electrician so with help from other Exec. members, he changed all the light fittings in the hall which has made a huge difference! Ted has taken on the role of Hall Manager, although nothing has really changed for him!

Tina was the admin backbone for Everest Cubs for many years, taking a lot of the work from Julie and Reg so they could concentrate their time on giving the Cubs the best possible experience. Tina stepped up and became our Group Secretary when Sheila Jones retired. Unfortunately, not long after starting the job Tina fractured her wrist and had to give up the role and Gayna stepped in to help.

Thank you to all of you for the service and dedication you have given to 1st Tolworth over the years. You have helped 1st T become what it is today!

Gayna Brice has volunteered to continue, so at the AGM Gayna was voted in as Secretary. Thank you Gayna and welcome. She had already been on the Exec. as a parent representative and co-ordinator for the fund-raising committee for some time.

We also have two new Executive members - Julie Usher and Tara Majumdar who have agreed to join as parent representatives. Julie's son is in Scouts and Tara's is in Cubs. It would be great if we had another parent who would represent Beavers! Parents help support the Section Leader and section members as their voice. Please let me know if you would like to be a representative as it doesn't have to be just one per section.

I also need to give a warm welcome to Ekrem Malkoc who has joined the Group as an Occasional Helper and has agreed to help at one of the sections. His daughter Ezgi has joined the Scout section.

You all know Courtney, our Beaver Leader. Unfortunately she has had to take a step back from being the Beaver Leader due to family and work commitments and finding it harder and

harder to be at Beavers for the start, due to her work times. She is not leaving us but is taking on the role as Assistant Beaver Leader along with Peter.

I am really pleased to say that Michelle Nicholls has agreed to take over the Beaver Colony from September when we return for the autumn term. Michelle has an older daughter who is an Explorer Young Leader and Guide Young Leader and Michelle's son Josh is a Scout with 1T.

Michelle brings a huge amount of experience as she has been a Guide Commissioner and is currently a Guide Brownie Leader amongst other roles! Guiding differs vastly from Scouting but the ethos is the same. It will take a little while for Michelle to adapt to the change, so please give her all the support you can.

Thank you and welcome to 1st Tolworth!

As a Scout Group it is essential that we have parent input. It helps us understand what we need to do and improve or create a better experience for our Young People. The Scouting saying is "Skills for Life" and that is what we aim to do, with your help.

The Scout Association over the next 12 months or so will be going through some big changes. These changes will NOT AFFECT how Scouting is delivered to our young people, the changes are really about how Leaders are seen.

The role titles of some Leaders are changing in that there will no longer be Group Scout Leaders, District Commissioners and County/Area/Region Commissioners. They will be known as Lead Volunteers. Youth Commissioners will be known as Youth Leads. They are doing this to try and get over that we are all volunteers!

Some people may have already had an email about a new system we are using called OSM. It is not actually new to the Leaders as we have been using it as an admin tool for a few years. What is new is that we are expanding what can be done with it. It has what is called the parent portal which allows you to see which badges your child is working towards and the progress they have made. It will also let you fill in personal details which only Leaders and you can see, about medical history and doctor's information.

Please can I ask you to log into the parent portal on OSM when you get the email request and update any information. OSM will also allow you to make payments for any camp or event your child will attend which will come direct to the Group. This payment will not be available to all at first as we are trialling it for Scout Summer Camp, so please look out for any email from the Section Leader or OSM.

As I said, things are changing! Please check your emails and keep an eye out for any further information.

I hope you all have a great summer holiday and look forward to seeing you all in September.

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

GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to thank the Section Leaders and supporters who attended the Group Annual General Meeting with a special thank you to the Reverend Helen Hancock, Alison Edwards County Training Manager, and our guests from Royal Kingston District - Stewart Nash District Commissioner, Bob Bushell District President and Trevor Strong Assistant District President.

Apologies were received from Frank Joyce, Marilyn Jennings, Stewart Duffell ASL, Alex O'Sullivan ASL, Bob Taylor, Barbara Smith, Pauline Littrell, Heather Strong, Ian Marsden, Kiera Pearson ASL, Lyn Stone, Sue Russell, Susan Bushell and Graham Goring.

I opened the meeting with the normal safety messages. I then asked everyone to remember Sheila Jones, a dear friend and dedicated member of the 1st Tolworth family, who sadly passed away on 9th November 2022.

The meeting continued with a look at the Group Constitution which details how we run and operate 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group and although we adhere to this Constitution it has needed some changes. This is due to changes imposed by the Scout Association, mainly the change of naming of Roles. Out go Group Executive and Committee members. In come Trustee Board and Trustees.

There are other changes but not too significant. The Constitution "1T Group Constitution 2023" was approved by all those present.

Following the approval of the Constitution I delivered a brief roundup of the last year's achievements of the Executive Committee (Trustee Board) thanking them all for their dedication to the Group.

Sadly, three of our Executive Committee are standing down. Reg Lefevre Parent helper, Assistant Cub Leader, Assistant Group Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader and various other roles within the District and Tina Lefevre Parent Helper with Cubs, Group Secretary and for many years has supported and helped the Group in many ways giving the much needed support to Reg. Reg. and Tina were each presented with a small token of my appreciation for the faithful support they have given me over the years.

Also standing down is Bob Taylor who has been a long standing committee member, mainly helping to look after the building. Unfortunately, work commitments have made it difficult lately for him to attend the monthly meeting so he has decided to call it a day. I thanked Bob for his years of dedicated support.

Reg, Tina and Bob have advised us that they are willing to stay on the books as occasional helpers.

As you will have seen in John's report we have two parent representatives, something we haven't had for a long time. So a big thank you and welcome to Julie Usher and Tara Majumdar.

John delivered his roundup of how the Sections have performed over the last year. Also, as can be seen in John's detailed report, the changes we have had in Section leadership over the year and forthcoming changes in keeping 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group alive and kicking.

The meeting also reviewed the May 2023 edition of Out of the Blue which is, as you are aware, the Group's Annual Report.

Terry gave a detailed report on the health of the Group's finances. One of the main items was the scrapping of the Mini Bus as it is not ULEZ compliant. He has managed to get the scrappage allowance verified and the Bus will be disposed of in the near future.

Following the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts, the meeting proceeded as per Agenda, with the elections of Trustees (Executive members), re-appointment of Group President and Group Vice President. I would like to thank Gayna Brice who has volunteered to step up to the role of Group Secretary.

Stewart Nash District Commissioner, thanked us for the invitation and said 1st Tolworth is a jovial Group and it is a pleasure to see so many people at the AGM which is an important event in the calendar. 1st Tolworth do an amazing job and the Scouts are very positive with their experience. Please keep doing what you are doing. He also wanted to reassure everyone that whilst the Trustees are accountable, there is a lot of support and the backing of the Scout Association which should reassure you. He wished the Group all the best for the coming year.

Margaret Warry Group President, also congratulated the Group, particularly the Leaders in their continued efforts in keeping the Sections active with exciting programmes for our young members. She reminisced about her years in Scouting, particularly that she was honoured to be part of one of the oldest Scout Groups in the world.

Following the meeting, refreshments were served which gave those present the time to chat and we all enjoyed a relaxing evening.

We have survived our 114th year, the last two more of a challenge than most, and are still here, entering our 115th year of Scouting. I'm sure that whatever the future holds for us we will, in true 1st Tolworth family tradition, rise to the challenges that present themselves and we will continue to do what we do best - provide great times, life skills and excellent Scouting for the youngsters in the area.

Well, that's it for this month. The summer holidays are nearly upon us and I'm sure we all need a break and have time to recharge our batteries, so let's hope that following the heat wave in June we continue to have some summer weather. I hope you all have an enjoyable summer and enjoy whatever you do.

Next edition will be the September issue. See you then.

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

THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT

NO REPORT

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

EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT

NO REPORT

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

SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Hi everyone!

Hot summer weather has returned. Maybe a little too hot for some ... including me! Don't worry, it will be cooler and wetter by the time the schools break up. Just in time for Summer Camp!!!

Comings & Goings

We invested Elspeth, Grace and Emmie in the spring.

Lucy appointed Emmie and Lee as joint APLs of Woodpecker Patrol.

We have been joined by Nieve, who defected from 1st. Hook plus Cameron, and Vinnie from Everest Pack, who have both been invested.

We also have Misha, Naomi, Charlotte and Ezgi. Let's hope we can get them into uniform before the summer break. We are pleased to have you all with us.

Friday Evenings

Keeping busy with a different activity (nearly) every Friday, the Leaders managing to take turns to run evenings to share the load.

We have been working on knots and whipping and splicing ropes towards Pioneer Badge for those that went on the May Camp. Good "Scouty" stuff for us all!

We have had two evenings working on First Aid and I am pleased to say that 2/3 of the Troop now have gained Emergency Aid badge up to level 3. Pleased with that.

We had a Coronation Cookery evening on 5th May. Each Patrol made something different. Some used the oven, some Gaz and others Trangia stoves. We had a Coronation Quiche, a vegan Coronation Curry, Coronation Chicken Pasta Salad, Lamb Risotto, plus a few other dishes. Tasted good but the clearing up took us well past 9.30pm again. Sorry parents!

We went to Southwood to practice Axe and Saw. Important to be knowledgeable and SAFE for camp!

We went out Geocaching from Berrylands Station to The Fishponds. A sort of treasure hunt involving navigating to the right place then finding where the cache is hidden. It is all on the Geocaching App. When (If ?) you find it, you can then take one of the (tiny) prizes, as long as you replace it with another prize for people that follow.

We also joined Thames Beavers for some Rock Painting. I think there were almost more Scouts than Beavers but anyway ... messy but fun.

PLs and APLs Training Camp at Southwood

This was a new venture for us. Because our older members have gone to Atlas, our new PLs & APLs needed some help to become the Leaders that the Troop needs. Evannah has written her view of the weekend:

Camp started on Friday evening. Cold, dark and extremely muddy. First we put the tents up, luckily the younger scouts were also there to help – although they weren't the greatest help in the end. Then, we all played some games including lighthouse. A few hairs were ripped out by branches, and a few holes punctured in trousers by thorns, but you can't beat a good game of lighthouse in the pitch black. After the younger scouts left, we hauled our heavy loads into our tents whilst the leaders set up a campfire. After warming up by the flames for a bit, we were treated – and rightly so – with scorching hot dogs submerged in uneven pools of ketchup. Then it was time for bed. It was forecast to be -2 degrees that night so the leaders showed us how to stay warm at night – laying blankets underneath us and putting heat packs in our sleeping bags – I'm glad they did – it was a very cold night!

The next morning we had a hearty breakfast to warm us up and then it was time for team building games. These were lots of fun but were exceedingly stressful at times. One game involved everyone being blindfolded except for one person. One person, who was blindfolded, was allowed to talk. Everyone was holding onto a long piece of rope and we could not let go of it. The leaders then challenged us to form different shapes using the rope. As I said before – exceedingly stressful at times. Another included us having to remove a bucket full of water from a large circle of rope without entering the circle. We weren't so great at this task, and faced a long conversation about our lack of teamwork skills after, but we all learnt something.

It was chicken fajitas for dinner and as you can imagine, they were absolutely delicious. However, the time had come for the more dull part of our weekend. The washing up. Yes, we all knew it was coming, but trust me – it's even more terrifying in real life. Towers of dishes stacked high, greasy frying pans and sticky cheese graters. Just the sight of it made me shiver. We set to work on our arduous task, making sure to scrub the dishes of every speck of food. Once finished, we all let out a sigh of relief and headed to the campfire. We all took turns telling scary stories but had to stop after one particularly scary one. Reuben's horror story haunted me for weeks, and I can confidently say that everyone else was in the same boat as me. As it was getting late, we all got ready for bed and went to sleep for the last time that weekend.

As the sun rose, so did we and even more work was to come. It had rained during the night, which made the process of taking down the tents a particularly messy one. Once we were finished, we ate breakfast and had one final task. Making a list of the qualities that an Assistant Patrol Leader, and a Patrol Leader needs. After discussing these, we all sat down for a game of mafia. I was sadly killed. Just as soon as it had started, the camp had ended and we all said our farewells before packing our bags into our cars and driving home. It may have been a cold, muddy weekend but it's safe to say everyone learnt something and we all had a great time!

GLSW County Night Exercise was based at Boidier Hurst Scout Campsite, near Boxhill.

We only had one team entering this year so Evannah & Ida, Lucy & Thomas, Abbey, Lee & Lucian all represented us. They finished the course with 139 points and were joint 4th with two other teams - 1st Purley and North Richmond. The winners gained 145 points, so we weren't far behind.

Armin walked with our friends from 4th Tolworth. They finished but managed to miss one or two checkpoints. Whoops! Even so, a good effort all round. Congratulations to you all!

Troop Camp at Polyapes

Stuart and Alex ran this weekend and I tried (unsuccessfully) to keep my mouth shut and let them get on with it.

Joshua has written his account of the camp:

Friday 28th April: May Bank Holiday Weekend camp begins! We all arrived from 6.30pm at Polyapes scout camp, because it is not that far away from us our parents were able to drop us off. We then went and found our pitch just on the right as we arrived. All our luggage had to be put together on the tarpaulin so we could get to work setting up camp. We had to work together to put up our hike tents first. I worked with Alfie, Emmie and Reuben. We worked well as a team and there were no arguments while we put it up! It only took us about ten minutes, then we went to help other members of the Troop. Once all the hike tents were up, as a bigger group we then had to work together to put up the mess tent. We followed directions from Keira because it was hard to put up, but we eventually did it! We were told which tent we were going in and then we were able to move our luggage and set up inside our tents. After the main tents had gone up we split into more groups to help put up the leader tents and move the cooking equipment into the mess tent. While we were sorting out the tents, John and Alex started to cook hot dogs so we could have something to eat after working so hard! When they were ready we all got to sit together and eat our hot dogs which were yummy! By this time it was so dark we couldn't do much more so off we went to bed. It was quite a cold night but not as cold as the PL and APL camp!!!!!!!!!!

Saturday 29th April: We all woke up about 7/7.30am and started to get ready, while we were getting ready and sorting out our tents through sleepy eyes, Alex was there cooking again for us (he is a good cook!). We had bacon sandwiches which were delicious (and I was lucky to have extra plus my friend's leftovers)! After breakfast some of us were picked to do the washing up and drying which didn't take too long because there were a few of us doing it. After breakfast an instructor called Dave came to our site. He was there to teach us all about pioneering, luckily before we went on camp we had been practising knots at our scout evenings! The whole group worked together to make a monkey bridge, we had to use knots and lashings such as square lashing, reef knots. Unfortunately I had to go during this session (I went to see the England women's rugby final at Twickenham which they won!!!). When I got back the bridge had been made, and I got to walk across it, it was fun to walk over something my friends had put together! That evening we got to get involved with the cooking. We were cooking on fire! We had been put into groups and we made Spaghetti Bolognese. Some of us cut up the onions and peppers, one person was collecting wood, and I got to look after the fire to make sure it was hot enough for the cooking and I

was watching the water for when it started to boil so we could cook the spaghetti. Camp dinners are the best because we all get to make it, and I had three portions again, and ate the leftover spaghetti!! After dinner we all joined in to wash up and tidy camp, it seemed like it took us forever!! We were all getting tired by the end of the washing up so we went to bed, it was another chilly night!

Sunday 30th April: On Sunday morning we all woke up about the same time again, and started to get ready for the day. Alex was back on cooking duties, we had fried eggs, choice of spaghetti hoops or beans and some bread and butter. I managed to have 12 fried eggs!!! They were amazing!! After we had washed up and put all our stuff away, we went orienteering. We were allowed to choose who to be with, we were in twos. I worked with Emmie. We were given maps of the campsite and set off to find all the points. Emmie and I only managed to find two?!?! Not sure why!! But then while we were doing that, we found out that Jonah had got lost and split from his group (they had three), we ended up joining them to help find him in the woods. Luckily we did! After all the worry and searching we went back to camp for our lunch (its hard work searching for someone)! We had rolls with a choice of sliced ham, sliced chicken or quorn meat with salad stuff, and we got to choose some crisps and a mini roll and fruit. After our lunch had gone down (and we had washed up again) I went to be tested on my axe and saw skills by Millie and Peter which they said I passed, and they could see I knew what to do. I was really pleased with myself. While I was doing my test, the rest of the group were out collecting firewood for our cooking fires and our campfire. For dinner we cooked on the altar fires again and this time we made curry. We had to split the jobs again, so I cut up the chicken, a couple cut up the vegetables, some did wood collecting and looked after the fire, and I got to cook the curry. It was another very yummy camp dinner!! We ate under our patrol tents and then did our own washing up and drying, this time it was quicker washing up because we knew we were having a campfire. We then went down to the campfire circle where we got to toast marshmallows and made smores, they were just what we needed for pudding! Once our bellies were full we went off to sleep in our tents (and it was still cold!).

Monday 1st May: The last day of camp! We woke up at the usual time and got ready, and the same again Alex was cooking breakfast! We had sausage sandwiches and again I think I ate more than everyone else! It's all been my favourite food! We then had to wash up, pack our stuff up and then strike camp. We started by taking down the hike tents, and then when they were down we went to help the leaders to bring down the rest of the tents and shelters that we had used. We were all quite tired by the end of camp, so it was quieter at the beginning of camp! At lunchtime we finished off the leftovers and had a mix match lunch. Our parents came to pick us up about 3.30pm and we were all pretty exhausted by then, and I think the leaders were too! It was a really fun weekend and I am looking forward to summer camp!!

Coming soon :

Summer Camp 2023 – Saturdays 22 – 29 July at Huish Woods in Somerset.

I know I keep mentioning it, but it is a special one!

Summer Camp 2024 – 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

Our visit in April to Arundel Castle to view the tulip displays had to be postponed until 2024. Instead we visited Squires Garden Centre at Long Ditton. Four members had a look around the shop and items were bought. After a lovely lunch we then spent time looking at the plants area where purchases were made.

On Thursday 18 May six members came to our garden to hold a Coronation Party in celebration of the new King and Queen. To start with we each enjoyed a glass of Cava. The afternoon tea included a variety of sandwiches, fruit loaf slices, snack sausages, small pasties, scones with strawberry jam and clotted cream, a raspberry sponge cake and, of course, cups of tea.

For our June meeting four of us visited the National Trust property of Polesden Lacey, near Great Bookham. It was an Edwardian Country retreat of the socialite, Margaret Greville. In the house we viewed paintings, silver tableware, ceramics and French furniture.

There were also many wonderful views over the Surrey Hills.

The shop had already started selling this year's Christmas cards and next year's calendars!
A nice day out.

Graham Warnes.
Treasurer and Secretary

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 Trustee

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