
1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group

FOUNDED 1908

REGISTERED 5TH MARCH 1909

Sparks Hall, Pyne Road, Tolworth, KT6 7BN

OUT OF



Wishing you all
a Very
Happy New Year

THE BLUE



Registered Charity Number: 1040958

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www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

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Group Vice President	Graham Warnes	graham.warnes@blueyonder.co.uk
Circle Chair	Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk

Diary of Events

JANUARY

Tue 9th 20.00 for 20.15 - Group Trustee Board social -- The Royal British Legion

FEBRUARY

Tue 6th 20.00 for 20.15 - Group Trustee Board meeting - Sparks Hall

Thu 15th 13.30 -15.00 - Circle Meeting - AGM – Margaret and Graham’s house

MARCH

Tue 5th 20.00 for 20.15 - Group Trustee Board meeting - Sparks Hall

Thu 21 Circle Meeting TBA

All contributions for the March ISSUE issue of OOTB
to be delivered to Gayna by 11 February 2024

Following their visit to the
November Fayre
The Mayor and Consort
Of Kingston-Upon-Thames
Sent the group
This Christmas Card.



GSL'S REPORT

We are almost at the end of another year. It hardly seems possible!

2023 saw the crowning of a new King and Queen and the change to the Scout Promise of “To do my duty to the Queen” to “To do my duty to the King”. Hard to remember at first!

We have also seen a lot of changes at 1st Tolworth. We have new leaders in the Cub section with Luke and Marina taking over from Megan and Luke taking on the role as Cub Scout Leader and Marina as Assistant Leader.

I want to say a huge thank you to both of them for stepping up and taking this on. To run a section is not easy and the more help you get the easier it becomes. A massive thank you also goes to Matthew Pearson for being the Young Leader at the section who has helped hold it together, even though he has had a ton of schoolwork and exams to get through this year!

As a parent, could you help out some Wednesdays if you have the time? The Cub Pack is growing fast so please speak to Luke or Marina if you can help.

We are also very happy to welcome Michelle Nicholls as our new Beaver Leader! Michelle took over officially after the summer break in September. It was not an easy start for her as the training to be a nurse meant she had a lot of shift work and placements to do. I would like to thank the parents who supported her and Peter during this time and for being a second adult so that the Beaver meeting could go ahead. A huge thank you to Peter Keen who kept the Colony together along with the Young Leader help. It would not have been possible without your support. I think things are easier now, although they might still need some help from time to time!

Michelle is very keen to get the Beavers working hard to earn badges and is also hoping to be able to take them camping this year so they can get their Nights Away badge!

In September, the Beavers had a very special guest for the meeting. Sir Ed Davey MP came and visited the Colony to see what Beavers did and to meet the Leaders. Ed had a great time that evening and joined in trying soft archery. Unfortunately, he lost against the Beavers!

After the meeting I had the honour of investing Ed as an honorary member of 1st Tolworth and presenting him with our Royal Blue Scarf and a yellow woggle. Ed has been a Cub Scout and Scout and is a valued supporter of Scouting, especially in Royal Kingston District.

The Scout Troop is doing really well with a lot of the Leaders completing their training and being awarded the Wood Badge.

This is not actually a badge but two wooden beads which are worn around the neck. The first Wood Badges were made from beads taken from a necklace that had belonged to a Zulu chief named Dinizulu which Baden-Powell had found during his time in the Zululand in 1888. On state occasions, Dinizulu would wear a necklace 12 feet long, containing approximately 1,000 beads made from South African Acacia yellow wood. This wood has a soft central pith which makes it easy for a rawhide lace to be threaded through from end to end and this is how the 1,000 beads were arranged.

When B-P was looking for some token to award to people who went through the Gilwell training course he remembered the Dinizulu necklace and the leather thong given to him by an elderly African at Mafeking. He took two of the smaller beads, drilled them through the centre, threaded them onto the thong and called it the Wood Badge.

We have had to say a sad goodbye to Keira Pearson who has stepped down from her role of Assistant Scout Leader due to other commitments. Keira has just started university so most of her time is taken up there now. Also, she has taken on the role of Scout Leader at 22nd Wimbledon. She is still an Explorer Leader and involved in the Royal Kingston Network.

We wish Keira all the success with everything she does!

In November, we had our Fayre at the Royal British Legion Surbiton and it was a brilliant success. We raised over £1400!

My thanks go to Gayna Brice, Brenda Pawley and Fiona Perkins for the organisation of the Fayre. Also, thanks to everyone behind the scenes who without their help it would have been ten times harder. Thanks also to RBL Surbiton for allowing us to use the bar area to have the Fayre and supporting 1st Tolworth. I would like to name everyone but I know I would miss someone out. I would like to thank Lee Perkins for all his hard work in helping to move things from 1T to RBL and back in his truck.

In 2023. Scouting started what they call the “Transition”. This will not directly affect the younger members as it is based around adult leaders. The Scout Association is changing the way volunteering is done to a “Teams” based approach which means that the role titles have changed. For instance, a Beaver, Cub or Scout Leader will be known as “?... Section Team Leader” and Assistant Section Leaders will be known as “?...Team Members”.

My role as Group Scout Leader, as well as District Commissioners and County/Area/Region Commissioners, has become Lead Volunteer. The Association decided to change this after consultation with a company and a survey saying that people do not understand the titles of our original roles. I, like many other leaders throughout Scouting, think this is a bad idea and do not agree with it.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year!

Hopefully, see you all in 2024.

Very best wishes.

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

GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

Happy New Year.

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

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

Remembrance Sunday

It was wonderful seeing so many people at the Surbiton service and great to see so many youth groups present as part of the uniformed parade, all looking really smart. In particular, I was pleased to see 1st Tolworth taking part in the parade.

The honour of laying the 1st Tolworth Group wreath went this year to Josh Nicholls.

Group November Fayre

Again, we were able to hold our November Fayre at the Surbiton Royal British Legion and to use the bar area which proved to be so successful in previous years. We were fortunate to have the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor Diane White. She and her Consort, Mr Jonathan White, were escorted around the Fayre by John Bowman. They both enjoyed their time chatting to almost everyone and playing some 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. Lee Perkins did an excellent job as doorman and compère. Thank you Lee. Ted Hodges who arranges and usually runs the raffle on the day, was unable to attend. So thank you to Fiona Perkins who looked after 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.

The last Trustee Board meeting (formerly Group Executive) for 2023, held on Tuesday 5th December, was followed by a short social gathering as a thank you to the members for their work throughout the year. The main discussion following the meeting is usually about the November Fayre. This year it was no different. We all commented on how using the Bar area at the Surbiton Royal British Legion was a great venue. Most of us thought we were down on numbers. However, this is not reflected in our income as we managed to raise £1,405.

Thanks to all who attended for your support.

Once again, I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2024.

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

THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT

Another busy half term has been had by our Beaver Colony! We have welcomed four new Beavers, three who have been invested and one who is preparing for when we return in the new year! Unfortunately, three of our Beavers have reached the age where they can swim up to Cubs which happened on our last day of term. We will miss them a lot at Beavers but look forward to hearing all about what they get up to and achieve in Cubs. Good Luck to them and enjoy!

Over the second half of the term we got up to many different challenges. We learned some fun facts about Australia during our international evening and were very impressed with the Beaver's knowledge on kangaroos and sharks!!

The Beavers have also been very crafty. They created their own safe fireworks, made yummy edible campfires and had the Scouts visit twice to make spiders and webs, and then crocodile and lizard sticks!! Excellent work Beavers!!

We also attended the November Fayre. Thank you to Alfie, Edward and Jude for helping out on the stalls and thank you to all the other Beavers who attended and had lots of fun. I do believe the Beaver stall raised a significant amount of money for 1st Tolworth so it was very well done!!!

To end the term, the Beavers made baubles to hang on their Christmas trees at home and then came festively dressed for our Christmas party where we had fun playing lots of party games!!

We are looking forward to a busy term this year so until then, Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2024!

Michell Nicholls
Beaver Scout Leader
Thames Beaver Scout Colony
Boys and Girls age 5 ³/₄ - 8
Fridays 17.45 – 18.45

EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT

The Cubs recently completed their Chef badge and Air activities badge. We ended the year with a couple of games of Lazer Quest that all the Cubs enjoyed.

Luke and Marina
Cub Scout Leaders
Everest Cub Scout Pack
Boys and Girls age 8 – 10 ¹/₂
Wednesdays 18.30 – 20.00

SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Hi everyone !

Here we are already, hoping for a healthy, wealthy and happy 2024!

Comings & Goings

Lenny was invested but hasn't stuck with us. It is hard to change Groups as well as the move from Cubs to Scouts but we will miss him. Rayaan has been invested and getting used to our little ways. It looks like we have a couple of new ones joining us in January.

Friday evenings

We have continued to work on finishing Pioneer badge and most of the Troop have completed Fire Safety Badge. A few did Sports Enthusiast badge which is about following your sport, rather than actually playing. All that has taken a lot of time, as did preparing for the County Cooking Competition.

Stuart ran a Murder Mystery evening and we did some "indoor pioneering" involving trying to light a candle which was ten feet away down the Hall. We also did Christmas decorations from paracord – Christmas trees and mini wreaths.

We had a Movie Evening at the end of term and watched "Ratatouille". Unfortunately, we took too long to sort out the snacks, and ran out of time. I would have been in trouble with the parents if we had concluded at 10 to 10 instead of 9.30. Ah well ... we tried. If I had thought harder, we could have started earlier as the Beavers weren't meeting that night! Isn't hindsight a wonderful thing?

Remembrance Day Parade

On a morning that was raining before the parade moved off, but improved through the day, we were part of a Parade that was larger than recently. We had 11 Scouts marching plus a few of our Cubs & Beavers with Millie, John and myself. Joshua was chosen to lay the Wreath from 1st Tolworth. Well done and smartly turned out. Roast potatoes & sausages enjoyed by all back at the Royal British Legion afterwards.

November Fayre

Thanks to all who joined in on the day of the November Fayre, either helping to set-up, running stalls & crafts and/or clearing up afterwards. A fun day and all to help all of us!

County Cooking Competition

This annual competition sees teams of 4 Scouts from across GLSW cooking a three-course meal in two hours on 2 gas rings. This year's theme was "Good for the Planet". 32 teams competed, the most we have had since before Lockdown. Julia, Nieve, Ida & Abbey cooked Croque Monsieur, Chicken Katsu & American-style Fluffy Pancakes. They scored 98 points out of 110 and were equal eighth. Oliver, Lukas, Emilia & Lucian cooked a Vegan menu of Greek-style Salad, Katsu Curry with chapatis & Welsh Cakes. They scored 87 points and were equal 20th. Not bad at all! It is a tall order to do all that planning as well as the actual cooking. The competition was won jointly by a team from Berrylands and one from 4th. Tolworth, with 102 points.

Thanks are due to Millie and Alex who supported our two teams. Thanks also to all the parents who helped, shopped and lent equipment from their kitchens. Thanks also to all our leaders who acted as judges and made the event happen: Alex, Millie, Jamie, John and friends known to some or all: Tim, Keira, Alison & Tia.

Cubs and Beavers

We have been busy doing Christmas Crafts with Thames Beavers and Everest Cubs. Several different members of the Troop helped on each occasion.

We helped the Beavers make Spiders & Spider's Webs, only a little late for Halloween. Then we tried Crocodiles and Iguanas, all out of craft sticks, wool, pipe-cleaners and googly eyes!

With Cubs, we made Christmas tree decorations out of Paracord. Any excuse to start using string and rope!

Next plans

Christmas Treat - The Scouts decided to go to White Spider for Climbing but it will have to be on a Thursday, just to confuse us all. Date to be negotiated and revealed. If possible, we will walk down for a game of bowling too.

Summer Camp at Braggers Wood. July 27 to August 3. We will need a deposit by the end of January from those who will be coming. Details very soon.

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

We had a games afternoon on Thursday 19 October at our house. There was a choice of several games but the members chose Trivial Pursuit. We were divided into three teams which were evenly matched.

At the end of the game two teams had each achieved two cheeses and the other team one cheese.

On Thursday 16 November Circle members plus a guest enjoyed a quiz which I had set. There was General Knowledge, Alphabet and Christmas.

Examples of General Knowledge questions were:

- (a) In the realm of advertising in 1983, who was J. R. Hartley and what was he advertising?
- (b) Who won 22 Oscars from 59 nominations during a lifetime of making films?
- (c) What is the English translation of the French name "Pret a Manger", the popular sandwich chain?
- (d) What material is the RBL poppy made of this year?

One team consisted of two members and our guest, and the other team formed of two members. The first named scored 63 points and the second named scored 62 points. So close!

ANSWERS

- (a) He was the author of Fly Fishing and was advertising Yellow Pages.
- (b) Walt Disney.
- (c) Ready to Eat.
- (d) Paper.

There is no Circle meeting in January.

Happy New Year everyone.

Graham Warnes
Circle Secretary

NOVEMBER FAYRE - A FEW THANK YOUS

Thank you to all of those who supported the Fayre in November. People helped in so many ways and we couldn't do it without you from donating goods, helping to sort, making cakes, selling on the day or helping to clear up. You all did your bit. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. Together we raised £1405.00. The money will go towards our annual membership subscriptions that we pay per member to the Scout Association.

I would also like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Diane White, and Consort, Mr Jonathan White for opening the Fayre and staying to talk to so many people as well as have a go at some of our games.

Thank you to the following Companies who kindly supported us by donating so generously:

Brewers
White Spider Climbing
Venture Photography
Light Republic Photography studio
Headmasters
Cook
Number works n words

Thank you to The Royal British Legion for allowing us to use their Bar area for free. It is such a lovely area and makes all the difference to our takings that we don't have to pay for a venue.

And finally, thank you to my fellow committee members who make organising the Fayre so much easier.

**Gayna
November Fayre Sub Committee
1stTolworthfundraising@gmail.com**

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**