
1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group

FOUNDED 1908

REGISTERED 5TH MARCH 1909

Sparks Hall, Pyne Road, Tolworth, KT6 7BN

OUT OF



THE BLUE



Registered Charity Number: 1040958

JULY 2024

www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

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Group Chair	Martin Smith	chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com
Group Secretary	Gayna Brice	1sttolworthfundraising@gmail.com
Group President	Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk
Group Vice President	Graham Warnes	graham.warnes@blueyonder.co.uk
Circle Chair	Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk

Diary of Events

July

Tue 2nd 20.00 for 20.15 - Group Trustee Board meeting - Sparks Hall

Thu 18th. Circle Meeting - venue tba

Sat 27th Scout summer camp,

August

Thu 15th CIRCLE meeting - venue tba

September

Tue 3rd. 20.00 for 20.15 - Group Trustee Board meeting - Sparks Hall

All contributions for the September issue of OOTB to be delivered to Gayna
by 20 August 2024

GROUP SCOUT LEADER'S REPORT

Halfway through the year already, where does the time go?

I want to say thank you to everyone who came to the Group's AGM on 4th June to support us. Thank you to Martin Smith for taking on being Chair for another year but Martin has said this will be his last year. Thank you to Terry Goodall for agreeing to carry on as our treasurer and to Gayna Brice for agreeing to continue to take the minutes of the Trustee meetings.

It was sad to say farewell to Mr. Maurice Grant who has been our group's auditor for over 30 years, but with failing eyesight he has had to stop. I would like to wish Maurice all the very best for the future and to say a massive thank you for everything he has done for the group.

I would also like to welcome and thank Trevor Strong for accepting the role of the group's auditor, Trevor is also Royal Kingston District Vice President. Trevor has been a supporter of 1st Tolworth for many years, and I know he will do his best with this role.

It was great to see 1st Tolworth representing Royal Kingston as one of the groups from GLSW at the Colonel's review for the Trooping the Colour at Horse Guards Parade. They joined many other Young People at the youth enclosure to watch the ceremony. I asked after what they thought of it and just got the answer "It was amazing!" Thank you to the parents who helped Caroline herd the Scouts through London and ensured they got on the right tube train!

The group sections are going well, we have a good number in each section at the moment, and a very strong waiting list of 11 young people who when old enough can join our Beaver Colony, which currently has 16 members.

The Cub pack currently has 15 members and 11 of them are coming to Cub Camp this weekend at Polyapes. This will be the first time they have camped in tents and are really looking forward to it. My thanks to Caroline for helping with the pack and organising the camp, also thanks to the Young Leaders for all their help and for coming to camp.

I hope the weather continues to be hot and everyone has a great summer holiday!

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 our guests from Royal Kingston District:

Bob Bushell: District President, Trevor Strong: Assistant District President.

Apologies were received from; Sue Russell, Heather Strong, Marilyn Jennings, Amethyst Edgar-Gibson, Graham Goring and Lyn Stone

I opened the meeting with the normal safety messages.

The meeting continued with a look at the group constitution, which details how we run and operate 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group, the constitution "[1T Group Constitution 2024](#)" was approved by all those present.

Following the approval of the Constitution I delivered a brief roundup of the last years achievements of the Executive Committee [Trustee Board] thanking them all for their dedication to the Group.

John delivered his roundup of how the Sections have performed over the last year, also he thanked Caroline who is keeping the Cub pack running following the departure of Luke and Marina.

The meeting also reviewed the May 2024 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.

Following the approval of the annual report and accounts the meeting continued as per agenda, with the elections of Trustee Board Members, Reappointment of Group President and Group Vice President. Electing Board members is one of the things that has changed and Board Members can be voted in for a one, two or three year term. I was again nominated and elected as Group Chair but I will only do one year, after Fifteen years as Chair it is time to step down, so this will be my last year.

I went on to say thank you to Gayna Brice who has done an excellent job in her first year as Group Secretary.

In the absence of the district commissioner Mr Bob Bushell was invited to say a few words.

He congratulated me for chairing the meeting and grasping all of the changes. He said 1st Tolworth runs an amazing range of activities and it is only because of the commitment of the leaders.

And it is nice to see so many young leaders involved in supporting the group.

In a way, he said, it is nice that there are not very many parents here as it shows how happy they are and that they don't have any issues with the way you are running the Group.

You are one of only 3 groups that have a newsletter and in Bob's opinion it is the better of them and it really shows how much you do.

Margaret Warry; Group President also congratulated the Group, particularly the leaders in their continued efforts in keeping the sections active and exciting for our young members. She reminisced about her years in Scouting and suggested some novel ways of recruiting helpers/volunteers

Margaret concluded by urging 1st Tolworth to keep going and wished us every success in the future.

Viv Smith and Carol Goodall were thanked for preparing the refreshments which were served following the meeting, this gave those present the time to chat and we all enjoyed a relaxing evening.

So we have survived our 115th year, the last two more of a challenge than most, and are still here.

So here we go, entering our 116th year of scouting I'm sure that whatever the future holds and no matter what changes are planned for the way Scouting is delivered, we will, in true 1st Tolworth family tradition, rise to and overcome 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; sorry it's a short report. 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 we 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**

PRESIDENTS REPORT

No report this month. Wishing you all a lovely summer.

**Margaret Warry
Group President**

THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT

Michelle
Beaver Scout Leader
Thames Beaver Scout Colony
Boys and Girls age 5 ¾ - 8
Fridays 17.45 – 18.45

EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT

New members

Since John & I temporarily took over the Cub Pack, after Half-Term in February, we have invested Avery, Cameron & Jack as Cubs. We have since been joined by Darshan (who swum up from Thames Colony), Joohan and Hugo. Welcome to you all. We should have you all in uniform soon.

Matthew has been a stalwart as a Young Leader with the Pack. He has now been joined by two others, both named Oliver and both originally from 1st Hook Troop although now members of Atlas ESU. We are pleased to have them all with us. They are all really good with the Cubs.

We must also mention that several parents have been helping us. We could really do with a rota, so there is one parent with us every Wednesday. It makes a big difference!

Wednesday evenings

We have been very busy working on some badges but since Easter, we have been doing a lot of preparation for Camp, as only one has been away with us and none of the Pack has camped with Scouting before.

We made Sock Puppets and the Cubs, aided by the Young Leaders, wrote and performed little plays using their characters. Entertainer Badge! We have learned more about how the heart works and created some blood, using wooden beads for red cells, ping pong balls for white cells plus carefully cut craft foam for platelets! We went to 1st Hook to try Archery and Peter & Alex came down to do Rifle Shooting one evening. We moved the mats and used our Climbing Wall for Bouldering, making sure that we didn't go above the red line! We made Bee Hotels and hung them in the garden to help those crucial insects.

We have done lots of things to get prepared for Camp. Apart from practising pitching the Hike Tents on the grass at 2ndTolworth, the Scouts came down to help us cook on their Trangia Stoves. We have talked about building Shelters and found that it didn't work very well using Staves and our walls & floor at Sparks Hall. We talked about lighting fires, constructing a proper wood pile and practised using Flint & Steel but John wouldn't let us actually light a fire in the Hall. Wonder why? We have learned a few knots and we made Ballistas to fire Ping Pong balls down the hall. We have talked about what to pack for camp, what not to pack, and how important it is to keep clean while in camp. Let's hope we have learned enough so Camp next week is a success.

Future Plans

Everest Camp at Polyapes at the end of June. Hear about what we got up to in the next edition.

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

SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Hi everyone!

Comings & Goings:

In the past few months we have been joined by Jayden, Layla & Teddy. We should have got them invested in the next couple of weeks. Very pleased to have them all with us.

We were sorry to lose Tom a month ago. This left us with a need for a new Patrol Leader for Eagle Patrol. Lee was chosen by the remaining Patrol Leaders and I am pleased to say that he was happy to accept this new role. Woodpecker Patrol then required a new Assistant Patrol Leader and Reuben chose Grace to be his APL. She, again, was happy to accept the challenge. We wish them both “Good Luck” in their new positions.

Friday evenings:

Because the last edition of Out of the Blue was the Annual Report, I need to tell you about what we have done since March. We prepared for the County Night Exercise and the Expedition with an evening on maps & navigation, another practising our cookery on the Trangia Stoves and a third, considering First Aid Scenarios when we are out and about. We followed a trail around the Dustbowl in Oxshott.

We have done various International activities. We wrote letters to the Dutch Scouts that Ame & Tia would meet when in the Netherlands, when there for their Explorer Belt. We learned about WOSM (World Organisation of Scout Movements) and tried Origami for International Badge, which those going to Summer Camp can complete. We found out about Affinity Bias and situations where it can lead to lack of fairness.

We practised Lashings prior to making “Chariots” and racing them at the Dustbowl. I was impressed that not all the creations fell to pieces until after the race. Most unusual! Add to that an evening of Rifle Shooting, some Patrol Challenges and Board Games, to achieve our balanced programme!

County Night Exercise:

This annual event was based in March this year at Polyapes. Our team was led by Lukas to complete the whole course – something we haven't managed for a few years! Officially, we came in 22nd out of the 42 teams who entered. This time we camped overnight after the Hike, as we no longer have a minibus to get us home in the wee small hours of the morning. We were going to cook our breakfast with 22 Wimbledon but they weren't awake very early so we joined friends in 29 Purley, whose stove was already alight and cooking. The whole team was Lukas, Finley, Emilia, Lee, Thomas, Grace & Thejas. Congratulations to our friends at 4th Tolworth, who were joint winners with 1st.Purley. Well done to all who took part! Thanks to all leaders who were there to help – particularly John & Peter.

Expedition

We joined with 4th Tolworth for our overnight expedition, this time from Tolworth to Polyapes, then walking on to Effingham before jumping in the Minibuses for a lift home. 3 teams of 4 Scouts walked to Polyapes, pitched tents and cooked their evening meal on Trangias before retreating to bed. On Sunday morning, they prepared breakfast & packed lunch then struck the tents before walking on to the end of the Hike. I won't mention which team had trouble finding the gate to get out of Polyapes, which they had walked through on arrival less than 20 hours previously. Nor comment on the behaviours of some team members regarding working as a team. What happened on the Expedition, stays on the Expedition!

Thanks to Stuart & Ame, who drove minibuses, as well as Peter, Tia & Alex, without whom we could not have gone ahead.

St.George's Day Parade / Scout of the Year:

I was pleased to have 14 Scouts at our St. George's Day Parade – about 60% of the Troop.

Scout of the Year – Joshua

Runner up – Alfie

Third Place – Lee

Best newcomer – Rayaan

Troop's Choice – Joshua

Patrol of the Year – Kingfisher.

Colonel's Review:

We were lucky enough to be offered places at the Colonel's Review, which is the final dress rehearsal for Trooping of the Colour. 7 of us went up to watch the proceedings. We joined friends & Scouts from Croydon (notably 17 Purley) and Wimbledon & Wandle, right at the front. We had a limited view – we could see them all marching into Horse Guards Parade but ended up with the view of the rumps of quite a lot of horses but not the actual presentation of the Colours – but we did see a very senior figure in the organisation have his horse run off Horse Guards Parade to stop just in front of us!



It made it easier to travel up to town with five of “our” parents, who had purchased tickets for the event – Stuart & Abigail, Chris & Michelle & Julie. Thank you.

Strategy:

I failed to get us tickets for Strategy this year but 4th Tolworth had one Scout drop out and Grace was offered the chance to go. Ame, Tia and I went to support them. The Scouts took part in an Incident Hike all day Saturday, while Tia helped supervise Blindfold Tent Pitching and Ame & I were involved with a game called Pass the Parrot! I’m not telling, because we might use the idea in the future!

Our intention is to take 1st, 4th and Atlas ESU with us next year. I have already got roped in (!) to help with Paracord in the Craft Tent again in '25. Just need to get booked before Easter!!!

Future Plans:

Camp Auk at Braggers Wood. 7 Scouts and as many leaders involved in Summer Camp at Braggers Wood this year.



24 Hour Challenge Camp October – date to be confirmed asap

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 May's programme was going to be a visit to Boxhill with lunch and a cream tea but as the weather forecast was wet for the whole afternoon, a last minute change of venue was made and we then went to Squires Garden Centre at Long Ditton. Here, six of us ate an enjoyable lunch after which we wandered around the shop and then the garden centre. Most members purchased plants.

The Group's Annual General Meeting on the 4 June was supported by six Circle members.

On the 13 June a visit was made to Bateman's, the former family home of Rudyard Kipling in East Sussex. In the Jacobean house we saw Kipling's study with his writing desk and treasures from around the world. We saw the lily pond and rose garden, both designed by Rudyard. Some members followed the river through a wildflower meadow to a 17th Century water mill.

You may know that Rudyard wrote the Jungle Book on which Wolf Cubs was based. They included Akela, Bagheera, Baloo, Raksha and Shere-Khan. Rudyard was also a friend of Baden-Powell.

The weather was overcast and windy at times which made it a chilly afternoon.

Graham Warnes
Circle Treasurer and Secretary

FUNDRAISING

I have set 1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group up as a Charity with PayPal Giving Fund UK. This means that if anyone is selling via ebay they can choose to donate a percentage of the sale to 1st Tolworth and the fees for that percentage of the sale will be reimbursed. Once the item has been sold the payment will go to the seller as normal and PayPal will take the percentage from your chosen payment method or you can choose to be invoiced.

I have sold two pictures that were donated to the Group and it was very simple. Please do give it a go if you have something you are selling. We really do appreciate any help with fundraising you can give.

Find The link [here](#)

Gayna Brice
Trustee Board Member
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**