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# 1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group

FOUNDED 1908

REGISTERED 5TH MARCH 1909

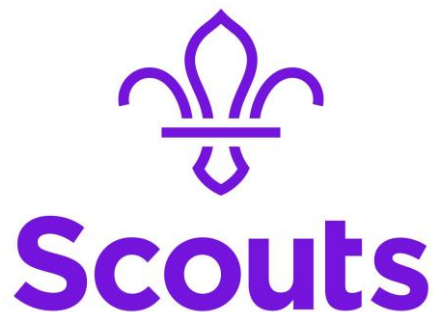
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Sparks Hall, Pyne Road, Tolworth, KT6 7BN

## OUT OF



## THE BLUE



Registered Charity Number: 1040958

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January 2025

[www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](http://www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk)

ISSUE No. 612

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### Diary of Events

#### January

Tue 7th 20.00 - Board of Trustee Meeting, The Royal British Legion

#### February

Tue 4th 20.00 - Board of Trustee Meeting

#### March

Tue 4th 20.00 - Board of Trustee Meeting

All contributions for the March issue of OOTB to be delivered to Gayna  
by 25th February 2025

## **GROUP SECTION LEADER REPORT**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

I want to say thank you to all the Leaders for their hard work over the year in running their sections, and also to all the Young Leaders, and people who help out.

Thank you to all the parents for the support you have given the group, it is truly recognised and appreciated!

A big thank you must also go to our Chairman and Trustees for all the hard work they put in behind the scenes to keep the group functioning.

I am sure there are people I have missed so my apologies if I haven't mentioned you. I am sorry this is a very short report but I have not been well through most of December and I am only just getting over a bad stomach upset! Luckily it seems that I will be able to eat Christmas Dinner!! ☐

I hope you all have had a wonderful New Year and that it continues that way.

Very best wishes for the coming year.

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

Viv and I attended the Services at Surbiton War Memorial. 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.

Group November Fayre:

Again we held our November Fayre at the Surbiton Royal British Legion and again we used the bar area which proved to be as successful as in previous years. We were fortunate to have

the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames: Councillor Liz Green attend to officially open the Fayre. The Mayor who was escorted around the Fayre by John Bowman, she enjoyed her time at the fayre playing some of the tombola's before she 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 of doorman and compare.

A big thank you to Ted Hodges who arranges and runs the raffle. Also a special thanks to the Fayre Coordination 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 Board of Trustees Meeting for 2024 held on Tuesday 10th December was followed by a short social gathering as a thank you to the Trustees 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, there was some discussion on how the fayre team struggled to get volunteers, most of us thought we were down on numbers coming into the fayre, however we managed to raise around £1,500. 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 2025..

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

## **THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT**

No 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**

Comings & Goings:

Tom and Ian are now invested so everyone is in uniform.

I am pleased to say that Darshan has now completed Chief Scout's Bronze Award. (In case

you are confused, you are allowed to complete the highest Award from the previous Section in the first six months after you go up, so, Yes, Chief Scout's Bronze is top Award in Beavers !!!) Well done. Darshan !

Sofia has moved from Cubs to Scouts over Christmas. We are sorry to see her go, but she will have a good time in the Troop. That will mean a new Sixer for Purple Six. Now... I wonder who that will be?

Wednesday meetings:

We celebrated Diwali in style with colouring Rangooli pictures, lighting some candles, Dan telling us the story of Diwali & why it is celebrated and, of course, like any party, food. We tried some new things with different flavours plus some favourites from all cultures.



We had an evening when we played some games from abroad. Some we liked, some needed a bit of adapting to make them work for us. There was one called "Bomba", which is from Spain and, yes, it does mean bomb in English!

We finished off the Fire Safety Badge for those who had missed an evening, and also talked about our roles in different teams such as school, sports teams, family and Cubs.

We looked at a local map and marked services and places of interest in Tolworth and beyond. We had a problem-solving evening with a different task to make us use our brains at each of 5 bases. Identifying logos and badges was okay, passing objects without using our hands was successful, moving dried peas from one saucer to another using a straw was fun, building a tower with newspaper was very messy but the codes to solve were impossible. You can't win 'em all!

Several of the Scouts came down to help us make Christmas Fridge Magnets and, of course, we had to have a Christmas Party. All the usual Christmas games involving Musical Statues, Musical Chairs, Pass the Parcel and more food!!!

Thanks so much to Dan and our Young Leaders, Oliver & Olly, for all their help, plus all the other parents who have helped for an evening. Couldn't do it without you !

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

## **SCOUT TROOP REPORT**

Hi everyone!

Happy 2025!

By the time you read this, Christmas will be over and we will be planning for the Summer Season in earnest.

### **Comings & Goings:**

Ray, Ben, Noah & Izzy are now invested in their smart new uniforms.

Arthur, Noah & Jacob haven't yet made it to that milestone, for various reasons.

Let us hope that we can sort that out in January!

We need to congratulate Joshua for achieving the **Gold Chief Scout's Award**. It really isn't an easy task to gain all nine Challenge Awards and we are all proud of the effort Joshua, with backing from his parents, has put in. He has now moved on to Atlas Explorers, where, I hear, he is settling in the different atmosphere of the next Section. Well Done and Good Luck for the future.

On the leader front, Alex has decided to take a little break from the Troop. We hope that he will be back with us before too long. He is much missed!

## **Friday evenings:**

As I went to write this, I thought that we had had a peaceful second half of the term but when I added it all up, it was really quite busy!

We finished off the Circus Skills Badge and virtually the whole Troop completed Acrobatics, Juggling and Clown make-up, after learning about Circus history and what it is like to live & work in the Circus. Fun badge to have on your arm!

There was plenty of work done to prepare for the County Cooking Competition.

Lukas has written his account of what our two teams achieved.

Our 24 hour Challenge Camp was also a great success. Just remind me not to even think about staying up all night at camp again. It took me all week to recover! Reuben has written about how we got on.

We had almost a dozen smartly joining the Parade for Remembrance Day. They looked very smart.

I was also pleased by how many turned up to help at the November Fayre. They were running about 6 stalls – Roll-a-Penny, Lucky Dip, Throwing balls into Jars, Name the Snowman, selling little figures and, of course, the Teddy Tombola. Additionally, we were making Snowman or Santa Bead Keyrings and Xmas Tree Decorations.

We failed to go to The Dustbowl in Oxshott Woods, thwarted by the weather and not enough leaders available at the right time. We'll try again in the Spring.

Tia ran a "Black History" evening for us, which was extremely interesting. The Scouts tried the Egg Drop Challenge, when they had to pack an egg in scrap materials (and, in case you wondered, they WEREN'T Hard Boiled), so that it survived being dropped from the Camping Stores upstairs, onto the Hall floor. I'm sure that I saw suspicious signs of yellow & white on the floor, didn't I?

Next term, each Patrol is going to run an evening for the Troop. It is all for You Shape Badge. We spent one evening in November thinking about what we would like to do, and what each Patrol chose to organise. More planning in January, so they have time to do the job properly. I look forward to the Cooking Competition, the Nerf Gun Tournament, the Sedan Chair Race and, oh dear, what was the last one?!? All will be revealed in due course.

We had a go at some Christmas Crafts – the Christmas Fridge Magnets, Crazy Peg Birds and Pyrography for Tree Decorations. Of course, we had a Christmas Party, involving some favourite games. Often with a Christmas twist. Peter prepared 2 "Pass the Parcels", done with Clingfilm. They looked like Wasp's Nests !

## **County Cooking Competition**

The Competition is for a team of 2 – 4 Scouts to cook a three-course meal in 2 hours, using a double gas burner but no fridge, freezer, microwave, electric mixer etc.etc.

This year's theme was " Food to make you laugh"! 25 teams entered from across GLSW.



First Tolworth entered two teams into the county cooking competition, team A consisted of Ida, Julia and Lucian, joined by a Scout from 22 Wimbledon. The B team had Lukas, Armin, Layla and Emilia.

Team A, Their starter was called Cucumber Spring. For their main dish they had a huge volcano made of mashed potato, lava made of gravy and a dinosaur which was actually a chicken nugget. They made churros for their dessert and served it all with some cherryade.

Team B made peppers filled with cream cheese and wrapped with pastry for their starter, their main dish was a chickpea curry with sticky rice and samosas and their dessert was apples, cut and sculpted to look like birds in Greek yogurt and raspberries. Their funny factor was googly eyes on the samosas and peppers, and they had a number of jokes lined up for each dish.

#### Struggles:

A lack of oil for team B caused them to have to borrow from team A, they managed this well however, and this was not a major problem.

The samosas cooked very quickly, and some ended up a bit burned as the cooks could not keep up with the pace being set for them.

#### Highlights:

Team A came second in the District and Team B came joint third in the District with scores of 91 and 90.

Our teams were = 8 & = 10 in the County.

One of the jokes from team B got mentioned at the end.

"I went for a curry last night and I have some terrible news, My naan slipped into a korma"



Overall, both teams did very well and did much better than last year, with more experience.

Thanks to all the leaders from the County who organised the event or took part as judges including Caroline & John, Ame & Tia, Alex & Jamie.

**Lukas.**



## **Challenge Camp – 24 Challenges in 24 Hours**

Rueben has written his account of this event.

In November, members of the Troop took part in the 'Outdoor in 24' Challenge. We went on a camp with the aim of doing 24 challenges in 24 hours. There were 7 Scouts and 2 friends from Air Scouts and 3 leaders.

I am going to tell you how my 24-hour camp experience was, so I hope you enjoy it.

The first challenge was to get to Frylands, which was quite easy because most of it was on a train or bus. All the activities we did were part of the challenge including staying awake for 24 hours. When we got there we started with orienteering which was quite fun, but the only downside was we finished 20 minutes too late. Not long after that Ryan and I were sent to collect firewood, which you think would be easy considering we were in the woods but it was generally quite hard, I think scout troops before us took all the wood that we could've used.

A couple of hours later it became very dark, very fast, so that's when we had dinner. After all of the activities we did I didn't realise how hungry I was so Peter's Spaghetti Bolognese tasted twice as good. After the main course we had a chocolate log with custard which was very tasty and helped me gain some energy. After washing up, we sat around the fire for a little bit until we walked down to another scout troop to see a massive bonfire and firework show which was very fun and colourful. After it finished, we got some more firewood and had to take it back up the hill which was the hard part. Once we finally got up the hill we did another challenge, it was to start a campfire song. Lee and I did it together and chose 'everywhere we go'. It was quite fun until 12:00 or 1:00 where people (including me) were beginning to feel tired so Peter tried to wake us up by playing Lighthouse which worked. Unfortunately, my new walking shoes were hurting my toes so instead of running like the others I kind of did a slow waddle.

After Lighthouse, we all sat around the campfire only to be surprised with smores which excited me a lot because I needed a lot of sugar and energy to keep me up. After we finished the smores we did another challenge of making our own woggle which I think I would've enjoyed 10 times more if I wasn't tired and moody. After we finished everyone was tired so we sat around the fire for 30 minutes. I layed on the ground which feels a lot softer when you're tired. Nobody fell properly asleep, though I did have to raise my arm a couple of times just to show I was awake but that's fine. Luckily the 4 challenges we did in a couple of hours went a lot quicker than the first 18. Tia gave us a challenge to cook dough above a fire which tasted good. It was mostly sweet but I dropped mine in ash, which kind of put me off it.



About an hour later it was our second to last challenge which was to make a barrel car which I couldn't really help make because of my swollen toes but I did help my teammates with the knot tying which was quite fun. Finally, it was 11:30 and our final challenge was to pack up camp and our stuff to go home. It was hard work staying awake and we were all really tired but it was great fun. Thank you to Caroline, Peter and Tia for making it happen.

**Reuben.**

## **Future Camps:**

Dates are now decided for camps during 2025.

Venues is work in progress...

In addition to that, we are seriously considering the Swedish National Jamboree in 2026.

Keeps us all busy ...

Thanks again to all our Troop Leaders. You may not see all of us in one place at one time very frequently, but that is the beauty of a big team – there is (nearly) always enough of us there!

Thanks to you all.

**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**

## **November Fayre - Thank you**

Thank you to all that helped make the Fayre a success. Together we raised £1443.87.

I would particularly like to thank the members of The Royal British Legion Club, Surbitton for the use of their bar and the following companies that supported us by donating a prize for the raffle.

The Royal British Legion

Wagamama

Venture photography

Hampton Pool

Light Republic Photography Studio

White Spider Climbing

Surbiton Raceway

Chessington Garden Centre

Tolworth Recreation Centre

Squires Garden Centre

Dance Shack

England Sports Group

Goodlife Gymnastics

Delta Force Paintballing

Adventure Island Stockvale LTD

And last but not least thank you to my fellow members of the Coordination Team Brenda Pawley, Fiona and Lee Perkins, Terry Goodall and Julie Usher.

**Gayna Brice**  
**Trustee Board Member**  
[1sttolworthfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:1sttolworthfundraising@gmail.com)

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Giveasyoulive:**

If you shop online you could be raising funds for 1st Tolworth at the same time. Sign up to Give as you live and choose 1st Tolworth As your chosen charity. Next time you shop online, access the site through 'giveasyoulive' and the company will give 1st Tolworth a % based on your shop. It costs you nothing.

Follow the link below to get started.

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/1st-tolworth-st-matthews-scout-group>

### **Ebay:**

We often have items donated to the group that would sell on Ebay. Could you help us by selling them for us? 1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group is set up as a charity with Ebay. You can sell items through your own account but choose to donate the value to us. When you list an item you can search for a charity and choose what % you want to give. It's very easy and Ebay doesn't charge fees on the Charities %.

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## 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

A variety of charities accept stamps from the United Kingdom and International stamps. They request that they are cut from envelopes, leaving about 1cm/1/4" of paper around each stamp. We will leave a box in the kitchen at Sparks Hall to collect them and once full we will see which charity to send them to.

Many thanks.

**Brenda Pawley  
Group Trustee**