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

FOUNDED 1908

REGISTERED 5TH MARCH 1909

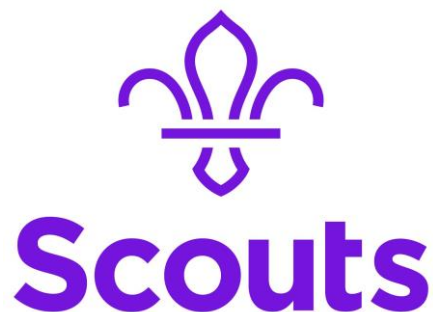
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Sparks Hall, Pyne Road, Tolworth, KT6 7BN

## OUT OF



## THE BLUE



Registered Charity Number: 1040958

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March 2025

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

ISSUE No. 613

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<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Martin Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com">chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gayna Brice</b>	<a href="mailto:1sttolworthfundraising@gmail.com">1sttolworthfundraising@gmail.com</a>
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## Diary of Events

### March

Tue 4th      20.15 - Board of Trustee Meeting

### April

Tue 1st.      20.15 - Board of Trustee Meeting

Sun 27th.    15.00 - St George's Day Service, St Matthew's Church followed by Annual Awards Ceremony, Royal British Legion, Surbiton

### May

Tue 6th.      20.15 - Board of Trustee Meeting

All contributions for the May issue of OOTB to be delivered to Gayna  
by 25th April 2025

## **GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER REPORT**

I hope you are all enjoying the half-term break even though the weather has not been that great! Over the last few months, some members of our group have been working very hard on rehearsals for the GLSW Gang Show. We've had Leaders and Scouts taking part, and parents helping backstage to put on a brilliant show, congratulations and well done to all of them!

The Beaver colony is doing great! We regularly get requests to join, and we have a waiting list which is now slowly going down. Michelle and Peter and the Young Leaders do a brilliant job each week, well done! Are there any parents willing to help set up a regular parent rota to help? It would help the Leaders enormously if they knew someone extra would be there, it could be worked through the parent WhatsApp group.

As most of you know we have been without a Cub Leader for the past year after Luke and Marina stepped down. I want to say a massive thank you to Caroline for stepping in and running the Cub Pack. It is all her hard work, and I do what I can!

We are very fortunate to have Dan Cadman, the father of one of the Cubs, help us each week, Dan is an enormous asset to the pack and gets on great with the Cubs. We also have two excellent Young Leaders from Atlas ESU Oliver Stirling and Oliver Eley who's enthusiasm and energy are second to none! Between the two of them they organised a cooking evening for the Cubs Chefs Badge helped by Dan and three other parents.

If anyone can help at the cub pack on a regular basis or help with a parent rota on a regular basis, PLEASE speak to me or let me know at [gsljohn@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsljohn@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk) or call 07920 085098.

The Scout troop is doing well and continues to thrive. As scouts leave, they are moving to Atlas, the Explorer Scout Unit at 1st Tolworth which is also doing really well.

You will all be aware of the climbing wall we have, unfortunately we have not had any leaders with the scout permit to be able to use it to its full potential and we have not had an in date safety certificate. I am pleased to say we now have a safety certificate and Peter Keen has just done his climbing permit! I am hoping that we will start using the wall soon and I hope we can have climbing days where parents and family can have a go as well!

As you know St Georges day is a very important day in Scouting, it is the day when all Leaders, Explorer Scouts, Scouts, Cub Scouts and Beaver Scouts and anyone who has been a member of the association re affirm their promise.

We will be meeting again this year at St Matthews Church on Sunday 27th April at 3pm. During the service we will make a collection which will go to a charity. This year I have chosen The Fircroft Trust - <https://g.co/kgs/ARD5HUc> - this is a local charity based in Kingston. Their mission is "To provide a trained and experienced team to support people with mental wellbeing issues and learning disabilities. Our team is dedicated to empowering individuals to develop the necessary skills to live well within their local community." You can find more information on their website. If you can't make the service but would still like to donate, please put it in an envelope and give it to your child's section leader marked for my attention.

After the service we will go back to the Royal British Legion for our annual awards ceremony, there will be soft drinks and biscuits for the Young People and the bar will be open for the “Older” people! Please join us and show your support to the children as they won't know if they have won anything until the day. This is also your chance to meet all the section leaders.

(Group Lead Volunteer is the new name for the GSL, Group Scout Leader)

**John Bowman**  
**Group Lead Volunteer**  
**[gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk)**

## **GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT**

I hope you all enjoyed the Half Term Week in February.

We (the Board of Trustees) have been busy making sure everything is safe at the Hall;

- Building inspection to check for any asbestos, there was none, we knew there wasn't but we had to get a Certificate.
- Electrical Safety Test; All OK and rewire of the left hand bank of lights in the main hall so they are now working again.
- PIR sensors installed in the toilets; you may have noticed that the lights come on automatically now.
- Another successful safety test was carried out on the Climbing Wall. We are working on getting the Climbing wall up and running, we have a dedicated leader who is in the process of being trained as an instructor and is organising the training for our other volunteer instructors. Not an easy task as the trainer lives in Wales and all our instructor volunteers are already giving up their time with their other Scouting roles.

As can be seen from the reports, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have been busy and a big thank you to Caroline who has done an excellent job in running both Scout and Cub sections, ably helped by our dedicated Assistant Leaders and Young Leaders from Atlas.

We still need a permanent Cub Leader, however if being a Cub leader is not your thing but you feel the need to volunteer please see John's GSL report.

Fast approaching is St Georges Day and as you know this is the day when all Scouts, renew their promise. We are hoping to, once again, be able to hold a short service at St. Matthew's Church. This will be on **Sunday 27th April** please don't forget that this is where we all get the chance to show how proud we are of 1st Tolworth (St. Matthews) Scout Group. The Service as always will be followed by the usual yearly awards presentations held at the Surbiton Royal British Legion.

Further information and arrangements for this years' St George's Day Service and the awards presentations will come from your Section Leaders.

The next edition of Out Of The Blue will be in May; this will be the Group's Annual Report and will give you all time to read how the group is performing before the Annual General

Meeting to which you are all invited to attend.

The Group AGM will be held on Tuesday 3rd June 8pm at Sparks Hall.

The AGM, or formally “The Annual General Meeting of the Group Scout Council”

Is the time the Board of Trustees Report on the running of the Scout Group over the previous year. Included in this meeting is a full financial report from our Treasurer.

Also at the meeting any nominations for Board of Trustee Members are voted on.

We are looking for more Trustee Members so if you would like to volunteer to become a Board of Trustee Member please contact me [chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com](mailto:chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com) before 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for more information.

All dates for March, April and May events are on the “Diary Of Events Page”.

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

## **THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT**

Michelle has been really busy over the last Month.

She along with six others from 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth have been rehearsing and performing in the South West London Gang Show.

She did manage to send in some pictures from one of the meetings but unfortunately no report.

I think with all that’s been going on with the Gang Show and running the Beaver meetings we can forgive her this time.

*Martin Smith  
Group Chair*







**Michelle**  
**Lead Volunteer**  
**Thames Beaver Scout Colony**  
**Boys and Girls age 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> - 8**  
**Fridays 17.45 – 18.45**

## **EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT**

### **Comings & Goings:**

As Sofia has left us to join the Troop, we needed a new Patrol Leader for Purple Six. Unfortunately, William has left us so we needed a new Seconder for Green Patrol.

Gabriel has taken promotion from Seconder to Sixer of Purple and Aaron has taken on the role of Seconder. Sebastiano is now the new Seconder of Green. Congratulations to all and Good Luck in your new roles!

### **Wednesday evenings:**

We have been keeping busy since Xmas and so have our excellent Young Leaders, the two Olivers.

We had an enjoyable meeting choosing and folding paper aeroplanes. Then we flew them to see whose was the most efficient. I did write down who's plane flew the furthest, which was fastest and whose was the most accurate, but I can't find the safe place that I put it in. Anyone remember?

John came up with an idea to try some basic electronics skills to create Nailbrush Critters. Unfortunately, they only seem to travel in circles but it was great fun and hopefully, informative.

We have been working on Chef Badge. We looked at Healthy Eating – all the different food groups and why they are important for our growth and health. We looked at safety in the kitchen and how we can avoid accidents there as well as the correct/safe ways to chop & peel vegetables and how important it is to wash surfaces, plates, cutlery and HANDS before cooking! Then the Cubs, in groups of approx.3, had to choose from a selection, two courses – starter and main – to cook.

The Olivers put a lot of work into creating options, finding recipes, doing the shopping and generally making the whole thing happen. The project took 3 meetings and the last meeting before Half-term produced salads & garlic bread for Starters then Pizzas, Chicken Stir-fry and Omelette for the Main Course. Everything tasted pretty good and 7 Cubs gained their Chef Badge. (The rest of the Pack were experts, as they had previously gained this one!) Thank you so much to the parents who came and helped that night – Camilla & Gina, James & Dan. I am just glad that we are training the Cubs up, so they are ready for the County Cooking Competition, when they are Scouts!











We have already started working on Communicator Badge by learning how to spell their names in British Sign language. The rest of the Badge is our main project for the second half of term.

John and I are extremely grateful to Dan and our Young Leaders for their help & support, also to other parents who have come down on various evenings, or stayed until enough adults are there at the beginning of the meeting. It is hard work supporting the Pack until we can find a permanent Cub Leader! Any ideas, anyone?

**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:**

We have been joined by several new members since Christmas: Noah G & then Max from 2nd Tolworth, Sofia from Everest Pack and just recently by Seth, a friend of Armin & Lucian's.

We hope that Seth will be invested before Easter. All of the others, plus Arthur and Noah H & Jacob have been invested gradually through the term.

### **Friday evenings:**

In November, I told the Scouts that each Patrol would be organising a Friday evening's programme during the Spring Term. We have spent almost 2 evenings planning their activities. This is quite a challenge for the Scouts. I wonder if they will be able to appreciate how much effort goes into running the programme by the Leaders???

Only one Patrol has done their evening so far. This was Eagle Patrol who organised a Nerf Gun Tournament. Each Patrol used phoney money to "purchase" tables and chairs to create their base, in one corner of the Hall. Then 2 Patrols had a "battle". The finalists were ?? with the victors being the ??? The winners were matched together to create an overall winner. Then there was a final battle with all 4 Patrols joining in. The winner of this one was Eagle Patrol themselves.

Well done Eagles! The evening was enjoyed by all, apart from maybe myself. (You know how much I don't enjoy shooting!!!)

We have also done quite a bit of work on Navigation and Navigator Badge. A good understanding of maps, compasses and how to use them is so important when we are out and about in the countryside.

An evening was spent adding scrap modelling to our racing cars and then a battle between two patrols to disable their opponent's vehicle. It all sounds violent, but no Scouts, or cars, were injured in the process!

### **Future**

March is going to be a busy month and we should be getting out more.

We have a couple of evenings planned to go to Southwood. There is the County Night Exercise at the beginning of the month. We have 2 teams entered and we are camping overnight afterwards.

Then we have our annual overnight Expedition. A new route for us and a new campsite for all except me - Jordan Heights on Reigate Hill.

We are also talking about a Troop Camp in April.

A quiet report this time but lots to look forward to in the next edition.

**Caroline Marsden**  
**Lead Volunteer, 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**

The circle met at Squires in Long Ditton in February for a chat, lunch, mooch and a little retail therapy. A good time had by all. We are having a planning meeting too, so things are looking up. Anyone who wishes to join us will be made very welcome. We normally meet on a Thursday afternoon.

Our love and prayers go out to Graham who is now in a nursing home. For all of you that remember Pat Coxon she has passed away on the 14th February. Or as we say in scouting 'Gone Home'. Our thoughts are with her husband Trevor and their sons Simon and Andrew who were members of 1st Tolworth approx. 40 years ago.

**Brenda Pawley**  
**Circle Member**

## **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 %.



### Help your listings stand out and sell.

Choose the percentage of the total sale amount you're willing to spend on ads and pay only when your promoted items sell.

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Donate to IST TOLWORTH (ST. MATTHEW'S) SCOUT GROUP ▼

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You are responsible for the donation, including refunds, unless the donation has not yet been sent to the charity. PayPal Giving Fund (PPGF) receives your donation and grants 100% to a charity no later than 30 days after the end of the month in which the donation is made. Donations are non-refundable and typically tax deductible. PPGF may be unable to grant funds to a charity if the charity has lost tax exempt status, has closed or no longer accepts funds from PPGF. By donating, you accept the [eBay for Charity Terms & Conditions](#).

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Listing fee

If your item sells, you will be charged **transaction fees** based on the total cost to the buyer, including postage, packaging and any other related costs.

By selecting **Revise listing with displayed fees**, you agree to pay the above fees, accept the listing conditions and assume full responsibility for the content of the listing and item offered.

[Revise listing with displayed fees](#)

## 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**