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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 2026**

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

**ISSUE No. 618**

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## **Diary of Events**

### **January**

6 Jan. 8.15pm. Trustee Board Meeting, Royal British Legion

9 Jan. Scouts, Ice Skating at Guildford Spectrum

### **February**

3 Feb 8.15pm. Trustee Board Meeting

28 Feb. Cubs, District Sleepover at “Jump In” in Esher

### **March**

3 Mar 8.15pm. Trustee Board Meeting

8 Mar. Scouts, Training afternoon for those doing Expedition Challenge

14/15 Mar. Scouts, GLSW County Night Exercise

21/22 Mar. Scouts, Expedition (for over 12s)

All contributions for the next issue of OOTB to be delivered to Gayna  
by 25th February 2026

## GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER REPORT

Firstly I hope that you all had a good Christmas and Happy New Year!

I have now been GLV for 2/3 months and had the honour of attending my first November Fayre in this capacity. Officially opened by the Mayor of Kingston Upon Thames, Mr. Noel Hadjimichael. The fayre raised a fantastic amount and my thanks go out to Gayna, our Secretary and fundraising superstar. My thanks also go out to all the helpers, leaders and scouts/cubs that also helped out on the day. The November Fayre is our main fundraiser and I am always humbled by the effort that goes into making it a success.

Just before we broke up for Christmas, I met with Graham Goring, a life long member of 1st Tolworth. Graham, if not known, had been one of the assistant scout leaders alongside Caroline, for many years. His children attended the troop and after they left he stayed on. Graham has recently taken a step back, but he wanted to do one last thing.

8 brand new laptops will soon be delivered and gifted to the group. I have been informed that they are windows 11 and ready to rock. These laptops will be a fantastic boost to the Group in allowing the sections to utilise them in badge work and various research.

So to Graham, I would like to say an enormous THANK YOU! The gift you have given us is amazing and absolutely leaves me speechless (I am aware of the paragraph above)

We are still looking for adults to help us out with the Group, the sections are always looking for those willing to volunteer any particular skills to help with a programme, or to put on a uniform and help out in a leader capacity. We are lucky that the Section teams work closely together but with only 7 leaders at present, and Caroline running two sections, we could do with some help.

Likewise, if you wish to help the group out but not in a leader or section capacity, then there are roles in the background.

If you have any questions then please do just ask, I am normally at the Scouts on Friday's and usually at the end of the Beaver evening.

One final thing, Caroline, Alex, Stuart and Ame, along with 12 scouts are gearing up for the Swedish Jamboree in July. This is a fantastic opportunity for our scouts to travel to and experience scouting in another country as well as meet and make friends. To that end, I ask that if any fundraising events pop up in line with this, please help them out, come along and enjoy. The last fundraiser for Sweden was the Fireworks display and it was a huge success.

I have waffled on, so will sign off and thank you for your support.

Yours in Scouting  
**Jamie Pickard**  
Group Lead Volunteer  
gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

## **GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT**

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a 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 Service at Surbiton War Memorial. It was wonderful seeing so many people there, I'm sure it was better attended this year than most. Perhaps due to it being the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and great to see 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth well represented 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 Mr. Noel Hadjimichael accompanied by his wife the Mayoress Ms Carol Berliner attend to officially open the Fayre. The Mayor and Mayoress were escorted around the Fayre by myself and Jamie Pickard they both enjoyed their time at the fayre playing most of the tombola's and I think speaking to every one before they had to leave to attend the second of three events they were attending on that day.

I would like to say a big thank you to the Surbiton British Legion for their continued support, and 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. Matt Higham 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.

Also while at the Fayre I had the great Honour and Privilege to present my good friend and our Group Treasurer a well-deserved 30 Year length of service award. Terry Goodall who has been the Group Treasurer for the last 16 years was before that, Group Chairman for many years, an assistant Scout Leader, as well as being a Cub and a Scout. 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth through and through.

I would also like to thank Graham Goring for his generosity regarding his donation of the eight Laptops for the group. I have known Graham for many years, in 1999 we were both parent helpers with the Troop, Graham stayed with the troop becoming an assistant leader and I moved over to the Group Executive.

The last Board of Trustees Meeting for 2025 held on Tuesday 2nd December was followed by a short social gathering as a thank you to the Trustees for their work throughout the year. It also gave those who didn't know him the opportunity to get to know Jamie a bit better. 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, we managed to raise around £1,580. Thanks to all who attended for your continued support.

Once again I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2026

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

## **THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT**

The second half of last term has seen the beavers taking part in Remembrance Sunday which those who represented us did in great style! Good uniform standards and great feedback from Caroline the Scout and Cub leader who looked after the Beavers on the day as both Peter and I couldn't make it! Thanks to those who attended, parents included! We also had our November Fayre, which was attended by many of our Beavers and their families!! A big thank you to Hazel, Pheonix and those from Atlas who helped to run our stall. Pheonix particularly was great with telling the mayoress all about beavers!!

The rest of the term saw Beavers planting bulbs for their gardening badge, these were not just any bulbs..... but ones donated by a trustee member and Cub parent, who also came down to help us plant them! Thank you Matt! We also worked on the faith badge, looking at ways we can thank people for their help and offer kind words, the Beavers created some paper chains to reflect these!

The end of term saw Scouts coming to our meeting to help make some Christmas crafts, and then finished the term with a Christmas party with lots of party games, and three of our beavers have swum up to Cubs! Enjoy your next adventure!! We hope all Beavers, members of 1st Tolworth and their families have a great Christmas and New year and we look forward to 2026!

**Michelle**  
**Lead Volunteer**  
**Thames Beaver Scout Colony**  
**Boys and Girls age 5  $\frac{3}{4}$  - 8**  
**Fridays 17.45 – 18.45**

## **EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT**

Welcome to 2026, but here is news about the end of 2025 !

### **Comings & Goings:**

Leonardo has been invested as has Eve, who joined us this term.

We are pleased to have them both with us.

Gabriel, Jooan & Ian left us at Half-Term to go on to Scouts, which meant some promotions.

The Sixers now are Fedor, Avery & Dharshan. The Seconders are Eve, Jack & Tom.

### **Wednesday evenings:**

We had a Games evening, worked on some First Aid, used the Climbing Wall and had a Problem-solving evening.







We have completed Disability Awareness badge, Road Safety Badge and almost finished Space Badge – just need to do some Star-Gazing to complete that one. We have talked about the Countryside Code and decorated Christmas Baubles. We finished the term with a Christmas Party.

#### Future Events

We are going Bowling at the beginning of next term. Really nice to save a Christmas treat until the cold days of January !

We need to sign up to the District Sleepover on Saturday 28 February at “Jump In” in Esher by 9 January.

**Caroline Marsden**

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

## SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Hi everyone

Happy New Year!

Comings & Goings:

Thinking about it, we have had a lot of new Scouts join us this term. Sebastiano came up from Everest Pack in September and Gabriel, Ian & Joohan joined him at Half-Term. Alex, Amir, Maya & Erik joined as their first time in Scouting, followed by Meriem & Jenica. Tony walked in last Friday. I thought that the hall was getting smaller!

The big news from a leadership point of view is that Alex is back! He probably doesn't realise how much we missed him, and how pleased we are to see him more rested & back with us again.

Friday evenings:

We started the term, in our usual fashion, with a Games evening then, on an evening split between weeding the area at the front of the Hall and a First Aid Quiz, we found out that the number of Emergency Aid Badges on arms bore no relevance to the knowledge remembered & ready for recall! Sounds like a lot of First Aid teaching next term ...



We had a visit from Pablo, a Scout from South America. A very interesting evening, as they do Scouting things the same, but differently, over there!

We exchanged scarves and badges.



We had a discussion about how we could raise money towards going to Sweden. Lots of ideas from Car Washing to Cake-baking & Bracelet-making.

Alex ran an evening called “Broken Painting”. In groups of 4 or 6, the Scouts drew a picture of one of their group on tiles, so, when put together, the tiles made a picture of the face. Then the tiles were all taken to other groups, separately, to paint. The results are on the board in the Hall. I still can’t work out who the pictures were supposed to be! We started work on Survival Skills Badge, in preparation for the Survival Skills Camp in the Spring. The Scouts had an evening at Southwood doing some Fire-lighting and we had an evening learning Knife & Multi-Tool skills, safety etc.

We used the Climbing Wall and had an Air-Rifle shooting evening. We did some work on Navigator Badge and a few Scouts were successful at gaining Sports Enthusiast Badge.

Some of us helped the Beavers make Christmas decorations to hang up. We finished the term with an evening creating Mandalas – a South American craft – and then a Party on the last meeting before Christmas.



I was glad to have a proportion of the Troop at the Remembrance Day Parade and even more helping at the Group's November Fayre at The Royal British Legion.





## County Cooking Competition:

The theme for this year's event was "A Meal from Home". We entered 3 teams. The teams of up to 4 Scouts had to cook a 3 course meal in 2 hours on just 2 gas rings. No fridge, no oven, no microwave or other electrical equipment. It is a challenge in itself, to get the meal on the table on time! They have 2 judges who give them marks concerned with nutritional content, how closely they stuck to the planned menu as well as the presentation, taste, texture & edibility.

1st Tolworth B were 17th out of 41 teams (Armin, Seth, Rayaana & Max).  
Cooked Corn Fritters, Veggie Full English & Scottish Cranachan.

1st Tolworth C came in equal 11th, (Grace, Lucian, Ray & Layla).  
Cooked Indian Poppadoms with Pickle Dip, South African Tacos & Caramelised Brioche with chocolate filling.



1st Tolworth A finished equal 5th, (Julia, Ida & Sebastiano).  
Cooked Tabbouleh, Jerk Chicken & Tiramisu.

Well done everyone and thank you to parents who gave support, advice and lent articles from their kitchens!

### **Future Events:**

Swedish Jamboree next Summer

We will be flying to Copenhagen on Friday evening 24th July, returning on Wednesday 5th August. There are 12 Scouts going, plus myself, Stuart & Alex. We will be travelling & camping with 8 Scouts with Tia from 4th Tolworth and 8 Explorers from Atlas and Ame. We will be looked after by Tomelilla Scout Group from southern Sweden.

We raised approximately £1,500 from the Firework party in November. Thank you to all that came to help us. I hope that you enjoyed the evening. We also raised £60 at OLI School's Christmas Fayre (Thanks to Ciaran & his Mum.) More Fundraising in the new year!

We have Limited Edition Camp Blanket Badges for Sale towards our Fundraising.

6 Badges to sew on together. £10. Poster & Order Form on Scout Notice Board in Hall or via me.



**There will be a pre-Sweden Camp at Walton May Day Bank Holiday Weekend Friday 1 – BH Monday 4 May. Not mandatory but very much advised!**

**Future events:**

Friday 9 January - Ice Skating at Guildford Spectrum (I hope!)

GLSW County Night Exercise – Saturday/Sunday 14/15 March.

Expedition (for over 12s) Saturday/Sunday 21/22 March  
(Training afternoon for those doing Expedition Challenge Sunday 8 March.)

District St. George's Day Celebration at Polyapes - Saturday 25 April.

1st Tolworth St. George's Day, Scout of the Year & Group AGM - Sunday 26 April.

**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**

**November Fayre - Thank you all**

Thank you to all of those who supported the Fayre. Together we raised a total of **£1,581.65**. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, I know the Mayor and Mayoress did!

Whilst this is a great amount of money and will go a long way towards keeping 1st Tolworth afloat it doesn't go as far as we would like. When I first started to support the group by helping with the Fayre (when Peter was a Cub) the amount we raised covered the cost of the Annual membership fees we pay to the scouts Association. Over the last few years these membership fees have increased significantly whilst the amount we raise at the Fayre has stayed about the same. The membership fees will cost us in excess of £3,000.00 this year.

We will be looking at other fundraising ideas in the new year. If you are willing to help then please get in touch. And look out for notices of other events you could support.



A special thank you has to go to the Surbiton Royal British Legion for their support. They let us use the space in their bar for free, which is very generous of them.

I would like to thank the following local companies who have supported us by donating a prize:

The Surbiton Royal British Legion
Laithwaites
Black Lion Pub
The Lamb
Chessington garden centre
Dance Shack
England Sports Group
Hobbledown Farm
Lucinda Walsh School of Dance
Stage Coach
The Lamb
Bocket's Farm
Megan's
Sandown Race Course
Team-Sport

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

### **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>

## **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**