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

November 2026 **www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk** **ISSUE No. 622**

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Secretary	**Gayna Brice**	**1sttolworthfundraising@gmail.com**
Group President	**Margaret Warry**	**margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk**
Circle Chairperson	**Margaret Warry**	**margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk**

Diary of Events

November

3rd 8.15pm. Trustee Board Meeting

8th 10.15am Remembrance Day Parade to the Surbiton Memorial

21st 2pm November Fayre, The Royal British Legion

December

1st 8.15pm. Trustee Board Meeting

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

GROUP LEAD VOLUNTEER REPORT

No report.

Jamie Pickard
Group Lead Volunteer
gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

Like most years the two months following the summer break have flown past. The sections have been busy getting back into the weekly Scouting routine and I'm looking forward to reading the section reports. The leaders continue to provide valuable and entertaining programs for our young people. Where would we be without our voluntary unpaid teams of leaders and helpers?
So a big thank you from me, also please see the parent letter on page 14

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, is fast approaching. Last year was quite a special one as we commemorated the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two and I think everyone made a special effort, let's hope we can all make the same effort this year.
It always makes me feel proud of our group when I see all the Leaders and youngsters on parade in uniform.
Full details, meeting times etc. Available from section Lead Volunteers.
Please help 1st Tolworth support the Royal British Legion as they do a wonderful job supporting serving and veteran members of the armed services.

Also coming soon, don't forget the November Fayre.
Saturday 21st November [2pm Start] we will again be holding this year's Fayre at the British Legion Hall, Hollyfield Road, Surbiton, KT5 9AL
This year the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames: Councillor Thay Thayalan has kindly agreed to attend and formally open the Fayre.
The November Fayre as you know is our main yearly fund raiser, and if you haven't been to one you should come along. Come and meet the Mayor. It's a great afternoon.
Raffle Tickets: Only £5 a book of tickets, less than a decent coffee, available from section Lead volunteers, please return the money and Stubs, or any unsold tickets to the leaders by Friday 14th November.

As this is the last Edition before the end of the Year. I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New

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

THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT

The beginning of the autumn term has, as usual, been packed with lots of things to do including badge work and having fun! We started with a games night to get everyone back into the swing of beavers, then we went out in our local area to look for letters as part of our urban spellers activity, we looked high and low for letters in Thames Colony. The following week we used the pictures of the letters we took to create collage posters, they looked great and the spelling was on point!

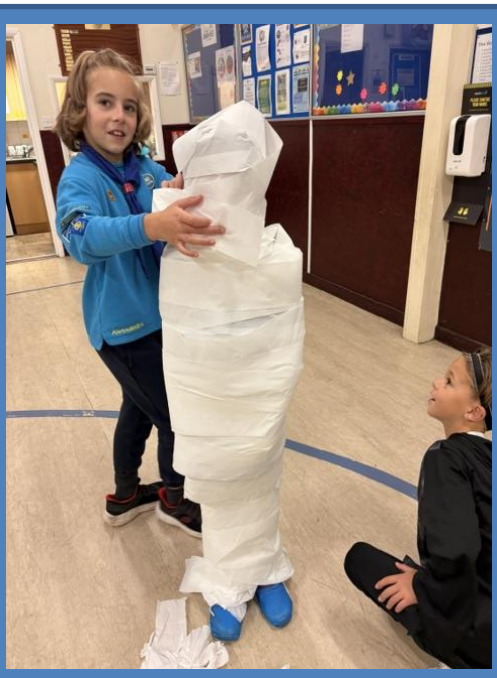
Following that the beavers started their disability awareness badge, we had a visit from a service dog named Dezi, and all the beavers enjoyed learning about what his job was, and Dezi was on best behaviour! Then we had a visit from one of our very own beaver family! Christopher's family came in to visit and teach the beavers all about the disabilities of Christopher's dad who is in a wheelchair, and his brother who has Down's syndrome. The beavers were really good at listening and asking questions to the family, thank you so much to them for coming in!

Next we had a visit to the lifeboat station in Teddington, we were meant to go in the summer, but because of the extreme heat we had it had to be cancelled as the lifeboats were being called out more often than usual! At the station the beavers learnt a lot about cold water shock and what the RNLI does, then they got to look and and try on equipment they use and also got to sit in the boat or the push back tractor! So interesting!


RNLI
RNLI
RNLI
D-185

Our last evening of the half term was Halloween themed, so they came dressed up and we played some spooky games!




cubs



SCOUTS

cubs


SCOUTS

SCOUTS




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

EVEREST CUB SCOUT REPORT

Hi everyone !

Time for some more indoor activities, as the weather gets colder, I think.

Comings & Goings:

It is really good having 4 Young Leaders at meetings, so welcome to Grace to the team. Oliver s is now 18, so is no longer a Young Leader but I am glad to say, he isn't going anywhere. We will soon see him in adult uniform. (Just a small colour change !)
With losing Avery to Scouts and Tom, we needed a new Sixer for Red Six and two new Seconders. Jack is our new Sixer and the new Seconders are Alfie & Jude. Congratulations to them and best wishes for their new roles.
We have had six new members this term. Lewis, Jacob, Evanthie & Stanley have progressed from Thames Beaver Colony. Elijah and Fred are new members to the organisation. All are most welcome. We will get you all invested very soon.

Thursday evenings:

We have spent two evenings at Fishponds. Once to do some more litter picking and twice looking at the changes to the environment through the year. We have noticed the changes in colour from green to lovely autumn colours and the grass changing from yellow, in the middle of the heatwaves (Remember them, as we turn the central heating on ?) back to green again. We spent some time trying to recognise different trees from their leaves and fruits. We must say a big "Thank You" to Matt, for his invaluable knowledge and support with the trees.
The Olivers ran a course on Money Skills. We looked at the costs for running a camp and how we choose between different sites and activities. They discussed different currencies, talked about spending priorities of different groups of people and revised how to keep safe from scams. Julia & Grace, supported by Oliver E helped the Cubs to understand the Countryside Code. Thank you, all of you.
We seem to have spent a lot of time making posters. For publishing our litter picking, safety on phones and behaviour when out in the country. You can see them up on our Noticeboard in the Hall and in the Noticeboard outside facing Pyne Road.

Looking forward to the rest of the autumn …

Caroline Marsden

Everest Cub Scout Pack

Boys and Girls age 8 – 10 ½

Thursday 18.00 – 19.15

SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Hi everyone !

The clocks have gone back, it is darker and winter is coming, even if it isn't as cold as we might have expected, all that fun at the end of the year is on the way!

Comings & Goings :

From a leadership point of view, since Jamie has left us, we have surprisingly few of us around on Friday evenings. We have lost half of our oldest Scouts to Atlas Explorers – Buzz, Julia, Finley, Emelia, Armin, Lucian & Grace are no longer with us. I am glad to say that, because Atlas was too full, we still have Lee, Xander, Ida & Thomas with us as a Senior Patrol, Kestrels. I know that they were disappointed not to be moving on, but I hope that they are enjoying their new role in the troop, until there is space for them to move on.
All that meant new Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders. We seem to have a much younger Troop suddenly, but maybe I am just getting old ! New Patrol Leaders are Lois, Nevaan, Jacob, Ray & Noah. New APLs are Jenica, Alex, Izzy, Rayaan & Joohan. Wish them good luck in their new roles !!!
Avery joined us from Everest Pack. Anya & Felix have come new to 1st Tolworth. Gradually getting them invested…

Friday evenings:

We started the term with a games evening to celebrate being back together again. We also re-organised the Troop by deciding on the new Patrol Leaders on that first meeting back. The next week, we re-wrote the Troop Code of Conduct. Always a good idea at the beginning of the new year !

I ran a Quiz on the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, to complete International Badge for some of those who went abroad in the summer. We had an evening when Scouts brought their collections and talked about their interests and clubs they belong to, to gain Hobbies Badge. 17 badges were awarded. Not bad for one evening !
We had a First Aid evening and talked about how to contact Emergency Services as well as reassurance and prevention of Shock. Last Friday, we ran some Patrol Challenges. They were challenged to complete various tasks and got marks for achievement. Wordsearches, Arm slings, paracord zip pulls, origami, recognising animal tracks, de-coding emojis, friendship knots were all part of the menu.

Troop Camp at Polyapes:

The plan had been a Survival Skills camp but there was still a Fire Ban by Elmbridge Borough Council in place so many of our planned activities would have been impossible. So we made another plan. Here is Ray's account of what we did instead…
I recently went on a Scout Camp at Polyapes and had a really good time.
Rayaan & I had to decide how to organise our site and where to put all the tents. It took a long time to set up the tents because basically no one knew how to set them up.

My team and I made survival shelters to sleep in. However, bats got inside them, so we couldn't sleep in them anymore.

There was a ground campfire ban, so we had our fire on the altar fire instead.

During the camp I took part in several activities, including archery, air rifles, and axe & saw.

One of my favourite activities was archery. We played a game called "Bake a Cake". You had to get flour, egg, and water by hitting the blue, yellow, and white parts of the target. If you hit black, you burned the cake, and if you hit red before getting the flour, egg, and water, you cooked it too early and had to restart. I kept hitting black when I was playing!

The food was quite nice. We decided beforehand what the menu would be. My favourite meal was probably the burgers. One of the desserts was red velvet cake, and there was also chocolate cake.

Overall, the Scout camps are always fun, and I really enjoyed this one





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

A Thank You to Our Scout Leaders

As a parent of two children who have both been part of Scouts since Beavers, I wanted to say a very big thank you to Caroline and all the leaders at 1st Tolworth.

I know how much work goes on behind the scenes to organise meetings, camps and events. The time, energy and dedication involved are easy to overlook when everything appears to run so smoothly, but it doesn't go unnoticed.

Over the years, Scouts has become an important part of our children's lives. It has helped them grow in confidence, develop new skills and build friendships. During some particularly difficult periods for our family, the consistency and support of the group have been crucial to us.

The values and opportunities that Scouts provide have always felt aligned with what we hope to teach our children at home. We are incredibly grateful for the positive influence 1st Tolworth have had on both of them.

I'm sure many other parents feel exactly the same. So, on behalf of our family, thank you for all the hard work, care and commitment you give, week after week. It is hugely appreciated and it makes more of a difference than you may realise.

A grateful Parent.

November Fayre – Saturday 21st November from 2pm - 4pm

The annual fundraising event is only a couple of weeks away.

We hope that all our members, their families and friends are able to attend and support the event which helps us raise enough funds to keep subs low for the parents and the programme of activities both interesting and adventurous for your young people.

For it to be successful we need your help.

Help:
Please let me know if you are able to volunteer a couple of hours of your time. After all, our Leaders do this every single week. We will need help to move donations from the Hall to the Royal British Legion on the day of the Fayre,

help setting up from 11am on the 21st, staffing the stalls from 2pm to 4pm and then clearing up afterwards and moving unsold items back to the hall. Please don't stand back and leave the leaders to do it all after all many hands make light work.

Raffle tickets:
Please do your best to sell these to family and friends and return the stubs and money to the leaders by Friday 16th November or bring them on the day. Please return unsold tickets too as we will sell them on the day.

Donations:
If you can Please donate any good condition items such as pre loved toys, soft cuddly toys or bric a brac. Or new unwanted gifts that could be used as prizes or on the tombola, bottles and sweets/chocolate.

I look forward to hearing from you….

Gayna Brice
Trustee Board Member
1sttolworthfundraising@gmail.com


Scouts
1st Tolworth
(St Matthew's)
November
Fayre
Saturday 21st November
2pm – 4pm
The Royal British Legion
Hollyfield Road, KT5 9AL
Come along and enjoy our
traditional Fayre:
RAFFLE
TOMBOLAS
TABLE TOP
GAMES
CAKE STALL
AND LOTS
MORE....
1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group
Charity No. 1040958

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/ist-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