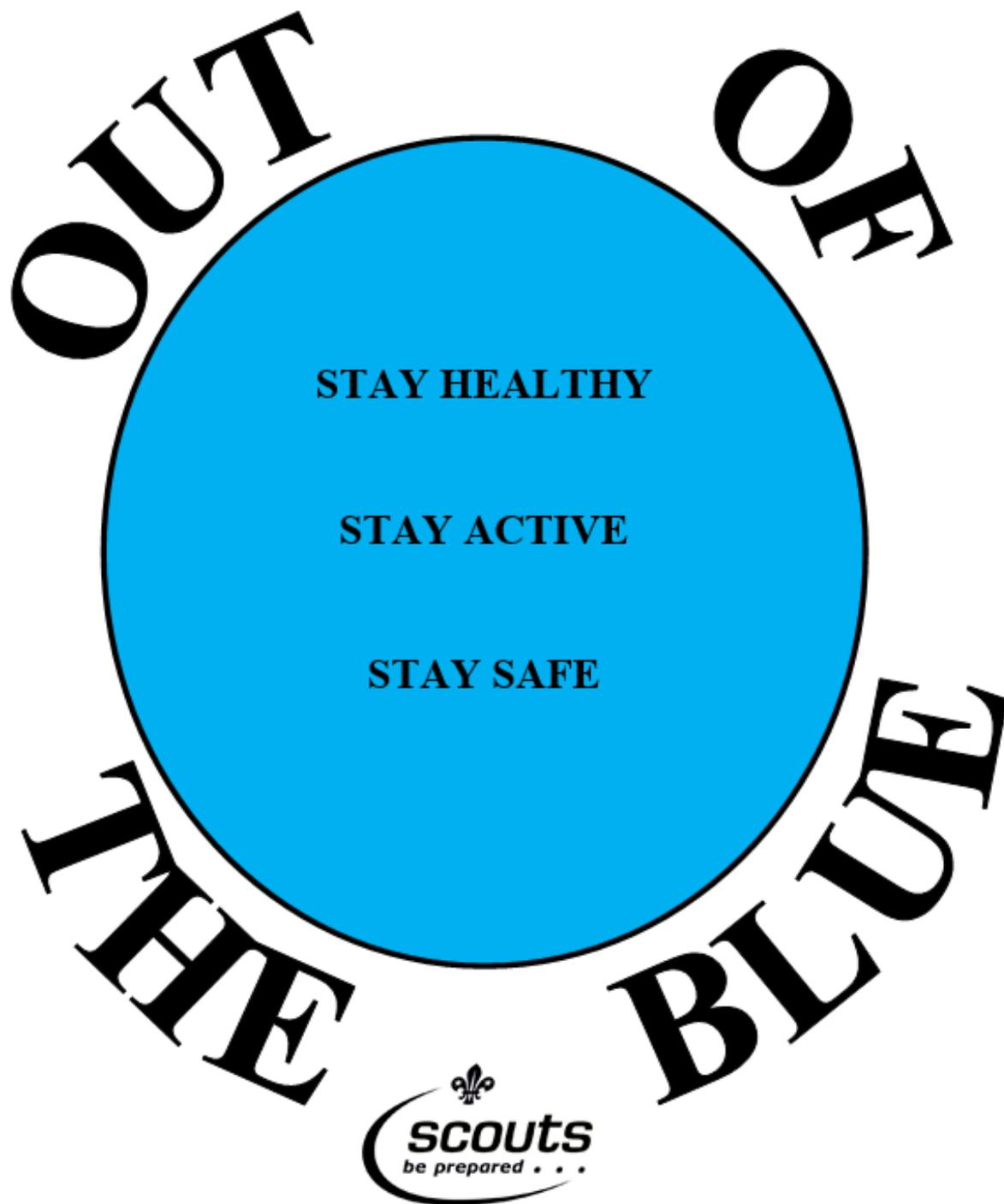


# 1<sup>st</sup> TOLWORTH (ST. MATTHEW'S) SCOUT GROUP

FOUNDED 1908

REGISTERED 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1909

SPARKS HALL, PYNE ROAD, TOLWORTH, KT6 7BN.



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1040958

**MAY 2020**

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

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As I look back over the past year it has been another one of ups and downs. At the moment I am very pleased to say that most things are “up”.

The crisis that threatened Beavers has disappeared and we are delighted to welcome Rachel Ferris and her team of helpers to the thrills and spills of Friday afternoons as well as days out, special activity days and sleepovers. We would still like to reopen “Niagara” Colony so we could welcome another Beaver Scout Leader. This is dear to my heart since I was the last Leader of Niagara and another Leader could not be found when I was obliged to retire.

Our Cub Pack continues to thrive with a lively weekly programme, camps and Pack Holidays. A well-done to Lianne and her team.

The Troop is also doing well under the guidance of Caroline and John and with a goodly band of Assistants and Young Leaders. There is also excellent support from the District Team with all sorts of competitions.

So all our young people are well served and on your behalf I am offering Praise and Thanks to all the Leaders for those hours spent planning and running the programmes.

The Group Executive Committee continues to have a full round table of men and women helping us forward with maintenance and fund raising, so that we have a smart Headquarters and regularly renew our equipment. Our minibus is also maintained and insured. I should like to extend thanks to Reg, Group Scout Leader, Martin Group Chair, Terry our Treasurer and Sheila, Group Secretary for all they do for 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth and its members.

Which leaves me with the last Section, the Circle. This group of “golden oldies” supports fund raising and has a monthly social evening. Most of us are former Leaders or parents of past Scouts. We would like to be joined by current parents and everyone is welcome.

At the present time none of the events mentioned above are taking place. But this Group is proud to state that we kept going through two World Wars and we will start again as soon as permitted. For a Scout Group of 111 years, 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth is in good shape.

My very best wishes to you all.

Margaret Warry

## **GSL'S REPORT**

Hi everyone.

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth (St Matthews's) Scout Group's Annual Report. As you are all well aware this is indeed a strange time for all of us but hopefully, we will all come through it. Unfortunately, meetings and some camps have already been cancelled this year, but there is no doubt that Scouting

will return.

Our numbers have stayed fairly static once again this year with our members moving on from one Section to another. However, there's always room for more!

Faye Milne, who was our Beaver Leader for quite some time, decided it was time to pass the reins on and retire from her role in Scouting. We wish her, along with Ross and the girls, all the best for the future.

Luckily, we have a new Beaver Scout Leader, Rachel Ferris, along with Peter Keen taking on the role as her Assistant Beaver Scout Leader. Many thanks to you both from all at 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth. If you know of any children that would like to join, please let us know.

There has been plenty going on within the Group during the past year for which I thank the Leaders. Without them these evenings/events would not take place. I will therefore leave you to read their reports.

I feel I should mention that the Scout Troop ran an afternoon wall climbing to help with their fundraising for Finland. It was great to see the wall being used. Hopefully, we will be able to make more use of this brilliant asset in the future.

We held a music quiz at the hall earlier in the year. This was kindly put together by Paul Stewart, one of our Executive members and ex parent. Thank you to those that came along and took part and a big thank you goes to Paul for taking the time to put this together and running the evening. Hopefully, we will be able to do this again later in the year!

Sadly, during the past year, our ex-President, David Alan Thomas, known more affectionately as DAT, passed away on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Also, ex-Akela, Alan Lee, who passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Both are now remembered on our "Gone Home" Board.

By the time you read this report St. George's Day will have been and gone. Hopefully you all managed to renew your Scout Promise and I look forward to seeing some of you on social media. Following on from this was the GLSW Scouts request to pop your uniform on and join your neighbours in the 8pm clap for our fantastic NHS and Key Workers.

There are many others that do so much for the Group, and we would be lost without them. I could write all their names down, but the list would go on for some time. You know who you are! So, a big THANK YOU to all the Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Young Leaders, Executive Committee, Circle members, casual helpers, our fantastic band of fund raisers and anyone else who helps at 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth.

Stay safe, stay well.

Reg Lefevre

## CHAIR'S REPORT

I normally start my report by inviting all members, families and supporters to attend the 1st Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group's Annual General Meeting. However, in the circumstances, I will start with "I hope you are all safe and well." At the time of writing this report, we are just starting week four of the lockdown, imposed by the Government, to try and tackle the impact of the Pandemic Coronavirus. So, as of Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, all Scouting face-to-face activities were suspended and will be until further notice.

IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT, AND ONLY IF, THE RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED, the AGM will be held at Sparks Hall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Failing that, a new date will be advertised in the future.

Please do come along and join us. It would be great to see as many of you as possible. The meeting will start at 20.00 and again we have the opportunity to reflect on the previous year's activities. The formal meeting is usually a reasonably short affair. Refreshments, drinks and nibbles will be available following the meeting. Use this opportunity to raise any concerns you may have regarding the way the Scout Group is managed or just come along for a chat.

Normally the Diary of Events page would cover the events scheduled for May, June and July. As we will not know what the ongoing situation is until after this edition is published, we are not able to publish any forthcoming events. Events will only be reinstated if the Government lift the lockdown restrictions and the Scout Association lift their suspension on all face-to-face Scout meetings, activities and events. You will be notified if this occurs.

To continue - this report, as always, will be a review of the last year. This will be our Yearly Report and will be used whenever the AGM is held.

June and July 2019 saw the Sections busy as normal with many Scouting activities. Over the summer holidays something rather special happened. Several of our Scouts and Young Leaders attended the World Scout Jamboree. How different that would have been if it was this year!

Viv and I attended the Scout meeting when they held a presentation on the World Scout Jamboree in Virginia. What a great evening we had and from what we were told and shown, what great experiences our Scouts and Young Leaders had. I'm sure that the friends they made from different countries and cultures will last for a long time. Hopefully their memories will last a lifetime.

The Group November Fayre was again held at the Surbiton Royal British Legion. This is the third year we have been able to hold our Fayre there and again we used the Bar area which proved to be so successful the previous two years. We were fortunate to have the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor Margaret Thompson, attend to officially open the Fayre. The Mayor, who attended on her own, was escorted by Margaret Warry and she enjoyed her time playing some of the tombolas before she left. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Fayre on the day and special thanks to anyone who helped out with running a stall, setting up, clearing away, carrying bits and pieces from the Hall to the 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. Paul Stewart did an excellent job of compare, supported by Lee Perkins. Thanks to Paul and Lee. A big thank you to Ted Hodges who arranged and ran the raffle. Also special thanks to the Fayre Co-ordination Team, Gayna Brice, Fiona Perkins, Brenda Pawley and Terry Goodall for all their preparation during the year in organising this special day. Without their hard work this event would not happen.

The November Fayre is the main single fundraiser for the Group but I must mention Graham Warnes and Margaret Warry and their continued efforts in raising a substantial amount of funds for 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth. While most others were relaxing and taking it easy over the summer break, Graham and Margaret were still busy at car boot sales raising money for the Group.

Graham, Margaret and their team of supporters also deserve a note of thanks for the three Jumble Sales they run which also brings in a large amount of funds for the Group.

I'm very pleased to say that we have a new Beaver Scout Leader. We had posted notices at the November Fayre advertising the fact that we needed a new Leader and we were successful in that. Rachel came forward and volunteered. She was invested by Reg as Beaver Leader on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020. I'm sure you would all want to join me in welcoming Rachel to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth Scout Family. Also that evening, Peter, who has been with us since he was a Beaver, was invested as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader. Congratulations and thanks to you both.

In February we held a Fun MUSIC QUIZ at Sparks Hall. This was planned, not so much a fundraiser, but just a chance for a get together and social evening. Unfortunately, it was not as well attended as we would have hoped. However, those of us that did turn up were suitably challenged by Paul Stewart's excellent quiz covering the 60's, 80's, 90's, Film and TV. We all had a great evening and I would like to thank Paul for all the effort he put into compiling such a great quiz.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Group celebrated its 111th year since being founded. None of those 111 years would have been possible if it wasn't for the volunteers, past and present, who take on the roles as Group Scout Leader, Beaver, Cub and Scout Leaders, Assistant Leaders, Young Leaders or Executive Committee members and the regular helpers who all do so without any payment and in some cases with cost to themselves. Thank you all.

The Trivial Pursuit Tournament, which I have managed to keep running since we lost Heather, had to be cancelled this year. Despite the efforts of Margaret to enlist more teams, again this year we only had nine. I had a schedule prepared and we were due to start the tournament in March. However, it was obvious that with the oncoming Pandemic that we would not be able to play any other game but the first one, so I had no choice but to abandon the tournament for this year. I would like to thank the teams for their continuing support which, apart from having some fun, still raises some funds for 1st Tolworth.

I would like to thank the Group Executive members for their support during the last year and look forward to their continued support in the next. Although mainly in the background, the Executive Committee does a wonderful job in managing the Group's funds and assets so I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of everyone in the 1st Tolworth family to thank them for their support during the past year in which we have been looking at, and updating, the Group's Health and Safety Policy, identifying and prioritising any issues that we feel needed attention. Part of this was upgrading our Gas storage facilities. In November we updated our DATA Protection documentation in accordance with the new GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION. Full details of our GDPR Policy, 1ST TOLWORTH GDPR POLICY, can be found on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group website.

I would like to give a special thanks to Terry Goodall for his excellent management as Group Treasurer.

Richard Ford continues to do a wonderful job looking after the minibus and I would like to thank him for that and for his continued support as the Group's Quartermaster.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Circle members for their support throughout the year. The Circle is made up of some ex-Scout Leaders, parents of ex-Scouts and some who enjoy the social events they hold. They are looking for new members to join. Are you, or do you know of any parents or grandparents of ex Scouts that may be interested? Circle contact details are on the inside cover.

We have, over the year, unfortunately had some sad events. David Alan Thomas, better known to us all as DAT, passed away, or as we Scouts like to say "Gone Home". DAT had been a member of the Scout Movement since 16<sup>th</sup> January 1936 when he joined 3rd Tolworth, aged 9. During his years in Scouting DAT held many posts and in 1982 he became Group Scout Leader of 1st Tolworth. In 1994 he became Group President, a role he relished until 2015 when he retired from the post.

So, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019, DAT has Gone Home, aged 91 and his 83<sup>rd</sup> year in Scouting. As a tribute and remembrance to DAT's long and exceptional service to 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth and Scouting, we have commissioned an engraved brick as part of the "Promise Path Appeal" at Gilwell Park. The inscription reads :

DAVID ALAN THOMAS  
1<sup>ST</sup> TOLWORTH 2019  
DAT-83 YEARS IN SCOUTS

Also, lost to us last year, was Alan Lee. Probably not known to most of you, Alan was Akela of the Cub Pack for a number of years and most of the older Leaders and helpers, myself included, camped with Alan at some point. I have fond memories of these camps and I'm sure it was with Alan that I learned the best way to erect a marquee. Alan passed away (Gone Home) on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Plaques for both DAT and Alan have been added to the Group Gone Home board.

These certainly are unusual times at the moment. What wonderful weather we had over Easter, unfortunately spent at home in isolation and lockdown. I am sure that once this Pandemic has passed and the restrictions on meetings are lifted we will, as we enter the Group's 112<sup>th</sup> year, look forward to another year of great Scouting.

All the Sections are currently well supported and doing well with strong Leadership teams in place. I'm sure that whatever the future holds for us we will, in true 1st Tolworth family tradition, rise to any 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.

As a Group we have survived and kept running through Two Worlds Wars and the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918 so I'm sure we will survive this.

Hope to see you soon. Stay well. Stay safe.

I am so proud to be part of 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group.

[Proud to be 1<sup>st</sup>]  
Martin Smith

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Well, what a year 2020 has been so far. We have left Europe, had terrible storms and endless rain in February causing some of the worst flooding in years. Then to top it all we all had to batten down the hatches to contend with the Coronavirus Pandemic. It has certainly not been the year we were looking forward to.

It is a strange time as I write this report in the middle of April. Easter came and went and was unlike any I have ever known. We live in a surreal world with draconian measures put in place by our Government to protect us. A well-known novel comes to mind, 1984, by George Orwell. Certain parts of this book echo what we are facing today.

Our lives have changed, our freedom has been infringed by the lockdown, our families, our friends and love ones distanced. Schools shut, people working from home, empty shelves in our food shops and the quiet and eeriness of our roads and streets. People wearing masks and avoiding you as they see you approaching in the distance and our wonderful NHS working flat out attending to the increasing number of people who have unfortunately caught this dreadful virus, disease, plague, call it what you want.

At present, sadly over 12,000 people have lost their lives in the UK and over 100,000 worldwide. Apparently, 180 countries out of 195 have this disease which shows how quickly it has spread.

This invisible enemy is not fussy who it infects. Young, old, rich, poor, the powerful and the weak. It doesn't care! It certainly is a worrying, stressful time in our lives. We can only defeat this beast if we all follow the guidelines laid out by our Government. Stay home, keep well and be safe. As we say in

## Scouting...Be Prepared!

In the light of this virus, all Scouting has been suspended which includes fundraising, camping, and outdoor activities. So in 111 years of 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth's existence where our Group never stopped meeting, even during two World Wars, it took an invisible enemy to do so. I hope we as a Group can rekindle our members and spirit in the future when the good times eventually return and we can be back to our best.

Now for the accounts. They will be completed on time but there may be a delay getting them approved by the Independent Examiner, due to social distancing. This is not a problem as the Charity Commission requires a copy by the end of March 2021, so plenty of time.

Our fundraising during the 2019/20 year remained strong. Jumble Sales/clothes sales, Car Boot Sales and outdoor fairs continued to raise much needed funds for the Group. We were lucky to stage the Jumble Sale in March before the lockdown. Thanks to the loyal supporters and volunteers who selflessly help our Group time after time. You know who you are. As always, many thanks must go to Graham Warnes and Margaret Warry for their efforts and leadership with organising the fundraising events.

The November Fayre at the Royal British Legion hall was a great success and was a surprise when it raised £2102.24, up by £546.38 on the previous year. Hopefully we can stage the Fayre again this year but we always need good support to do so, especially on the day. Many thanks to all that helped and participated and well done to Brenda, Gayna and Fiona on the Fayre committee with a little help from me.

I managed to claim back £1046.36 in Gift Aid from the taxman in March but the number of Gift Aid forms I receive from parents continues to fall, which is a worry. I only managed to pass the £1000 mark due to two generous Gift Aided donations and a sponsored event. At a time when our fundraising will be severely affected, what better way of raising funds than by signing a Gift Aid form? If you are a basic taxpayer I can claim 25% of all subs yearly and it does not cost the payer or the Group anything. It is a win, win situation so please, please consider signing a form now. Thank you.

Our minibus is running ok although it is not getting much use lately. There was some damage to the cables under the vehicle, apparently caused by some pesky squirrels but all has been repaired since. Thanks to Richard Ford for his help and guidance in maintaining the minibus.

The Group has received £877 in donations in the last 12 months. I would like to thank Geoff Shore (former Scout) who regularly supports our Group as his preferred charity which sees donations donated via him.

At the time of writing the Troop's summer Finland trip is in doubt. The final decision will be taken by the Leaders in Finland. The Troop had been fund raising for this trip for several years and it will be a great shame but inevitable if it is cancelled or postponed.

This also applies to the Cub camp scheduled in May but hopefully the camp can be deferred to a future date when it is feasible for it to go ahead

Regretfully, the much loved Trivial Pursuit tournament for this year has been cancelled, another casualty of the virus. Thanks to Martin Smith who had sorted out the schedule for the allotted game dates.

Topping up the Scout Shop in Stoneleigh cost the Group £750 which is lower than last year. Other expenditure was spent on preserving the original 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth flag for future generations. Martin and Viv Smith travelled to the specialist based at Brighton several times and eventually the chosen method cost £408 in total. Money well spent!

The Group also needed to upgrade its Gas storage facilities. A metal cage and base were purchased at a cost of £975 to re-house our many gas bottles. This was attended to by Lee Perkins, Martin Smith and Reg Lefevre and now the bottles are more safely stored. Well done, gentlemen.

Also, £860 was spent at Tam Leisure on much needed hike tents for the Troop. Other expenditure included hall and equipment insurance, minibus insurance and running costs, plus the membership yearly fees of £2465, our biggest outlay. Electricity bills totalled £848, Council Tax £473.76 and water from Castle Water £151.39.

Everything else is shown on the accounts. As a Group we are in a healthy, financial stable position and able to tackle any current or future problems that may arise. Even if parents or carers decide to cancel their monthly direct debits/standing orders due to the crisis and because of their personal financial position, it is quite understandable. We have adequate funds to weather the reduction in income from lack of fundraising and subs cancellation.

Lastly as always, I like to thank all the present committee members who all bond and do a fantastic job and to my dear wife Carol, who has been a great support to me, especially during the current situation in the lockdown. I hope you are all coping and bearing up in this climate of self-isolating and social distancing.

We are all missing our loved ones but we must hold firm until it is safe to return to some form of normality. Take care and God Bless the NHS and everyone else who are doing their best to help us through this current situation.

When this nightmare and darkness in our lives is over,  
We can celebrate the return of happiness in clover,  
And reflect on the stress, the fear and the doubting,  
Back to our world of family, friends, loved ones and Scouting.

Terry Goodall

## THAMES REPORT

Hello,

I hope you have all kept safe and well during these times. I apologise that I didn't include a report in our January or March issues of the Newsletter but that just means you get to hear more from me in this issue. Aren't you lucky!

In January I took over from Faye as Beaver Scout Leader and Peter joined me as Assistant Beaver Scout Leader. We also gained another Young Leader to fill Peter's old space on the Leadership Team and had 4 new Beavers begin attending. However, not all of them were able to continue. In total we have 12 Beavers attending regularly but some of the older ones may be going to Cubs soon, so there is always space for new Beavers!

Peter and I were invested on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January and then two weeks later we invested one of the Beavers who had been with us from the previous term. A few weeks later we also invested one of the new Beavers that started at the beginning of the term.

We have done much in the 3 months we had so far this year. On our first night we had a Games Night to welcome everyone back. This term we learnt about Chinese New Year and the Zodiac calendar, we

made lucky red envelopes that they decorated with the Chinese Zodiac character that represented the year of their birth. The Beavers created Valentine's Day cards for loved ones using coloured card and cupcake cases to make 3D flowers to stick to the front of their cards. It was amazing to see so many unique designs. It really shows their imagination. We also had some Pancake Day fun by learning about the history of Pancake Day, then doing relay races in their Lodges while flipping pancakes (tortilla wraps) and finishing off by eating pancakes which had very kindly been cooked for us by Brenda Pawley. The Beavers showed some very impressive pancake (tortilla) flipping skills!

We had four Beavers attend the District Science afternoon at Chessington School on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February where all four of them earned their Experiment badge for doing all kinds of experiments including growing cress, cleaning pennies and turning a piece of paper into a cup you drink out of. It was great to see them engaging with other Beavers and Beaver Leaders from other Sections as well as having fun doing different experiments.

This term we focused on two badges, Air Activities Stage 1 and Emergency Aid Stage 1. Unfortunately, because the term got cut short, we didn't quite get to finish our badge work but I am sure that once everything is back to normal the Beavers will be ready to hand in their posters describing a type of aircraft (real or imagined) that they would like to fly in and why.

Fortunately, the Beavers did get a chance to make and decorate paper helicopters and learn about the phonetic alphabet by playing hangman using the NATO phonetic alphabet instead of the standard English alphabet. The Beavers did very well.

We also discussed the importance of getting help in an emergency, what to do when calling 999, the recovery position when someone is unconscious, bandaging a wound and reassuring someone at the scene of an emergency.

Once everything has returned to normal, we shall finish our badge work and give out the badges to all our hardworking Beavers.

Please stay safe and well in these times and I look forward to seeing you all again soon for more Scouting Fun!

Rachel Ferris  
Beaver Scout Leader  
*Thames Beaver Scout Colony*  
*Boys and Girls age 5 ¾ - 8*  
*(when open) Fridays 17.45 – 18.45*

## **EVEREST REPORT**

I hope everyone is staying safe and keeping well. Although the Scouting year has come to a strange end, the Cubs have been very busy this past year completing lots of badges. At the beginning of the year, we had some new members join us from Beavers who have shown great team spirit and enthusiasm for Scouting. We started off the year well with the Cubs gaining four activity badges before Christmas. They completed their environmental badge by learning about reducing different types of waste to help the environment and made their own bird feeders and bug houses using recyclable materials. The Cubs were so excited to put their bug houses in their gardens and see who would come to visit them!

The Cubs then enjoyed an evening of athletics learning about the importance of wearing the correct clothing and warming up before exercise. They then took part in a variety of fun, physical activities that got everyone very sweaty and out of breath! To recover from all the physical activity the Cubs

completed their collectors badge. Lots of Cubs brought in their collections and gave a talk to the rest of the Pack about what they had been collecting. There were lots of interesting collections from Pokémon cards, Yu-gi-oh! cards, precious stones, teddies and coins, dating back to a long time ago.

In between all the badge work we were able to fit in a Spooky Night in October where the Cubs dressed up in spooky costumes and played lots of spooky games and enjoyed lots of sweet treats. There may have been some tricks along the way. As the evenings were getting darker the Cubs achieved their road safety badge where they learnt about the Green Cross Code, how to use different crossings and learnt about various road signs. As the nights were darker, the Cubs were very excited to play their favourite game... LIGHT HOUSE!

At Christmas the Scouts very kindly came down and taught the Cubs how to make Christmas decorations from paracord. Although it was fiddly at first, the Cubs soon got the hang of it and thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were very proud to take their decorations home. To end the term the Cubs enjoyed a treat of bowling and chocolates at Tolworth Bowl. I'm not sure who was more competitive, the Cubs or the Leaders!

To start the new year the Cubs enjoyed some evenings of games and team building fun. Over the next few weeks the Cubs gained their first aid badge. They learnt how to do CPR, how to attend to burns and cuts and how to bandage cuts and broken bones. The Cubs were a bit apprehensive at first with the first aid dummies but soon enjoyed bandaging each other up!

In February we were very proud to have two of our Cubs represent 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth in the County Scouts Gang Show. We went along one evening and were very impressed with their performance and they were definitely the loudest singers out of everyone there! It was great to see 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth being represented in the show and to see their friends from the Pack come along and support them. Well Done!

We would like to thank our Young Leaders and Helpers for all their support this year.

Unfortunately, the Scouting year has come to an unexpected end, putting a stop to some exciting events planned, one of them being Cub camp which would have been the first camp for many of our Cubs. Although we are not able to meet as a Pack, do remember that you can complete badges from home by going to the Indoor Activity Scouting website where they have so many ideas and activities.

We hope you are all keeping yourselves safe and healthy, and hopefully we can all see each other soon.

Lianne Ford

*Everest Cub Scout Pack*

*Boys and Girls age 8 – 10 ½*

*(when open) Wednesdays 18.30 – 20.00*

## TROOP REPORT

Our Troop membership of just over 30 has remained stable during the year. 9 young people have gained their Chief Scout's Gold Award since the last Annual Report. We have had a dozen progress out of the Troop in the past year, most of whom are staying within Scouting, either as Explorer Scouts or Young Leaders, or both. We have been joined by 3 from 6<sup>th</sup>.Tolworth, although they are retaining their 6<sup>th</sup>.Tolworth identity as they currently have no Scout Leader. We also have one from 4<sup>th</sup>.Tolworth and 4 who have been introduced by friends within the Troop.

Our annual overnight expedition this year was from the Queen Elizabeth Country Park near Petersfield, walking eastwards, camping overnight at 1<sup>st</sup>.Harting Scout HQ, in South Harting. The most difficult

bit of navigation was to get out of the Country Park. The most difficult part of the weather was on Sunday when the wind, mist and rain caused us trouble. Unusually, we stopped the hike at lunchtime on Sunday for safety reasons. I'd rather have the Scouts safe, well, warm and dry(ish) than insist on completion of the route.

We were Wardens at Polyapes on a weekend in April. The PLs, APLs and YLs who were able to stay for the weekend were kept busy with several jobs to help the campsite. We had to "deep clean" the staff toilet so some new equipment for the disabled could be fitted the following week, The new railings and decking outside The Mowgli building needed painting and the wood pile area needed tidying. We were able to use some time to sort out our own hike tents. We did more tidying in the Mowgli and cleaning the loos before we went. All kept us fully occupied all weekend. We are happy to "do our bit" to keep our campsite in good shape.

We had an interesting Troop Camp at May Bank Holiday weekend spent at Frylands Wood, Addington. We did some unusual activities which did not tax our brains too heavily. Earth Ball, Grass Sledging, Inflatable Assault Course and Barrel Carts (it's a bit of pioneering to make carts to race) and Orienteering. Eight of the Scouts tackled Chef Badge. They had to plan the menu for a weekend camp beforehand and then cook a two course meal from their menu. Some cooked on a fire, some on Gaz, their choice depending on the menu. They were also assessed on their ability to wash and clear away safely, appropriately and efficiently, which proved challenging for a couple of them! They cooked some interesting meals from Falafal Burgers to Chicken Curry to Spaghetti Bolognese, from Pancakes to Bananas and Chocolate done in the embers, to Fruit Salad with a wonderful fresh Mint syrup. We were lucky with the weather too. Not in any way hot but all canvas came down dry on the last morning! Amazing for a Bank Holiday Monday!

It was brilliant to have all five adult Leaders there plus 3 of our Young Leaders. A contrast to our Summer Camps when we were all in different places at the same time.

We made the trip to Strategy in Cirencester Park again for the giant activity hike on Saturday as well as the chance to join in Discos, Crafts and Team games.

Stuart was the driver and although we had a few problems with the transport, we got there in the end. Stuart and I spent an enjoyable sunny Saturday helping to run a checkpoint whilst mainly sitting still. The Scouts, on the other hand, were hiking around Cirencester Park, also having a ball.

We were glad to enter 2 teams into the County Cooking competition. 4 Scouts preparing a 3 course meal on 2 Gaz rings in 2 hours. Hard work. We again didn't win but we had fun, learnt a lot and we were there taking part, and we'll do better next year!

Royal Kingston Scout Archery Club attended the annual National Scout Archery Competition at Phasel's Wood with a record number of 25, half of whom are 1<sup>st</sup>.Tolworth members. We came back with 2 trophies and 4 other medals. Only one from the 1T members though. Thomas (Young Leader currently working with 1<sup>st</sup>.Claygate) was 2<sup>nd</sup>. in the under 18 (supplied equipment). Well done!

The summertime was complicated as the Troop was split in three directions. One of our Young Leaders and one of the Patrol Leaders went to the World Scout Jamboree in America and they had an absolutely brilliant time. World Jamborees are always the trip of a lifetime.

Stuart and I joined the County Expedition to Sweden with 9 of our older Scouts. We also made friends, saw the countryside and had a wonderful experience.

Meanwhile, John, Graham and Millie, with a few of the Young Leaders, took the rest of the Troop to Tolmers to take part in their Activity Week. They had a super camp too, again mixing with other Scouts from other Groups. What a summer! What experiences!

Friday evenings have included the usual mix of activities old and new. Team games and challenges, cooking, swimming, wide games, ice skating, preparation for events and competitions, maps, knots, pioneering, morse code and much more.

The very end of the year has forced me to cope with the modern methods of social media and a different way of working without actually meeting up. We shall see how it all works in the longer term.

We have been lucky to have a stable Leadership Team of John, Graham, Stuart, Millie and myself. We have had two of our Young Leaders reach 18 and become Adult Leaders. We have also been joined by Alex, a friend of Stuart's. We have a large number of Young Leaders who will eventually be found new Sections to work with. It is all work in progress. My thanks to you all!

Caroline Marsden  
Scout Leader

*Scout Troop  
Boys and Girls age 10 ½ - 14  
(when open) Fridays 19.30 – 21.30*

## CIRCLE REPORT

I was unable to join you at many of the meetings last year due to my ill health and various falls.

In February seven members enjoyed the County Scouts Gang Show at Kingston Grammar School's theatre and in March Graham ran one of his excellent brain-teaser quizzes.

During April 13 members enjoyed a meal at the Sorrento and for our May meeting we had a speaker who gave a very interesting talk on dolls houses. It is surprising what you can do and make out of a lot of bits and pieces. One evening 4 members went to the Nescot Theatre and saw The 39 Steps.

In June 8 members took a vintage packet boat trip, drawn by a heavy horse, on the River Wey at Godalming, It was a great pity that it rained for most of the time. We all got very wet, both inside the boat and on terra firma! However, the cream tea we had on board was enjoyed by everyone.

June was a very sad month as our ex Group President "DAT", as we all fondly knew him, "went home" on 25<sup>th</sup> June after a long illness. He was very generous to our Group. We will miss him. God Bless you "DAT". Rest in Peace.

Pat and Trevor held their final barbecue in July, enjoyed by everyone as usual. I should like to sincerely thank them both for all the delicious barbecues they have put on over the years, and for their hospitality.

August meant a visit to the North Star for a meal. We all had a great time.

Margaret was going to give us a talk for our November meeting but unfortunately she was ill, so Graham organised a games evening.

December was our usual get together. We all brought something to eat and exchanged Christmas cards. Unfortunately I couldn't be there.

In January 9 members assisted with the Group Jumble Sale including collecting, sorting and selling. The Sale made £474 for the funds.

Pat Frith  
Circle Chair

## **FUNDRAISER'S REPORT 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2019-31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2020**

### **CAR BOOT SALES £1,635**

We attended 23 Boot sales. For the second year running individual sales were very erratic, ranging from a low of £12-70 to a high of £165-80 on Easter Monday at Hook Road Arena. If only the individual results were as high as this!

In mid September we had a 20p sale and sold 596 items, gross, making £108-20 for our Group. Ken Warnes assisted at this event and four other sales due to Margaret's hospitalisation and post recovery.

We were recommended a new site for us at Shepperton, which is held on Saturdays, where we managed to attend on two occasions! The weather then played havoc with the fields used and on four consecutive weekends in October/November all sales were cancelled. Shepperton, Apps Court Farm and Hook Road Arena weren't operating due to wet ground, waterlogged ground, rain and high winds.

We then decided to give Dorking a try on the hard surface at the railway station. No waterlogged ground here! Five successful visits were made, all with reasonable results.

### **OUTDOOR FAIRS £1,490**

Two outdoor fairs were supported. The Richmond May Fair was under new management as the previous organisers all retired on age grounds. Instead of the usual second Saturday in May the organisers extended it to the Saturday and Sunday. They also supplied ready erected tented shops for all stallholders. Saturday was the most successful day of the two. We made £1211.

Pat Tomlinson and Linda Twort were the additional morning team and Linda, and Michael Pawley, the additional afternoon team on Saturday. Ted Hodges and Brenda Pawley served all day on Sunday.

Ken Warnes and the two of us were on site from 07.00 each day.

Grateful thanks from the two of us to all these stalwarts for their help.

The smaller Ham Fair took £279. Thanks to Ken Warnes for additional help.

### **JUMBLE SALES £1,229**

The Group's three Jumble Sales produced a good result. March's sale, with 33% fewer customers, went ahead "just in time" as from the following Tuesday all Scouting activities for members, including business meetings, were suspended with just a few hours notice. This was due to the Coronavirus.

Thanks to everyone who helped with delivering leaflets, collecting, sorting and selling.

### **UNSOLD CLOTHING £306**

This was sold on to two Kingston companies.

### **THANK YOU**

We should like to sincerely thank everyone who donated goods. We confirm our intention is to achieve the maximum income for the benefit of Scouting in 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth.

Graham Warnes and Margaret Warry (President)