

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



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1040958

NOVEMBER 2021

www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

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Group Chair	Martin Smith	chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com
President	Mrs Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk
Circle Chair	TBA	

DIARY OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- Tue 2ND GROUP EXECUTIVE MEETING.** Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.
- Thu 18TH CIRCLE.** (Voluntary) Bring your lunch. Sparks Hall. 13.00 – 13.30.
28 years of Car Booting.
Presentation by Margaret and Graham. 13.30 – 15.00.
- Sat 20TH GROUP NOVEMBER FAYRE AND PRESENTATIONS.**
Royal British Legion Hall, Hollyfield Road, Surbiton KT5 9AL.
13.30 – 16.00. Parking and Bar available.

DECEMBER

- Tue 7TH GROUP EXECUTIVE MEETING.** Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.
- Thu 16TH CIRCLE.** Christmas Get-Together Lunch. Sparks Hall.

Other events and any amendments are advised by Leadership Team members and for the Circle by the Vice Chair.

All contributions for the **JANUARY** issue of **OOTB** to be delivered
by 11TH DECEMBER

to

E-mail: sheilamjones@blueyonder.co.uk

GSL'S REPORT

During lockdown Scouting was put on "HOLD". Just like everyone we were affected by the no meeting rule. This meant Beavers, Cubs and Scouts could not hold their normal meetings. I am pleased to say that we are now "back to normal", well as normal as it gets at this time!

All the sections - Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - are now meeting face to face in our hall, with no restrictions on numbers meeting. It is good we can do this again as everyone has missed seeing their friends and having a chat! It is great to see everyone happy and enjoying themselves, even the Leaders!

I am pleased to say that Rachel has a good number of Beavers in the Colony and has had 3 meetings so far. Unfortunately Rachel was not well last week and Peter was working so the meeting had to be cancelled.

She has around 15 Beavers aged 6 and 7. She is planning to do one mass investiture when they think they are ready, but no date is set yet. She could really use some help! Can you spare an hour on a Friday as a parent helper? It really would make a difference!

IMPORTANT NEWS!

As I write this, I have had the brilliant news that Megan Taylor has been awarded the Meritorious Conduct Award. This is awarded for meritorious conduct of an exceptionally high standard e.g. exceptional acts of bravery with no risk to life, or exceptional dedication to the Scouts despite the difficulties they have endured.

If you know Megan, you will know the difficulties she has had since she had her accident as a Young Leader aged 15. She is registered severely sight impaired/blind with tunnel vision and has multiple other hidden disabilities. She has a dual purpose Guide/Assistance dog called Rowley to support her. As a result of the accident Megan may pass out without warning but Rowley has been trained to alert her if an episode is about to happen. This gives Megan time to make sure she is in a safe place before it happens.

None of this has stopped Megan from doing things like climbing Mount Snowden last weekend with Rowley, Ellie, and Jenny.

From me and everyone at 1st Tolworth a huge congratulations and so well deserved! The medal has a green ribbon with a red vertical stripe. A cloth badge corresponds to this.

Megan has now invested her friends, Ellie and Jenny as Cub Section Assistants. Congratulations and welcome to 1st Tolworth! Ellie and Jenny have also started their Leadership training to get their Wood Badge beads. Megan has 20 Cubs in the Pack. 17 have already been invested. She and her team have put together an exciting and varied programme, some they have done but there is still lots to do!

Could you help on a Wednesday evening? If you can, please speak to any Cub Leader or contact me on my email address.

Caroline and her leaders continue to do a great job running the Scout Troop and have had the Scouts out doing a night hike which was interesting! Nobody got lost but there were quite a few tired Scouts (and Leaders) after the 6 mile hike around Chessington/Claygate area. Congratulations to then two teams from the Troop who entered the County Cooking competition on Sunday. Congratulations to Shreya's team who won the Royal Kingston District Scouts Cooking Trophy which was also presented along with other Districts.

There are people who help out behind the scenes looking after the hall and doing repairs so I must say thanks to all of you. Your help is really appreciated!

If you would like to help out at any of the sections, especially now we are on the road to recovery, this is the time we need it most!

Contact the Section Leader or myself gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

John Bowman Group Scout Leader

CHAIR'S REPORT

First off I hope you are all well and keeping safe in these still uncertain times.

I must apologise for the lack of a September issue of Out Of The Blue.

It was felt that there would be minimal information to include in any of the reports.

During the lockdown, as previously reported, the Executive Committee had continued to have regular meetings via Zoom. The Hall was mothballed. However, essential safety measures and checks were kept up to date. So when it was announced that we could start face to face meetings again in the Hall we were ready.

As you may have read in the July issue of Out Of The Blue, Graham Warnes our Jumble Sale organiser and manager has decided it's time to step down from managing the Jumble Sales. Graham has done a marvellous job over many years as Jumble Sales Manager with the help of his lead team of Ken Warnes and Margaret Warry. And we thank them.

Although a thank you doesn't seem quite enough, we do thank them as the funds raised at the Jumble Sales have contributed to the Group's income and helped to keep the subs at a reasonably low cost.

We did ask for any volunteers who would be interested in taking on the role as Jumble Sale Manager but alas no one has come forward. So, without someone to take on the role, we as a Group have had no option but to cease holding the Jumble Sales with immediate effect. We may in the future hold some other form of fundraising. Who knows what the future holds.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped with the Group's Jumble Sales, so, if you helped with delivering the 900 leaflets, collections, sorting, selling or any other activity that was needed for each Sale to be held, on behalf of 1st Tolworth (St Matthew's) Scout Group, I extend my gracious thanks to you all for the time you have contributed during your years of volunteering to help with the Jumble Sales. They have raised a vast amount over the 55 years the Group has been running them. None of this would have been possible without you, and others, that gave up their time to assist. Again, thank you for your dedicated support over the years. It is much appreciated.

Our yearly November Fayre, again another valued fundraiser, will take place again this year with some small changes. It will be on a smaller scale and we plan to present the Group Awards that we normally do at the St. George's Day service which as you know we have not been able to hold for the last two years.

So please do come along to the Group's November Fayre and Awards ceremony, help us celebrate and meet the leaders. Come and have a chat, bring the family and enjoy a pleasant social afternoon at The Royal British Legion, Hollyfield Road, Surbiton KT5 9AL

Saturday 20th November. 1.30 to 4 pm. There is parking in their car park or Hollyfield Road. Also a bar is available.

Hope to see you there.

Proud to be 1st
Martin Smith. Group Chair

THAMES REPORT

All previous members of Thames Colony moved onto Cubs over the Covid Lockdown period.

So when Thames Colony restarted in September we had only a small group of new members in the first week. But thanks to the recruitment efforts of the new Beaver parents we grew to a Colony of 15 by the second and third weeks which makes team games much more fun and LOUDER.

This term we are all getting to know each other and what it means to be a Beaver and part of The Scout Association. One of the badges we are working towards is our Builder Activity badge. They have already done their designs and it will be interesting to see how their models turn out.

I know the Beavers can't wait to wear their uniforms and earn some badges.

We have the investiture of all our Beavers planned for the end of our meeting on Friday 5th November.

Rachel Ferris
Beaver Scout Leader
Thames Beaver Scout Colony
Boys and Girls age 5 ¾ - 8
Fridays 17.45 – 18.45
beavers@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

EVEREST REPORT

It has been wonderful to see the return of face to face Scouting in recent months and I am pleased to share that the 1st Tolworth Everest Cub Scouts are going strong! We have a brand new leadership team including one Cub Scout Leader, two Section Assistants, one Occasional Helper and three Young Leaders. We currently have 20 young people invested as Cub Scouts and will soon be implementing a waiting list.

We started the term with a 'welcome back' evening which included ice breaker activities and team games so that we could all get to know one another. There were lots of questions about our honorary 'Canine Cub Scout' Rowley who attends Cubs every week in order to support me with my disabilities, so we decided to run an evening working towards the Disability Awareness Badge.

Cubs learnt about how Rowley supports me with my sight loss as a Guide Dog and how he supports me with my hidden physical disabilities by picking things up, helping me to untie my shoes, pulling off socks and trousers, emptying the washing machine and more! They also learnt how he uses his incredible sense of smell to detect minute biochemical changes that occur in my body prior to fainting. This means that he is able to warn me up to seven minutes before I become unconscious so that I can lie down safely. He is a real life super hero! Cubs had a go working in teams to navigate an obstacle course whilst blindfolded, practiced finger spelling their names and had a go at making one handed jam sandwiches. They learnt that people with disabilities might do things a little differently in order to help them succeed and for me that is with help from my life-changing Assistance Dog Rowley!

Next we had a creative night where we had a go at making tie dye socks, paper airplanes, and a cake decorating competition. We also made pinch pots using air-dry clay for the Artist badge! As part of our Environmental Conservation badge we spent an evening making fat ball bird feeders and learnt all about renewable energy. We also played some games using recycled materials. On another evening we practiced our archery skills using the indoor archery kit and played some team games to go towards the Team Work and Team Leader Challenge Awards.

We also worked towards the Stage 1 and 2 Emergency Aid Badges. This included learning how to call 999 and what to say, how to reassure someone at the scene of an emergency, how to check someone's airways and breathing, place someone into the recovery position, give CPR, help someone who is burnt, bleeding, having an asthma attack or allergic reaction. These skills are so important and could even help save a life one day! Thank you to our Young Leaders Matthew, Giacomo, and Annouska, and our Occasional Helper Peter who did an excellent job running the activity bases for this.

This term we have also had a Pack Forum discussing our code of conduct and what should happen when rules aren't followed. This also included rules for leaders such as listening to everyone's ideas and always having fun activities planned. We talked about the activities and games that Cubs would like to see included in the programme going forward and we had some wonderful suggestions from this that we are keen to include. Scouting is a youth led organisation and Pack Forums can help us to achieve this.

I look forward to many more fun activities and adventures with our Cub Pack this year!

Megan Taylor
Cub Scout Leader

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

megan.1sttolworthcubs@gmail.com

TROOP REPORT

Hello everyone!

Are you looking forward to Christmas already? Here's hoping that it will be more fun than last year's Festive Season!

Summer Camp:

Did we get to Summer Camp?

Yes, we did!

But we didn't know that we were allowed to go until the Tuesday afternoon, before the Saturday, we went. It was a bit of a panic and it would have been unthinkable without a stable, practised team around me.

We were the only camp on Phasels Wood that week. We were the first to camp at Phasels since lockdown and you could see how overgrown the site was.

Here is Shreya's Summer Camp Blog to tell you the story:

We finally arrived after a long journey of traffic on the M25. Phasels Wood, the same place where the Archery National Competitions are held.

It has been 2 years since we had our last camp, and it seems exhilarating to be camping together as a Scout Troop again. Our campsite is small and circular surrounded by a woodland of trees. As we arrived with our camp gear, we got everything out of the van and place it on a groundsheet. We got the tents set up, however there seemed to be a slight problem, we have a missing third section for the mess tent. That meant that Peter and Holly had to go all the way to 1st.Tolworth to get the third section. After a couple of hours of work, we got the tents pitched up and the site organised.

We have our evening meal and do our washing up. We play a wide game; it just so happens that I trip over a massive log in the dark and lose my torch. We look for my torch then decide it would be better to look in the morning. On Sunday morning I wake up at about 6ish and get out about 6:30. I decide to look for my torch in the woods with the help of the other scouts that are up. We look carefully for 15 minutes around these two logs, as I wander a little further behind the trees, I find myself facing this enormous log and lying beside it is my red torch. Our first activity of the day is a photo hunt, this gives us a chance to explore the campsite a bit, we are given photos of places within the campsite, and we must find these places when we do there is a question on the back of the photo card that we need to answer. After that, the Young Leaders arrived, then Warwick. Later in the afternoon we do Orienteering. This allows us to really test our map skills. The sign is up in the trees, which means that we have to pay attention. In the evening we prepare the fires, that means chopping and sawing the wood. This allowed some of us to work towards our axe and saw skills. Later in the evening we hear on the news that storms are quite bad, apparently heading our way so we had to cancel the fires and cook in the mess tent. Fajitas, apple pies and custard for dinner, yum. However, there was no storm, just a light drizzle. We were lucky! We ended the day with a game of rounders.

On Monday we do a 5-mile hike. There are two groups, one with me and Annouska and the other with Matthew and Livvy leading. Again, we get to test our map skills, unfortunately for my group we take a wrong turn through this field with long grass and wheat, we had to make our way back through the field and by the time we have made it we have all got wheat in our

shoes. Not to mention we get a bit lost, meaning Caroline and John had to pick us up from checkpoint 4. After all that chaos we returned to the campsite and made spaghetti bolognaise for dinner over the campfires. Then we all sat, underneath the starry skies, around the campfire eating smor's.

On Tuesday we do rock climbing and abseiling. Shortly after that we have a cooking competition, each team is given 500g of chicken and 5 other ingredients to choose. Matthew and Livvy's team wins. On Wednesday we do snowboarding and Ringos. It's cold which means we have to wrap up warm but its super fun! After all of that we're tired and have fish and chips for lunch. Finally, in the evening we do pedal carting, racing against each other. Then we end the day with a nice game of lighthouse in the woods followed by hot chocolate.

On Thursday after a rainy, damp week, we finally have a glorious sunny day. We saw this as an opportunity to gather all our stuff and put it outside onto the groundsheet, giving a chance for everything to dry and freshen. We do rifle shooting and archery and also make lightning bolt bracelets. Basically, we do a half stitch under, full cobra stitch then half stitch over and change over the colours after each pattern. We were vegan for a day. For dinner we had a vegan curry and rice that Holly made. Thursday was probably the only dry day we had.

On Friday we tidy up the area and strike a few tents. We were supposed to do a games and challenges afternoon organised by the Young Leaders but unfortunately it was ruined due to the rain. Luckily for us we all huddled in the Mess Tent before we could get soaked and had more hot chocolate! In the evening we had a BBQ meal and Caroline made Paella for the leaders. We ended the night around the campfire. Our last full day of Summer Camp.

On Saturday we are sad to go home now that all the fun is over. Summer camp is finished but at least we get to see our parents after one whole week. However, we do all miss it. Being in Scouts isn't just about learning new skills, it is about being part of a community where you can make new friends and memories. We will always have memories from Phasels Wood.

Well done Shreya! Well written!

I really need to thank John, Stuart, Alex, Peter & Holly as well as the Young Leaders; Giacomo, Amelie & Luke for helping me make this happen. Alex arranged the Lateral Flow tests. Holly & Peter master-minded the menu, shopping & cooking.

This was such an achievement for us to actually camp in July this year. So many Troops didn't manage to get away at all.

Newcomers:

We have welcomed Charlie and Tom from Everest Cub Pack.

6th Tolworth have now been able to re-open their Scout Troop. That meant that our three members wearing dark red scarves were given the chance to return home to Southwood. Alex decided to return to her home group but, I am really glad to say that Warwick and Sharfin have decided to stay with their adopted Group. We are pleased to have them and they will be wearing our Royal Blue scarf very soon.

Friday evenings:

Since the summer, we have been meeting face-to-face at Sparks Hall. Such a treat to be able to meet as (nearly) normal once again! Would I have written that 2 years ago?

Of course not. We didn't know how lucky we were back then, did we?

We had a games evening to kick off the term then Millie & Peter ran Air Rifle Shooting the following Friday. The following week, Alex and the Young leaders picked up the challenges that had been planned but we had not managed to use on the last full day of Summer Camp because of the rain!

We did an enjoyable Evening Hike from Chessington South Station, in a circle, to Horton

Country Park. It wasn't as easy as that. It was the night when the fuel crisis was beginning and the ability to actually get across the A3 from Tolworth was limited and at snail's pace. So we started walking late. Walking in a large group is always slower, plus we were revising / teaching map-reading skills. The parents were, thankfully, very patient and drove over from Chessington to collect the Scouts, or we would have been out until the early hours! My fault. I misjudged how many would be there and how slow our progress would be. Lots of things learned that night!!!

We spent the next two Friday evenings preparing for the Cooking Competition and working on Navigator Badge. Several Navigator Badges of Stage 1, 2 and 3 have been awarded. See later for the Cooking Competition ...

The following Friday, we, at last, had the time to re-organise the Patrols. Meanwhile, the rest of the Troop were thinking through Law and Promise as well as many of our Scouting and Group traditions. The new Patrol Leaders are Maddy, Thomas, Shreya & Federico. Our new APLs are Warwick, Sharfin, Evannah & Oliver. Next Friday, we will be investing new Scouts, re-affirming Promises for those with new roles and welcoming some to 1st Tolworth from 6th.

County Cooking Competition:

Excellent effort by everyone involved in our entries for the County & District Cooking Competition today: Millie & Alex for coaching the teams and sorting out the equipment on Friday, all the Mums and Dads for helping with sorting menus, practising, advice, shopping, transport and all the things parents do!

This regular event was held at 1st Hook Scout HQ. The Scouts were working in teams of up to four. They had to cook a three-course meal, on two gas rings, in two hours. The three courses each had to originate from a different continent.

Federico, Warwick & Charlie produced Makanda, Miso Ramen & Banoffee Pie.

Shreya, Isabel, Evannah & Adi cooked a Chickpea Salad, Chicken Curry and Platanos Calados.

21 Teams entered from across the County. They were marked out of 110 points.

The Winners from 13th Wimbledon gained 109 points.

The joint Runners-up achieved 106 points. That was 3rd Cheam and a team from 8th Wimbledon.

Shreya's team came in 4th with 105 points.

Federico & Warwick's team were joint 5th (with teams from 5th Morden and 22nd Wimbledon) gaining 100 points.





Some of the Districts also award their Cooking Trophy at this competition.

As Shreya's team were the highest placed from Royal Kingston, they were awarded the Royal Kingston Trophy. (This particular Trophy, which features a large sieve, was donated to the District by Margaret Warry, our Group President. We have won it previously in 2009 and 2016.)

I always say that it isn't the winning that matters, it is being there and taking part but it does feel extra good when we come home with a Trophy!!!

Well done to you all!

Coming soon:

Overnight Expedition next weekend

What will we do to celebrate Christmas?

Plans for next year?

Have a super Christmas!

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

CIRCLE REPORT

The last Circle report I wrote was March 2020. I cannot believe it is so long ago.

We met up for the first time since then on 21st October at 1 o'clock in the afternoon to chat and have a picnic lunch (bringing our own). The meeting started at 1.30pm and finished at 3 pm.

The meeting was arranged for the afternoon, for a trial run, as we are all getting older. Turning out at night is not preferable. It was lovely to see our friends again!

Martin Smith came along to give us his quiz that he had prepared for February 2020. Viv, his wife, came as well helping to swell the numbers. He gave us a varied and fun quiz. We learnt a lot! Dividing into two teams, we endeavoured to recall old films and song titles and other 'useful' information. Who knew that some species of a male bear are called a boar and a female is a sow? I have always associated these names with pigs! We spent a lot of the time racking our brains trying to remember things about The Royal Family, and recognising famous people from descriptions given.

Thank you, Martin, once again for your hard work, even if it was 20 months ago that you compiled the Quiz.

This year the seasons seemed to have got mixed up in this crazy world. A very wet spell followed by very dry spells. This has made flowering time late and some for long periods. Roses still blooming, petunias and begonias still flowering, all usually dead by now. I am typing this at the end of October!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18th November.

We can assemble from 1pm for a chat and lunch. Bring your own!

The meeting will begin at 1.30 when Graham and Margaret will give a Presentation about "28 Years of Car Booting" and finish at 3pm.

December will be the Christmas Get-together on Thursday 16th. Time and food to be discussed at our next meeting.

There is no meeting in January. February will be our Circle AGM.

Looking forward to seeing you this month!

Pat Coxon

Help us celebrate and meet the Leaders



What better way to celebrate the Scouts achievements than by coming along to our Group's Fayre and Awards Ceremony?

As well as the usual fayre stalls, there will be an opportunity to get to know the Leaders.

The Fayre will include the Annual Awards for the Group Members

Saturday 20th November
1.30pm - 4pm
The Royal British Legion, Surbiton



www.1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

Mini November Fayre and Celebration Event

1st Tolworth Scout Group had been holding an annual fundraising and community event, November Fayre, for well over 55 years until Covid meant that we had to stop. We have also been unable to hold the last two St. George's Day parades and presentation events during the pandemic.

Now the restrictions have lifted and we are able to start meeting in person again, we have decided to organise a joint Fayre and Presentation event.

Date: Saturday 20th November 2021. Time: 13.30 – 16.00.

Venue: The Royal British Legion, Hollyfield Rd, Surbiton.

We will have some of our traditional Fayre stalls like raffle, tombola, toy stall, lucky dip and a craft activity, followed by the presentations of awards to celebrate the achievements of our young members.

I would really like to encourage you to come along, especially those of you who are new to the Group. It is your chance to meet and get to know the wonderful volunteers that make 1st Tolworth Scout Group such a great experience for your child. Please look out for further information via email or Radio Jackie.

Donations

If you have any of the following please send them with your child to their meeting and leave them with the leaders:

- new toys or games
- gifts that we could use for raffle or tombola prizes
- bottles of drink
- sweets or chocolates

Look out for information about upcoming mufti evenings where we will be asking for donations in exchange for a non uniform meeting.

Volunteers

If you would be willing and able to help please get in touch
fundraising@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

We will need a few people to help on the morning to set up and during the event to staff the stalls.

I look forward to seeing you there and finding out which of our members receive an award.

Gayna, Brenda, Fiona and Terry
November Fayre Committee

A SHORT HISTORY OF 1ST TOLWORTH JUMBLE SALES

Our first Out of the Blue in the archives is dated November 1965 and the first mention of the Group holding a Jumble Sale was on the 8 October 1966. They were mainly held once or even twice a year at the Douglas Road Parish Hall, now the Corner HOUSE.

As the Troop's Summer Camp in 1976 was to be held near Salzburg Austria, I asked the Group Executive if we could advertise, collect and staff a Jumble Sale with the proceeds going to camp funds. This was agreed. £200 was raised and was the highest amount recorded for a Sale. In 1977 The Group Executive added the January date to the other two sales which were normally held in about March and October.

The B-P Scout Guild, now The Circle, organised Sales and then Muriel Drury, Executive member, volunteered to be Manager. In March 1995 I was given overall control for Sales which had been transferred from the Parish Hall to Sparks Hall in March 1994.

Household collections were on a Friday evening with help from parents and the donations were delivered to the small hall in Douglas Road. Saturday morning they were transferred to the large main hall and duly sorted into their different types on to tables. No problem. In the smaller Sparks Hall collected jumble from the Wednesday and Thursday evening collections were placed in the cupboard under the stairs, in the kitchen and stacked in the upstairs corridor and stores, as well as the entrance corridor. Sorting was carried out on Saturday mornings. Time wise, everything was put on their respective tables with minimal sorting so a lot of donations should have been withdrawn as unsuitable. After a few years GSL Heather Mason made the decision for Thames Beaver Colony and the Troop, who met Fridays, to arrange an alternative programme outdoors or join with another Group so that our hall could be prepared on Thursday after which my brother, Ken, and I would presort donations on both days. Circle members and parents then distributed items to their appropriate tables on Saturday morning which worked a treat. Consequently, income grew.

WHOOOOOOPS!!!

Many years ago the person who collated the white paper household leaflets for Wednesday and Thursday collections found that there were quite a few left over on one occasion so she added half to one pile and half to the other causing great inconvenience. From then on Wednesday adverts were printed on coloured paper and Thursday's on white paper.

A parent volunteered to deliver leaflets in her road advertising the Wednesday collection. My telephone number appeared on the leaflets as the person who dealt with phone calls was away on holiday. I received about 10 calls, some quite impolite, querying our organising of the event. I listened, apologised and arranged a swift collection. I duly telephoned the parent who told me that she had forgotten about the leaflets but decided to deliver them on the Friday morning because people would know that the Jumble Sale was on.

At some stage the Council changed the days of household collections, especially to a Thursday. To start with, we kept receiving black sacks at the Hall which should have contained donations but were full of garden refuse!

A lady phoned to say that she would leave some black sacks near her doorstep on the collection day. I was doing the evening collections with assistance. There were no sacks as indicated. I rang the doorbell and the lady said that she had left 4 black sacks out that morning just before 7am because the leaflet said "collection between 7 and 9pm". She checked and realised that the landfill collectors must have taken them. My next job was to ask Heather to add "pm to 7!"

Paid-for newspaper adverts were placed in the Thursday Kingston Guardian, Friday Surrey Comet and Friday Informer. Sometimes they just couldn't get it right!! Either no advert appeared or they had used the previous Sale advert which then had the wrong date. I then changed the publication date to the previous week so in case of errors, the correct advert would be published free of charge the following week.

As usual, I emailed each paper giving the exact layout for the advert. In the January 2016 edition of the Guardian and Comet the same young lady had used our last advert which was the November Fayre. The only information changed was the date! The event, venue, time and admission information were all wrong. I telephoned and the staff member had to hold the phone well away from her ear!!! The correct advert appeared in the next week's edition. I then printed several notices about the correct details and took them to Tolworth Girls' School and explained our predicament to the caretaker who agreed to display them all day on the Saturday. I received reports that an unknown man was also redirecting customers to Sparks Hall.

On the other hand Radio Jackie were very efficient on giving us mentions for each Sale and our November Fayre. Many people reported to me what was said on radio.

"WHERE'S MY BOOTS?"

About three years ago a lady dashed into Sparks Hall while the sorters were busy, continually shouting "Where's my boots?" She then saw them, put her hand inside one and pulled out a bundle of cash notes and told the startled helpers that her daughter had donated the wrong pair of boots.

A CHURCH SALE

A few years ago, a Sale at Our Lady Immaculate church was held on the same day as ours. However, they didn't have too many items. A lady said to others, who were complaining, that the Scouts always have a good Sale and if they followed her she would take them to Pyne Road. It transpired there were over 30 people who did just that and the snaking column was reminiscent of the Pied Piper of Hamelin!!

WELL DONE, COLLECTORS

During the night of Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October 1987 we had The Great Storm of hurricane force winds. Collections by the Troop went ahead as normal. In my team were four Scouts and when we arrived in St. Matthew's Avenue there was a huge oak tree across the road, resting on a house. Not to be outdone the Scouts climbed over this obstacle, carried on knocking at doors asking for jumble and then passing the donations over the tree where I loaded them into my car.

RECORD JUMBLE SALE

This was our October 2016 Sale when we raised the magnificent sum of £539. There were 36 Group/Circle members and parents involved who dealt with printing, collating and delivery of leaflets to distributors for 900 households; Radio Jackie and Surrey Comet advertising; accepting telephone calls; doorstep collectors; pre-sorting, morning sorting and afternoon selling teams; disposal of unsold items and sale of unsold clothing. A great effort.

TOP SALES

In Sparks Hall the highest profit Sales were the months of January, October and then March. Highest profits were recorded for October 2016 £539, January 2015 £531 and March 2010 £453.

THANKYOU to everyone who has helped in any way over the years. Your assistance and loyalty is greatly appreciated.

Graham Warnes
Group Executive Member

POSTAGE STAMPS

The Charity "Dog A.I.D. (Assistance in Disability) is collecting Great Britain and International stamps. They request that they are cut from envelopes leaving about 1cm/1/4" of paper around each stamp. Thanks for doing this.

Please leave them in the box in the kitchen at Sparks Hall.

Margaret Warry
Group President

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

We have in stock various items of uniform for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Please speak to your child's Leader as the stock is stored at Sparks Hall. Thank you.

We also accept donations of unwanted uniforms.

Brenda Pawley