

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

**OUT OF
THE BLUE**

**WISHING EVERYONE
A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
AND
LOTS MORE
FUN IN SCOUTING**



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1040958

Group Scout Leader	John Bowman	gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk
Group Chair	Martin Smith	chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com
President	Mrs Margaret Warry	margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk
Circle Chair	TBA	

DIARY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Tue 4th. GROUP EXECUTIVE SOCIAL EVENING for members and a guest.

Royal British Legion. 19.30.

FEBRUARY

Tue 1st. GROUP EXECUTIVE. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.

Thu 17th. CIRCLE. (Voluntary) Bring your lunch. Sparks Hall. 13.00-13.30.

CIRCLE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 13.30-15.00.

MARCH

Tue 1st. GROUP EXECUTIVE. Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.

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

All contributions for the **MARCH** issue of **OOTB** to be delivered

by 11TH FEBRUARY 2022

to

SHEILA JONES. E-mail: sheilamjones@blueyonder.co.uk

GSL'S REPORT

As the year closes and a new one will soon be starting, usually we say "Let's hope next year will be better." I think this is so true but more to the point, let's hope it is not worse with the new Omicron variant!

When COVID hit, Scouting took a massive hit as well. We lost a lot of Scouts and Leaders through the movement for one reason or another. In some sections the young people could not deal with Zoom meetings so did not join in. Some leaders re-evaluated their role in Scouting and decided it was time to stop.

At 1st Tolworth we were lucky. Our leaders did their best to keep things going. Unfortunately, Zoom meetings for Beavers were not going to work, neither for Cubs. Megan did start a District Cub Section on Zoom which worked quite well and Caroline and the Scout Leaders continued with Zoom meetings but not with the whole Troop, but they pushed through!

Beavers

Rachel Ferris and Peter Keen are doing a brilliant job in rebuilding a Beaver colony from scratch! Given the age of Beavers there were none that had been part of a Beaver Colony before, so have to be taught and learn everything. This is also a huge learning curve for Rachel as she never got a chance to fully run any Beaver meetings before lockdown so she is also learning!

Rachel and Peter do struggle sometimes to get there from work as there are only the two of them. If you have the time would you consider being a parent helper? You do not need to do any training, just have a Scouting DBS check done and I know this would help them both massively! If you can, please speak to Rachel, Peter or me. gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

Cubs

When the online virtual Cub Pack closed as Scouting was beginning to get back to normal, Megan decided to take on the challenge of Everest Cubs from her cousin Lianne. Lianne and Craig could not continue to run the Pack for personal reasons so we needed a new leader. Megan took on the role with two of her friends who agreed to be invested as Pack Assistants. Jenny and Ellie, who have a lot of enthusiasm to help Megan to get the Pack going, are doing a great job.

It didn't stop there!

Megan's partner Peter was soon very interested in becoming a member of the Group so having added him as a Group Occasional Helper and a DBS check done, Peter soon decided he wanted to go into uniform and become a Pack Assistant as well! Megan invested Peter and

he is a keen supporter and enjoys being at the Cub meetings. Peter's enthusiasm is great to see and I think it is rubbing off onto the Cubs.

It didn't stop there either!

Megan's brother Luke had helped out a couple of times as he still has a current DBS as he was originally an Assistant Cub Scout Leader before changing his role to Group Occasional Helper. He agreed with Megan to go back into uniform and become a Pack Assistant. I think part of this reason is he enjoys lighting campfires!

Luke has now become a Pack Assistant and his fiancé Marina wanted to be a Group Occasional Helper. However, after talking to Megan she thought she would like to be invested and go into uniform. Marina now has a Pack Assistant role and hopefully in the New Year Megan will invest her into Everest Cub Pack.

WOW! To say the Cubs have kept things going is an understatement! I would like to say a huge welcome, thank you and congratulations to all the new leaders who have stepped up to the challenge.

Scouts

For 1st Tolworth Leaders the news just seems to get better!

I am pleased to say that we now have 9 leaders, not including Caroline, helping at the Scout section. This will soon be 10 as I am doing the DBS check for a leader, Jamie, who is coming back to 1T.

It is great to welcome Holly Powell who was invested as a leader back in September. Keira Pearson, who was recently 18, and Lex Bryers who was 18 in January but was unable to join for health reasons, is now, along with Holly and Keira, Assistant Section Leaders. Lex joined as a Scout and continued as best as he could with his health problems. Holly and Keira have both been Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders with 1st Tolworth and it is great to see the younger members carry on and become adult leaders.

We have a great section of young leaders who are eager to help and pass on skills to the younger members. We currently have one helping at Beavers, four helping at Cubs and three helping with Scouts. This is great news and well done to all these young people.

Atlas

This is the name of the new Explorer Scout Unit starting at 1st Tolworth in the New Year.

It has been a long time coming as it has not been easy to find the leaders to run it but I am pleased to say that Millie Gibson has accepted the challenge to get the unit going. She is being ably assisted by Peter Keen, Keira Pearson, Lex Bryers and Jamie when he re-joins the Group and is interested in helping at Atlas as well. All the Young Leaders and Explorer Scouts in the Group are very excited about being part of the founding members of the Unit and are looking forward to their first meeting in January.

I wish Millie and all her team the very best and hope all goes well in the launch of Atlas ESU.

The last thing to say is I hope everyone had a very Happy Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year and hope everyone stays safe and well.

John Bowman
Group Scout Leader
gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk

GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT

Happy New Year.

As I am writing this report we have just entered "Plan B" to help guard us all against the new Covid Variant so I do hope you all managed to have an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break.

We did have a brief spell when everything looked to be getting back to a more normal way of life. However, the Scout organisation has, in line with other youth groups, put us in Yellow alert. So we have had to adapt yet again to the way we run things.

But as you will know, this is something we at 1st Tolworth are quite good at.

We did manage a couple of events worth noting:

Remembrance Sunday

I attended the services at Surbiton War Memorial and was pleased to see so many people in attendance and great to see so many youth group members there including from 1st Tolworth, all looking really smart.

The 1st Tolworth Scout Group wreath which is normally laid at the Polyapes War Memorial was this year laid by our treasurer Terry Goodall at the Surbiton War Memorial.

Group November Fayre

Once again we were able to hold our November Fayre at the Surbiton Royal British Legion and again we used the bar area. This was a very much scaled down version of our Fayre as we were unsure if we were going to be able to run it.

I would like to say a big thank you to 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 so thank you all. Ted Hodges, assisted by his wife Joan, did a great job running the raffle. There were no pre-sold tickets and all the tickets were sold on the day. Well done Ted.

Also, a special thanks to the Fayre Co-ordination team, Gayna Brice, Fiona Perkins, Brenda Pawley and Terry Goodall for all the hard work in organising this special day.

Without their hard work this event would not happen.

As we haven't had the opportunity to hold our yearly presentation service for the last two years John, our new GSL, took the opportunity to present some of the awards missed over the last two years and some special ones for this year.

The last Group Executive meeting for 2021, held on Tuesday 7th December, was followed by the usual short social gathering as a thank you to the Executive Committee for their work throughout the year. 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 is a great venue and although this year's Fayre was on a very much smaller scale, we still managed to raise £600.

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 2022.

Proud to be 1st

Martin Smith Group Chair
chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com

THAMES BEAVER SCOUT REPORT

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a good Christmas.

1st Tolworth Beaver Colony has had a great first term since we restarted after lockdown. We have 15 Beaver Scouts all invested and a part of the Group. They all look very smart in their uniforms.

All of them have now earned their Builder Activity badge by meeting the following requirements:

- Designing something they would like to build.
- Making a list of things they would need to build their model.
- Building the model.
- Talking to the leaders throughout the process about what they were doing and why.

We are now working towards the Cook Activity badge and the Health and Fitness Activity badge.

In order to help us towards one of the requirements of the Cook Activity badge, Caroline, the Troop Leader and 4 of her Scouts came down to the Colony. They showed the Beavers how

to cook Hot Dogs on Trangias, using Burners and Methylated Spirit. The Beavers were keen to try it themselves but for safety it was mostly watching and learning how we can cook when we are on camps. The Beavers did enjoy eating the Hot Dogs though!

And I am sure they will enjoy cooking the other two dishes we need to cook in order to achieve this badge.

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 CUB SCOUT REPORT

Back in October we had a Halloween party which included a costume contest, apple bobbing, a hanging donut eating race, a game of lighthouse and more. The following week we met at Southwood and had a campfire complete with songs, stories, s'mores and sparklers! This was brilliant fun and for many of our Cubs it was their very first campfire experience.

In November we learnt all about Scouting during the wartime and made a Group poppy wreath. We talked about the significance of Remembrance Sunday and also played some wartime games. Later in the month we learnt all about the Thanksgiving Holiday in America as part of our International Activity and World Challenge badges. We listened to the story of the first Thanksgiving and talked about Native American culture. We reflected on what we are thankful for and played some traditional games played by Cub Scouts in the States. We also had a go at making mini Thanksgiving turkeys with apples, marshmallows and sweets.

We were recently joined by the Scouts for an evening who taught the Cubs how to make ballistas and ran some fun games for us. Thank you to all those who came along and it was brilliant to see the two sections working together. Last week we took on the Chef's Activity badge by learning all about food safety and hygiene, nutrition and making bangers and mash with varying degrees of success!

Our last meeting of the term will be a Christmas themed night. We will be playing lots of fun games including a team 'snowball' fight, reindeer racing, pass the parcel, as well as painting ornaments and making Christmas cards for children in hospital. I would like to take this opportunity to hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year from the entire 1st Tolworth Cubs leadership team.

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

SCOUT TROOP REPORT

Hi everyone!

I hope that you managed to have a good Christmastime, despite the restrictions, and are looking forward to the challenges that 2022 will bring.

Looking back to the last months of 2021, we were quite busy and trying to get back to normal, whatever that is, after the lockdowns of the previous 18 months.

Friday Nights etc

Quite a bit of badge-work, as you will see below, including Hobbies and Artist badges, revising the Countryside Code, some indoor Pioneering involving Sheer Lashing staves together in an effort to dangle fishing-weights and set off rat traps at the other end of the Hall (What?) and, of course, a bit of cooking. In this case, Hot Dogs with sausages cooked on Trangia Stoves. We had a think about what our Law and Promise mean to us and thinking about some of our Scouting traditions. We also did some thinking about what the Scouts would like to do next year.

I was pleased to have 20 from the Troop in uniform at the Remembrance Day Parade. We have also been running a couple of meetings with Beavers – more Hot Dogs and paint and glitter everywhere to make Christmas Cards. We visited Cubs, teaching them to make ballistas before a quick game of Hungry Hippos. We were running the craft stall at the November Fayre involving key rings and Christmas decorations. Thank you to all the Scouts and Young Leaders who were there to help with all these.

We presented Scout of the Year for the past 2 years at the Fayre. I was glad to be able to announce how well these individuals had continued with Scouting, despite the trials we have been through.

2020	Scout of the Year	Luke
	Runner Up	Livvy
	Third Place	Annouska & Noah
2021	Scout of the Year	Federico

Expedition

For the expedition, participants walk the first day, camp overnight, then walk on again the following day. This year we tried a new route starting from outside the William Bourne Pub in Chessington, through a lot of our local haunts, to Polyapes. We camped opposite the Campfire Circle having cooked the evening meal involving pasta and cheese on the Campfire Circle. When I say “we”, the four Scouts involved - Maddy, Shreya, Annouska and Zac - plus myself, actually camped. The rest of the leaders – John, Stuart, Alex, Peter and Holly, all slept indoors in the Mowgli. On the following day, they walked on to finish in Effingham.

Holly's Dad came to help transport back again. Thanks Clive! When the Minibus is sorted and sold, and a new one purchased, life will be easier! A good weekend and fine weather!

New Members/Investitures

Having invested Isabel, Alfie, Joshua and Reuben at the Snow Centre whilst we were at Summer camp, we needed to get everyone else invested too. The uniform bit was complicated as so many people had grown out of shirts and trousers during lockdown, some changed sections from Cubs to Scouts or Scouts to Explorers and I had to be a real nuisance asking parents to splash out, so we actually looked like a uniformed organisation again. The Troop really look quite smart now, I am glad to say.

Scouts invested since the last issue were Zac, Oliver, Lukas, Charlie and Tom. Sharfin and Warwick joined us officially from 6thTolworth.

We have also welcomed Nina and Kabishan who were left without a Troop at 2nd Hook. They both decided to join us instead of retaining their black and red scarves. We are pleased to have all of them with us.

It has been rather confusing having a large number of Young Leaders with us all term, or those who were hovering between Scouts and Explorers. Some have been working on completing their Chief Scout's Gold, others waiting for the new Explorer Scout Unit to open. Our Christmas Party, in a week's time as I write this, will be the last time we will all be together. Not that they are going far away... Atlas ESU will be meeting at Sparks Hall on Thursday nights. Giacomo and Matthew, Annouska and Livvy will be helping with Everest Cubs as Young Leaders and I hope Noah, Amelie and Jasmyn will be staying as Young Leaders with the Troop. Thomas will be a YL helping with Thames Colony.

We have also had a significant number of new adult Leaders join us but they are all known and we are very pleased to have them staying with us. Holly, Keira and Lex have all been invested as adult Leaders. Jamie is returning to us after a gap of several years away from Scouting. This sounds like a very large leadership team (Whoopee!) but as three of our number are trying to go abroad for all or part of the coming year, as well as some of the others involved in the new Atlas ESU as well as the Troop, the dynamics may easily change in the next few months. At least it means we can all have the occasional Friday night off, without feeling guilty. Watch this space...

Badges

After working on getting our Navigator badges up-to-date, I tackled the Nights Away, Hikes Away and Joining-In badges, to get uniforms looking as if we had been busy. We had badges earned in Lockdown to add – Fire Safety, Naturalist, Circus Skills and Great Indoors badges. Some people's arms look as if we had never been away! There were plenty of Challenge badges as well, especially to the older ones who are so close to those "Golds". We have tested Hobbies badges and awarded 23 in all. You are allowed to gain more than one of these badges, depending on how many interests you have. Artist badges have been tested by Stuart and Karen (Lex's Mum) and awarded to Zac, Shreya, Nina, Kabishan, Alfie, Joshua and Lukas. I think there will be a few more, if we have time during the party next week.

Jack Petchey Awards

Scouts can be nominated for Jack Petchey Awards when they receive a certificate, a pin badge, eventually a gold medal at the District ceremony and £250 to spend on the Troop. Our DSL (John) has presented those awarded in the last couple of years to Livvy, Annouska, Maddy and Federico. We have also three awarded this year to Shreya, Nina and Kabishan.

News in the next edition about the treats they chose.

Congratulations to all seven of you, even if rather belatedly, in some cases!

World Scout Jamboree 2023

The next World Scout Jamboree which are held every 4 years, will be in Summer 2023 in South Korea. Participants have to be between 14 and 18 years old at the time of the event to be eligible to go. You may remember that we had four members from 1st Tolworth attend the last one in America. Quite a number of the Troop and Explorers have applied to go this time but we will not know who has been selected until the New Year. If we are lucky enough to have some successful, we may all be needed to help them raise the money required. I wonder what schemes they will come up with? At the moment, all we can do is keep fingers crossed that some will be lucky!

Coming next

We can, all of us, predict what will happen this year but which of us will be correct? I hope that we will still be able to meet face-to-face, go on Camps, Expeditions and Competitions as we usually do! I am waiting until January to make decisions in the vain hope that we will have an idea of where the goalposts are by then. Whatever happens, you can be sure that the Troop will carry on, working hard and achieving goals throughout the year!

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

By the time you read this Christmas will be over but at the moment we are still debating 'Covid' under a new guise of 'Omicron' and wondering whether Christmas get togethers will be allowed.

Our Christmas Party due on 16th December was called off at the last minute so food is in the freezer waiting for an opportunity in 2022.

Cards were either hand delivered or posted. We just missed out on the chat.

Back to our November meeting. After the success of the picnic lunch in October, we again took our lunch to have before the meeting began.

The planned talk by Margaret and Graham had to be postponed because Margaret was hospitalised but Graham had compiled another quiz for us. As always, it proved to be taxing on the brain. The sheets of questions to answer contained some questions about films and music and kept us guessing for some while. Great fun! Thank you, Graham for sorting a programme once again. Glad to say Margaret is now home again.

Our AGM is due in February but because of the Covid rules it is unclear whether we will be able to meet up for this! Future dates will be notified!

We wish all members of the Group a VERY HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Pat Coxon