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

FOUNDED 1908

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

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

**OUT OF**

**WELCOME TO**

**ATLAS EXPLORERS**

**SCOUT UNIT**

**MEETS ON THURSDAYS**



**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1040958**

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**MARCH 2022**

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

**ISSUE No. 595**

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<b>Group Scout Leader</b>	John Bowman	<a href="mailto:gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk">gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk</a>
<b>Group Chair</b>	Martin Smith	<a href="mailto:chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com">chair1sttolworthscouts@btinternet.com</a>
<b>President</b>	Mrs Margaret Warry	<a href="mailto:margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk">margaret.warry@blueyonder.co.uk</a>

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### MARCH

**Tue 1**                    **Group Executive.** Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.  
**Tue 8**                    **Air Rifle Club.** Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00–20.00.  
**Sat 12-Sun 13**        **County Scouts Night Hike.**  
**Thu 17**                    **Circle.** (Voluntary) bring your lunch. Sparks Hall. 13.00-13.30.  
                               **Circle AGM.** 13.30 – 15.00.  
**Tue 22**                    **Air Rifle Club.** Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00–20.00.  
**Sat 26-Sun 27**        **Troop Expedition** for older members.

### APRIL

**Tue 5**                    **Group Executive.** Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.  
**Tue 12**                    **Air Rifle Club.** Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.  
**Thu 21**                    **Circle.**  
**Sun 24**                    **St. George's Day Service and Yearly Awards.**  
**Tue 26**                    **Air Rifle Club.** Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.  
**Fri 29-Mon 2/5**        **Troop Camp.** Buckmore Park Scout camp site, Chatham, Kent.

### MAY

**Tue 3**                    **Group Executive.** Sparks Hall. 20.00 for 20.15.  
**Tue 10**                    **Air Rifle Club.** Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.  
**Thu 19**                    **Circle.**  
**Tue 24**                    **Air Rifle Club.** Open to all from Cubs to Explorers. Sparks Hall. 19.00-20.00.

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

All contributions for the **MAY** issue of **OOTB** to be delivered **by 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
 to  
**SHEILA JONES, E-mail: [sheilamjones@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sheilamjones@blueyonder.co.uk)**

# *GSL'S REPORT*

Since my last report a lot has happened!

The big story for Scouting is that we have gone back to Green! This means we can go back to “normal” Scouting, if there is such a thing? All the sections can now meet inside or outside without any restrictions or distancing, but we still encourage everyone to be cautious and wear a face covering if they wish. Campsites are back to normal, so it is great that we can now get the young people doing the outdoor activities they enjoy.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Megan on receiving the “Chief Scouts Commendation for Meritorious Conduct”. This is a very rare award within Scouting as not many are presented. It can only be awarded with the Chief Scout’s agreement.

I think most of you know Megan and all the problems she has had ever since her accident. Megan has always done her best to carry on a normal life. This was never easy when you never knew when or where you would pass out!

All this changed when she got Rowley as her Assistance and Guide Dog. Rowley can alert Megan if she is going to pass out about ten minutes before it happens. This means she can get to somewhere she is safe. Through all this, not only has Megan continued to carry on Scouting but has been a big ambassador for Dog AID and many other charities.

There have been some changes at the Group with leaders now confirmed in their new roles at Cubs and Scouts. The Group have also decided on the new design of the Group’s website which is being built by Staxoweb. The design looks great. All we need to do now is set up the pages and add content, then it can go “live”.

Peter and Millie have restarted the Air Rifle Club at 1T. It meets at the hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and is open to all members from Cubs to Explorers. Remember, if you want to go, you will need a parental permission form filled in, so ask your Section Leader.

## Beaver Scout Colony

Rachel Ferris and Peter Keen have done a brilliant job in rebuilding a Beaver Colony from scratch. They now have 18 Beavers recorded on OSM which is brilliant!

Having been down to help a couple of times reminded me just how noisy they are, but I suppose that can be said for all sections. I know it’s not easy sometimes to manage that amount, so I am really pleased that Rachel has now set up a parent rota with five parents offering their help. A massive “Thankyou” to all concerned. The Beavers have been working hard on some badges and it seems as if some may be presented soon!!

## Cub Scout Pack

Megan and her Leadership team have done a great job with the Cub Pack. They have 20 Cubs on OSM and I know they have been working hard on badges.

The week I visited they were working hard to build castles from cardboard boxes. As they say, a little imagination goes a long way and some of the castles were VERY imaginative!

Megan has 4 Young Leaders helping her and she has told me on several occasions how brilliant they are! So I would like to say a big thank you to Matthew, Annouska, Livvy and Giacomo (Jack) to keep up the good work and thank you!

### Scout Troop

I know the Scouts are happy that we are back to Green as they have a load of things they want to get done, like expeditions, night hikes, weekend camps. The Scout Leadership team is now missing two people, Stuart and Alex. They have recently flown out to Australia to travel for a year and hopefully get to Japan at some point. I want to wish them both a great time and hope all goes well!

### Atlas Explorer Scout Unit

The first meeting went well on 6th January. Not many Explorers were there but this was down to a communication error. They have been meeting each week and have sorted out a programme of activities. Atlas is beginning to grow and like a tree, it has put out its roots and is now beginning to get bigger!

John Bowman  
Group Scout Leader  
[gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1sttolworthscouts.org.uk)

## *GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT*

Not much to report this month. I hope you all enjoyed the Half Term week in February.

Glad to see all the sections are back to normal meetings and welcome, and good luck, to Atlas Explorer Scout Unit.

We are getting the minibus back on the road. As you can imagine, sitting not used, for almost two years has obviously had a detrimental effect. However, Richard has managed to get the engine running and on Sunday 6th February, I joined Richard, John, Bob, Lee and Young Leader Maddy to give the bus a very much needed clean. Thanks to you all. There are still a couple of minor things to do before it's back on the road but we are getting there. Thank you Richard for all your efforts.

St. George's Day is fast approaching and as you know this is the day when all Scouts renew their Promise. As we appear to be returning to almost normal life, we will be holding a service to observe the day. For the three years before we were hit with the Covid epidemic, we were fortunate enough to be able to hold services at St. Matthew's Church which were great successes. Once again we are privileged to be able to hold a service at St. Matthew's Church. This will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Please don't forget that this is where we all get the chance to show how proud we are of 1<sup>st</sup> Tolworth (St. Matthew's) Scout Group.

As always, the Service will be followed by the usual yearly awards presentations held at the Surbiton Royal British Legion.

Further information and arrangements for this year's St George's Day Service and the Awards Presentations will come from your Section Leaders.

The next edition of Out Of The Blue will be in May. This will be the Group's Annual Report and will give you all time to read how the Group is performing before the Annual General Meeting to which you are all invited to attend. This will be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 20.00 at Sparks Hall.

All dates for March, April and May events are on the "Diary Of Events page".

***Proud to be 1<sup>st</sup>***  
*Martin Smith. Group Chair.*  
[chair1sttolworth@btinternet.com](mailto:chair1sttolworth@btinternet.com)

## *THAMES BEAVER SCOUTS REPORT*

This Term we have had three new Beavers join us in Thames Colony, so our Colony has grown to 17 members. We have also had 5 parents volunteer as Parent Helpers as part of a rota to assist us in meetings now that our Colony has grown.

Currently, the Beavers are working towards four Activity Badges - Cook, Health & Fitness, Money Skills and Collector. The Beavers have done well so far and only have a few requirements left to achieve. We hope to get all four badges signed off and awarded to eligible Beavers at the end of this Term.

So far the Beavers have learnt about healthy living and the history of money. In the coming weeks we will hear all about the Beaver's Collections that they will have spent at least 6 weeks collecting. We will also be cooking at least two more dishes, one sweet and one healthy.

They have lots of fun playing games each week, whether it's individually or as a part of their Lodges. Monkey Football, Dodgeball and Tug of War are particular favourites with the Beavers.

At Beavers we have Lodges - red, blue, orange, purple. We have a points system to reward Beavers for attending meetings, being in full uniform and often award/dock points for good and bad behaviour during meetings. The Lodges currently have the following number of points:

Red - 270

Blue - 375

Orange - 330

Purple - 455

Rachel Ferris  
Beaver Scout Leader  
*Thames Beaver Scout Colony*  
*Boys and Girls age 5 ¾ - 8*  
*Fridays 17.45 – 18.45*  
[beavers@lstdolworthscouts.org.uk](mailto:beavers@lstdolworthscouts.org.uk)

## *EVEREST CUB SCOUTS REPORT*

The Cubs kicked off the new year by working towards their Personal Challenge badges. This involved setting individual goals to work towards over the term and included things such as remembering to bring their scarf and woggle every week, running a mile, persevering with football practice, learning to swim and more. It has been great to hear about their progress and many are now close to completing their goals.

The following week we completed the Personal Safety badge which included learning about online safety, strangers, where to get help, safety codes, recognising danger and more. We did this through fun activities and games.

Perhaps the highlight of this term so far was introducing the Cubs to Air Rifle Shooting. Thank you to our wonderful instructors who came along to run this for us. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. In order to keep noise

to a minimum so that our shooters could concentrate, the Cubs worked through activity sheets when waiting for their turn which enabled many of them to also earn their Book Reader badge!

Our Sixers and Seconders had the wonderful idea of hosting a recycled cardboard castle building contest. This was brilliant fun and a fantastic opportunity for them to practice team work and leadership skills.

Lastly, we have been working towards the DIY badge by building bird houses. To complete their badge Cubs had to demonstrate how to take care of tools and use them safely, measure accurately, saw, use a hammer, screwdriver and drill, join wood in two different ways, and varnish or paint their projects. I am delighted with how these projects turned out. They look fantastic!

Thank you to our additional adult helpers and Young Leaders who came along to support us with this and to my dad and brother for lending us tools! Special thanks have to go to our wonderful Assistant Cub Scout Leader, Peter, who has dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to make this badge possible. Peter spent several days cutting 140 pieces of wood to create kits for the Cubs to nail and screw together. He sourced materials, helped me to complete a very thorough risk assessment and then spent several more days repairing and finishing off houses that didn't quite go to plan on the day. Peter's dedication is admirable and he is an invaluable member of our team. Thank you for all that you do!

We have lots more exciting activities planned for the rest of term and are looking forward to seeing everyone after the half term break.

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](mailto:megan.1sttolworthcubs@gmail.com)

## ***SCOUT TROOP REPORT***

Hi everyone!

Much to my relief, it looks like we are safe to try and get back to our usual routines, at long last. We did postpone our Christmas Party, as in the middle of December everything seemed very dangerous from a Covid point of view and a month later, things were looking much better. We now have the “green light” from Scout HQ to carry on as before, so we will!

Now that Atlas ESU has started meeting, the Hall is not quite so full on Friday evenings. Not that I don't miss all the Explorers who have “gone up”, as individuals, but a bit more space is useful. We still have Amelie, Jasmyn and Noah helping as Young Leaders. Annouska and Livvy have been around a few times too, finishing off the last bits for their “Gold”. They are so nearly there now!

As to leaders, we have temporarily lost Stuart and Alex. They have, as threatened, managed to escape to Australia for a year. Judging by the pictures on Facebook, they are having a super time in the summer “down under”. We will be pleased to see them back in 2023.

### **Newcomers etc.**

With all the coming and going, we have re-organised the Patrols and brought back Woodpecker Patrol. Our Patrol Leaders are now Federico, Kabi, Nina, Shreya and Maddy. A good team, I think.

We have been pleased to welcome Esme and Lucy who have now been invested. Esme used to be a member of 2<sup>nd</sup> Tolworth but they have not been able to re-open their Troop since Lockdown. Lucy has been a Brownie and a Guide. Both bring good skills with them. We have also been joined by Chanel, Emily and Raghav from 2nd Hook Cub Pack. We hope to get them into uniform soon.

We are anticipating more newbies in March – 4 from Everest and 2 more from 2<sup>nd</sup> Hook Cub Packs. Excellent! Just in time for the camping season!

### **Friday Nights etc.**

We enjoyed our “parting of the ways” Christmas Party with Quadrant, using the Beaver’s Snowballs (thanks Rachel), Spoons Relay with especially decorated wooden spoons and Pass the Parcel – quite a few parcels, actually.

Since then, we have been brushing up on mapping skills and teamwork and created a new Code of Conduct for the Troop. We started making Bee Hotels. Well, actually, they are not confined to Bees. Any insects are welcome. The Hotels took longer than we thought, so they still need finishing off before visitors are expected!

The Scouts have also been looking at the amount of food that gets wasted and keeping a diary for a fortnight, trying to improve in the second week. This is no criticism of family catering, just trying to make them more aware of what we all can do to use the earth’s resources more carefully. All towards World Challenge, of course!

### **Badges**

More Artist badges - Livvy, Evannah, Reuben and Tom. They are now working on Sports Enthusiast which is about following your favourite sport, not actually doing it. I love this. All I have to do is to find some people to test them!

Annouska, Maddy and Shreya completed Expedition Challenge from last autumn.

### **Jack Petchey Awards**

Federico has been presented with his Gold Medal, as there wasn’t a District presentation last autumn. Nina, Kabi and Shreya SHOULD receive theirs next November.

### **World Scout Jamboree 2023**

In the end, seven of our young people put themselves forward to join this amazing opportunity. Unlike previous years, they attended a “taster “ day at 1<sup>st</sup> Hook and, at the end of the afternoon, decided whether this was what they wanted to sign up for, or not. The young people who were offered places was decided by ballot. All those who were unsuccessful had a chance to put themselves forward for the last two “County Commissioner’s Choice” places.

None of our young people was successful in gaining a place. I haven’t heard about the CC’s Choice so I presume we didn’t manage to get either of those. This is disappointing for all of them but full marks for putting yourselves forward. “Nothing ventured, nothing gained” as they say!

### **Coming Next**

Megan and Rowley coming to talk about Disability Awareness, Orienteering, Cooking on Trangias.

We still have our two treats - The Big Apple, Working for Laserquest & bowling and a meal out at Nandos. (I am rather waiting until we have a minibus on the road to make, certainly the former, easier.)

County Night Hike – looks like we might have two teams entering this annual event.

Expedition – Tolworth – Polyapes – Effingham – Tolworth – for the older members of the Troop.

Troop Camp at May Day Bank Holiday (29 April – 2 May) at Buckmore Park, Kent.

Archery Nationals at Phasels Wood for those who are in the Archery Club.

Summer Camp definitely Saturday 24 – 31 July. Venue still to be confirmed.

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  
[marsden697@btinternet.com](mailto:marsden697@btinternet.com)

## ***CIRCLE REPORT***

Our Circle Secretary, Pat Coxon, has been our OOTB Report writer for over 20 years and due to health problems she has decided to put her pen and notepaper away in a drawer! I must offer her a grateful THANK YOU for her loyalty in sending in her contribution for each OOTB. Bravo!!

I will write a few words this time whilst counting down the hours to my long-awaited operation on Valentine's Day at St. George's hospital, Tooting.

The postponed Christmas lunch from December was moved to the 17th February but because I would be in a T.L.C. post-op condition, the date is now the 24th of the month. On Thursday 17th March it will be our Annual General Meeting, the first since 2019. We'll need some ideas from members to put together a monthly programme and also suggestions of places of interest to visit.

Margaret Warry  
Vice Chair

## ***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  
Vice Chair

## ***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 kept in Sparks Hall. Thank you.

We also accept donations of unwanted uniforms.

Brenda Pawley