

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

WWW.1STHOLGATESCOUTGROUP.ORG.UK



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The new Scouting year is officially underway, and we're ready for exciting camps, pioneering projects, and community action!

Looking to make a difference this year and want to volunteer? If you or someone you know is looking for fun, friendship, and new skills, the time to join is now. Don't miss out on the adventure - Contact a section leader today, and let's make 2026 the best year yet!

HELP US KICK OFF OUR 2026 FUNDRAISING!

We are heading to Tesco Clifton Moor on Saturday 7th February for a group bag pack to support 1st Holgate's ongoing activities. We need a team of both young people and adults to help throughout the day—slots are just one hour long, and you are welcome to sign up for as many as you'd like. This is a simple but vital way to support our Scout family, so please grab a slot at the link below and help us make our first event of the year a huge success!

Sign up here:

www.volunteersignup.org/CQW73

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? WHY NOT VOLUNTEER?

SUPPORT US WITH EASYFUNDRAISING!

Easyfundraising is the simplest way to support 1st Holgate! Think of it as effortless fundraising: once you sign up, everything you buy online from selected retailers automatically generates a free donation for our group. You shop as normal, the price stays the same, and we get a percentage of the spend - it's that easy! Every penny helps us fund equipment and activities, so please sign up today; it's a completely free way to help us reach our goals this year: <https://bit.ly/49whRca>

Support us through
easyfundraising

NEXT ISSUE... DUE W/C 23RD FEBRUARY

WE ARE A NUT FREE GROUP!

1st Holgate Scout Group has many young people and volunteers with allergies. Please do not send any products containing nuts to Scout meetings and events.

Volunteers Christmas Party!

Our incredible volunteer team took a well-deserved break to celebrate the festive season together at our annual Christmas party.

The atmosphere was fantastic as we swapped our uniforms for party wear and gathered to enjoy a delicious curry and a few drinks. It was a brilliant opportunity to relax, laugh, and catch up outside of our regular duties. The highlight of the evening had to be a surprise visit from Santa himself, who took on the special task of sharing out the hilarious gifts during our Secret Santa exchange!



This social gathering perfectly illustrates one of the hidden, yet most rewarding, benefits of volunteering: the chance to build genuine friendships. When you dedicate your time to a shared mission, you don't just become colleagues; you become a community. From our curry night to future spontaneous social outings, these occasions forge strong bonds that make the hard work feel easy. If you're looking for a rewarding way to give back while also expanding your social circle and making new friends, our team is waiting to welcome you - the adventure goes far beyond our usual meetings!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Could you be the missing link we need?

- Finance and Fundraising Support
- Administration Support
- Equipment Support
- Transport Support
- Adult support across all sections



Volunteer NOW!



info@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk



www.1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk

MOVERS AND STARTERS!

WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY JOINED US AT 1ST HOLGATE AND TO THOSE WHO ARE MOVING UP A SECTION!



Percy, Oscar and James join Buttermere Squirrels.

Jesse, Emma and Sofia join Windermere Squirrels

Randall, William, George, Martha, Bella and Robyn join Montana Beavers.

Freddie and Charlie join Dakota Beavers. Robin, Austin, George and Theo join Oregon Beavers.

Alyssa joins Phoenix Cubs. Ethan, Harry, Lucas and Esmee join Griffin Cubs.

At Scouts, Sophie joins Hadrian. Jack joins Severus. Eban and Jasmine join Constantine.

Squirrels Adventures!

Last term, the Squirrels were busy engineering some incredible structures, working towards their Build It Badge!

The Squirrels showed off some impressive teamwork and creativity, using their imaginations to turn a pile of materials into a village of fantastic dens. From cosy hideouts made of blankets and chairs to intricate, towering Duplo constructions! It was wonderful to see the Squirrels focusing so hard on their designs and learning how to make their structures sturdy and strong. A huge well done to all our budding architects for earning their badges with such flair!



Double the Festive Fun!

The fun reached a whole new level recently as our Squirrels and Beavers joined groups from across the York District for a massive joint celebration. It was a fantastic opportunity for our youngest members to see just how big the Scouting family is! The venue was buzzing with energy as they enjoyed an afternoon packed with games, music, and plenty of festive treats, and even Santa had time to stop by and say Ho Ho Ho!

The Squirrels also enjoyed a more relaxed vibe as both of our Squirrel Dreys came together for a special joint movie night. The hall was transformed into a sea of blankets and cushions as the Squirrels snuggled up to watch a film together. No cinema experience is complete without snacks, and the Squirrels did a great job of "grazing" while they watched. It was a lovely, festive evening that gave both Dreys a chance to bond and share some time together before the Christmas break.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND SQUIRRELS WAITING LIST

1st March: Church Parade,
Holgate Methodist Church, see
OSM for details

26th April: St George's Day
Parade. Details to follow

12th-14th June: Group Camp:
Details to follow

See page 9 for more dates

Squirrels Waiting list

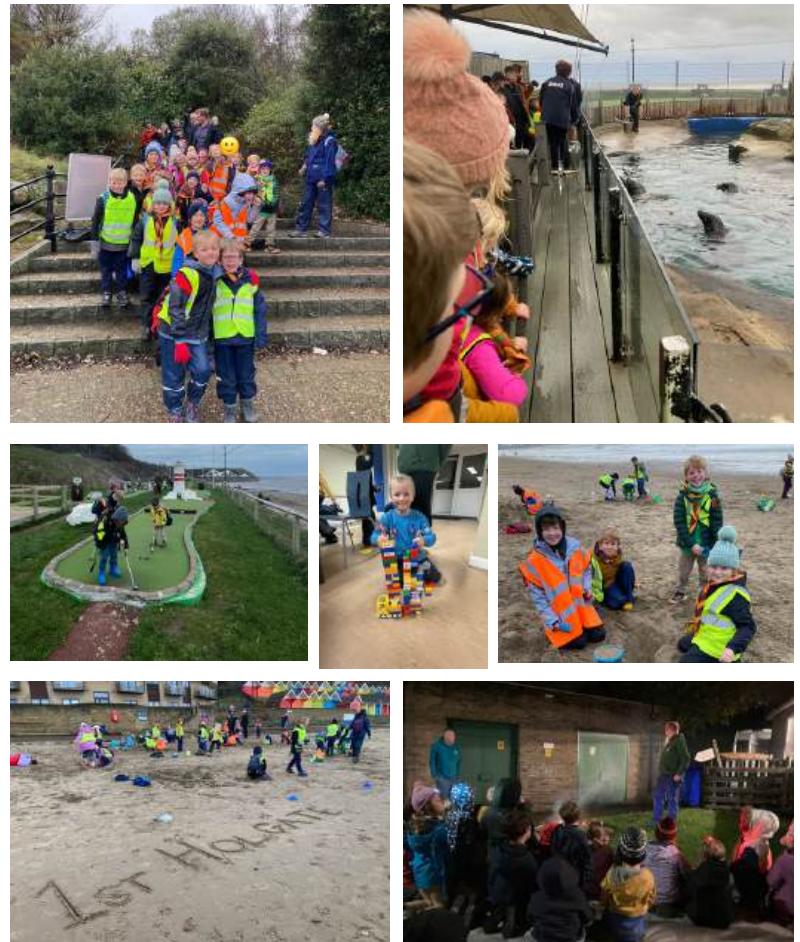
We have two very popular Squirrel dreys that meet Monday and Saturday. Our waiting list is growing and we are having to turn away new requests for children who are already of age to join. We appreciate how disappointing this can be so please remember if you, your family or friends have young family members that might be interested in Squirrels in the future don't wait! Sign up now to avoid disappointment as before you know it, they're turning four!! Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/4h5N7PZ>

Scarborough Seaside Spectacular!

Last term, the Beavers certainly didn't let a bit of cold and windy weather dampen their spirits during our two-night Scarborough Seaside Spectacular indoor camp!

From the moment we arrived, the energy was high as the Beavers dove into a jam-packed itinerary of coastal fun. The weekend was a whirlwind of activity, featuring everything from testing their aim at archery and competitive rounds of mini golf to exploring the underwater wonders of the Sea Life Centre.

Of course, no trip to the seaside is complete without sandcastle building on the beach and a traditional campfire to warm everyone up. It was wonderful to see so many young people embracing the challenge of two nights away from home and enjoying every single minute. In fact, the feedback from the Beavers was unanimous: the official rating for the weekend was infinity/10!



A Cosy Christmas at 1st Holgate Beavers!

The Beavers wrapped up the year with our festive movie night! The hall was transformed into a giant, cosy den as the Beavers arrived dressed in their favourite pyjamas, armed with an impressive collection of blankets, bean bags, and cushions. It was a wonderful sight to see everyone snuggled down and getting comfortable for our special screening of Arthur Christmas.

The festive atmosphere was completed with a feast of margherita pizza and chips, followed by a delicious pudding. It was the perfect way to celebrate a fantastic year of Scouting!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE DATES

Beaver Sleepover: date TBC, £10, Holgate Methodist

1st March: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church, see OSM for details

w/c 9th March: Bring an adult night

26th April: St George's Day Parade. Details to follow

12th-14th June: Group Camp: Details to follow

Tell your friends!! We currently have limited spaces at Beavers:

Fri - 5.45pm - 7.00pm. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School

Register:

info@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk

Strikes, Spares, and "6 and 7"

The Beavers and Cubs teamed up for a fantastic evening at Ten Pin bowling last term, proving that they are just as skilled at hitting pins as they are at earning badges! The atmosphere was great as the two sections mixed for some friendly competition across the lanes. Of course, "6 and 7" quickly became the catchphrase of the night, leaving the Beavers and Cubs laughing and the volunteers less so after the joke was repeated 67 times by each child!

It was brilliant to see the older and younger members bonding so well, sharing plenty of laughs and high-fives. Whether they were bowling strikes or gutter balls, everyone had a great time!



Windmills, Panto Dames and Party Games

It's been an action-packed term for our Cubs, filled with local history, theatrical flair, and plenty of festive fun! One of the real highlights was our visit to the iconic Holgate Windmill. It was fantastic for the Cubs to explore this incredible piece of local history right on our doorstep, learning how the sails turn and how grain becomes flour - all while taking in the best views of York!

The creativity didn't stop there, as the Cubs took to the stage for a Panto Workshop hosted by Bagheera. The hall was filled with laughter as the Cubs embraced the spirit of the season, with plenty of budding "Dames" stealing the show with their hilarious performances and theatrical energy. It was brilliant to see them build their confidence and showcase their sense of humour in such a fun, hands-on way.

To wrap up a wonderful year, all our Cubs joined together for an end-of-term party. The evening was a whirlwind of classic Scout games, high-energy challenges, and, of course, a festive spread of party food to fuel the fun. It was the perfect way to celebrate all their achievements from the term and send everyone off into the Christmas break with big smiles!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

7th Feb: Fundraising Bag Pack at Tesco, Clifton Moor. Details on OSM, please sign up now.

13th-15th February: Winter Camp, Snowball. Camping is indoors, invites sent on OSM.

1st March: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church, see OSM for details

26th April: St George's Day Parade. Details to follow

WE NEED CUB HELPERS

Like all our sections across 1st Holgate, we too are in need of volunteers to support our activities and the current team of volunteers.

We are a friendly bunch, get in touch with a leader or email chris.rodaway@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk if you can help us in any way.

Teamwork in Action

Last term, the Scouts were working towards their earning their Teamwork Challenge Badge, and they were pushed out of their comfort zone with a series of high-stakes activities. From cracking the case during a suspenseful Murder Mystery night to tackling the AP Challenge, the Scouts had to communicate clearly and think on their feet.

We also held a Debate Night, where the group practised the art of respectful disagreement and collaborative problem-solving. It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they learn that we achieve much more together than we do alone.

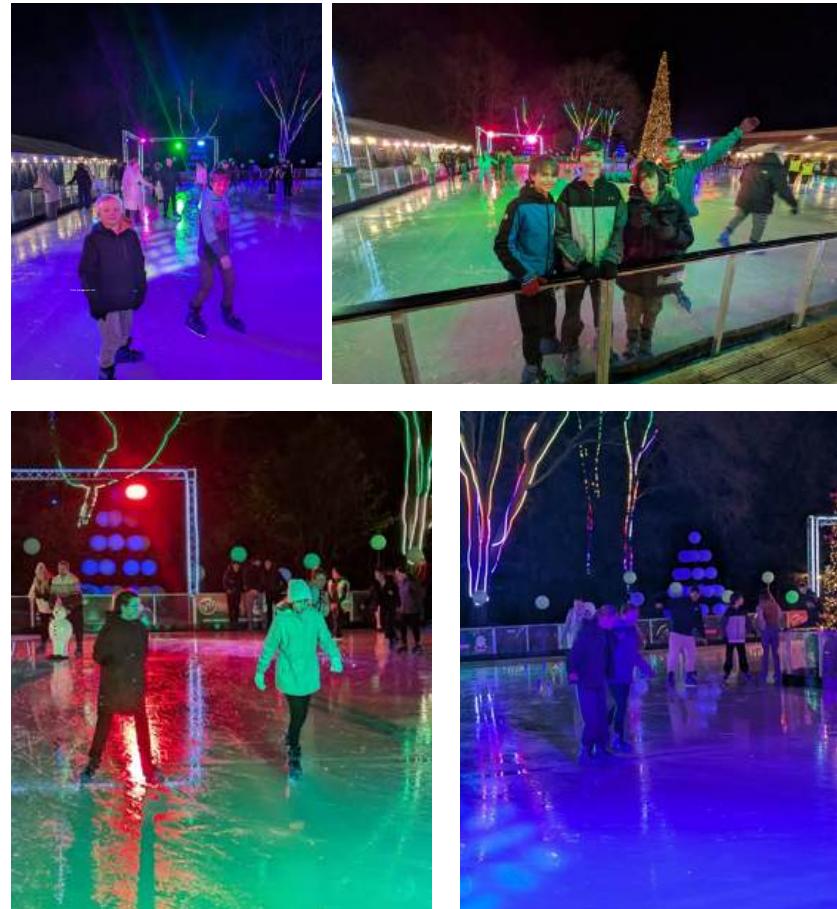


Scouts Take to the Ice!

Last term, our Scout section swapped their hiking boots for skates as they headed to Yorkshire Winter Wonderland for a fantastic evening on the ice! It was brilliant fun all round, with the Scouts showing great spirit as they navigated the rink.

While there were definitely a few spectacular wipeouts along the way, everyone took the tumbles in their stride with plenty of laughter. Once the session was over, we headed for some well-earned warmth to defrost, enjoying mugs of hot chocolate piled high with cream, accompanied by a generous serving of cookies.

It was the perfect way to celebrate the end of a busy term with friendship and a festive chill!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

7th Feb: Fundraising Bag Pack at Tesco, Clifton Moor. Details on OSM, please sign up now.

13th-15th Feb: Winter Camp, details TBC

1st March: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church, see OSM for details

26th April: St George's Day Parade. Details to follow

12th-14th June: Group Camp: Details to follow

WE NEED SCOUT HELPERS

Like all our sections across 1st Holgate, we too are in need of volunteers to support our activities and the current team of volunteers.

We are a friendly bunch, get in touch with a leader or email chris.rodaway@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk if you can help us in any way.

Braving the Elements: Fires and Ice!

Last term was a busy and adventurous term for our Explorer Scouts! The group headed to Snowball, where they put their outdoor skills to the test by mastering fire-lighting techniques and cooking over open flames.

The adventure continued with a trip to the Yorkshire Winterland, where the unit took to the ice for an evening of skating. It's been great to see the Explorers building their confidence outdoors - and on the rink - while developing the practical skills that Scouting is all about.



Winter Fun with 1st Holgate Explorers

The Explorers wrapped up a fantastic term with a festive Christmas party! It was a brilliant evening of games, music, and food, giving the unit a well-earned chance to relax and socialise together after a busy few months of activities. The party was the perfect way to celebrate the group's achievements and cap off the year with plenty of festive spirit before the Christmas break.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

16-18 January 2026. Winter camp (indoors)
7th Feb: Fundraising Bag Pack at Tesco, Clifton Moor. Details on OSM, please sign up now.
8th Feb: Denmark bowling and Laser Party
1st March: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church, see OSM for details
6-8 March 2026. District Explorer Camp
See page 9 for the full calendar

WE NEED EXPLORER HELPERS

Like all our sections across 1st Holgate, we too are in need of volunteers to support our activities and the current team of volunteers.

We are a friendly bunch, get in touch with a leader or email chris.rodaway@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk if you can help us in any way.

Calendar of Events

Below are proposed events that we are hoping to run throughout the year, we have listed these here to help you plan and afford any associated costs.

Squirrels

- **12th-14th June:** Group Camp: Details to follow
- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Beavers

- **12th-14th June:** Group Camp: Details to follow
- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Cubs

- **1st-4th May:** County Club Camp: Details to follow
- **12th-14th June:** Group Camp: Details to follow
- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **16-18th October:** Cub Camp: Indoor at Blackpool: Details to follow
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Scouts

- **12th-14th June:** Group Camp: Details to follow
- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Explorers

- **3-5 July 2026.** Practice camp (Denmark participants only)
- **12th-14th June:** Group Camp: Details to follow
- **3rd-5th July:** Final Denmark Preparation Camp
- **18-26 July 2026.** Denmark International Jamboree
- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Group Directory

In case you need to contact any of our Lead Volunteers or Team Leaders, we have compiled a list of their email addresses below. It is important to keep in mind that all of these individuals are volunteers and may not be able to respond immediately. However, they will do their best to reply to your message as soon as possible.



Group Lead Volunteer	Chris Rodaway	chris.rodaway@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Squirrels	Laura Kay	laura.kay@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Beavers	Katy Colbert	katy.colbert@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Cubs	Charlotte McCarthy	charlotte.mccarthy@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Scouts	Steve Wragg	steve.wragg@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Explorers + Young Leaders	Nick Beckett	nick.beckett@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Adult Support	Chris Calpin	chris.calpin@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Support	TBC	
Team Leaders		
Windermere Squirrels	Helen Roskell	helen.roskell@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Buttermere Squirrels	Laura Kay	laura.kay@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Montana Beavers	Natalie Bell	natalie.bell@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Dakota Beavers	Nancy Rhodes	nancy.rhodes@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Oregon Beavers	David McKenna	david.mckenna@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Phoenix Cubs	Andy Graham	andy.graham@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Pegasus Cubs	Poppy McCarthy	poppy.mccarthy@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Griffin Cubs	Charlotte McCarthy	charlotte.mccarthy@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Hadrian Scouts	Steve Wragg	steve.wragg@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Severus Scouts	Bexi Denison-Smith	bexi.denison-smith@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Constantine Scouts	Dave Rycroft	dave.rycroft@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Explorers - Loki and Odin	Nick Beckett	nick.beckett@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk

