

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

WWW.1STHOLGATESCOUTGROUP.ORG.UK



WELCOME

It has been an incredibly action-packed term across all our sections, filled with outdoor adventures, creative challenges, and new skills. From our youngest Squirrels celebrating their 5th birthday to our Explorers navigating the mysteries of a "Traitors" camp, our members have been busy exploring the great outdoors and giving back to the community. We hope you enjoy reading about their recent highlights and achievements.

See page 2 for some exciting DofE news!!!

JOIN OUR NEW WHATSAPP CHANNELS!

We have launched several WhatsApp channels to enhance communication for 1st Holgate! One of these is our new "Friends of 1st Holgate" group, which serves as an informal support team for anyone interested in helping out, whether it's washing tea towels or assisting at meetings. Everyone is welcome to join! Additionally, we have created individual section channels for quick updates and to address any questions you may have. Please check your email for the joining links. While OSM and email will continue to be our primary sources for official news, these WhatsApp groups are ideal for swift answers and timely updates!

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 13TH APRIL

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.

Did you know?



Scouting can support Young People to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award?

DofE is a voluntary youth development program for ages Year 9 -24, supporting young people to complete their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, structured into four sections:

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skill
- Expedition or Residential.

Learn more about the Duke of Edinburgh Award: <https://bit.ly/3MRxjXF>

Much like Scouting, this has many benefits for your Young Person, such as building confidence, resilience, and essential life skills like teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership. In addition, many DofE activities directly fulfill requirements for Scouting's top awards, like the Platinum, Diamond, and King's Scout Awards, which your Explorer Leader will support you in identifying.

1st Holgate is proposing to run a DofE Bronze group in parallel with our Explorer Units commencing this year.

If your Young Person is interested in completing their DofE Bronze award as part of the Explorer group, you can register your interest here: <https://bit.ly/4u5Um1B>

It is likely they will also be offered the opportunity to complete their Bronze Award in school; you may have missed this school year's enrollment, or your Young Person might feel that it would be a better fit to tackle this challenge in a Scouting context.

Need to know:

- A provisional date for the Expedition has been set for 15th-16th August 2026. A training programme will be arranged, potentially as part of the programmed Explorer calendar.
- There is a national participation fee of approximately £30 to £40, which will be arranged once a group or groups of between 4 and 7 participants have expressed interest.
- Expedition fees will be in keeping with other Explorer nights away fees.
- Some communication about the Duke of Edinburgh would be via OSM if your Young Person enrolls via Scouts/ Explorers, but fulfilment of evidence for DofE is managed via eDofE, which would be set up once a viable interest has been expressed.
- In addition to the expedition, the other three sections of the Bronze Award are equally important. These will require commitment from your Young Person for between 3 and 6 months of regular participation.

Next steps:

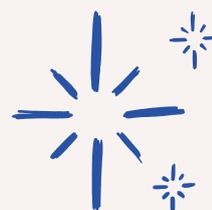
- Watch the DofE information video with your Young Person: <https://bit.ly/3MRxjXF>
- Do they have any ideas of ways they can fulfil their three sections
- Fill out the Google Form here: <https://bit.ly/4u5Um1B>

1ST HOLGATE SCOUT GROUP

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



www.facebook.com/groups/1stHolgate

MOVERS AND STARTERS!

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



Freddie and Kyland join
Buttermere Squirrels.
Martha joins
Windermere Squirrels.

Denzic joins Dakota
Beavers and Barnaby
joins Oregon
Beavers.

Earnie, Arlo
and Marabelle
join Phoenix Cubs

James, Elliot and
Lucas join Severus
Scouts

Geroge
joins Constantine
Scouts.

Theo joins
Loki Explorers and
Eliza joins
Odin Explorers.

To Infinity and Beyond!

Last term, our youngest scouts turned their eyes to the skies as they worked toward their Space Explorers badge.

It was a jam-packed session of discovery where the Squirrels studied famous star formations and learned to identify different constellations. We also took a trip through the solar system, thinking about the unique characteristics of each planet and learning all about the changing phases of the moon.

It was wonderful to see their curiosity take flight as they began to understand the vast universe around us.

Great work, Space Explorers!



Happy Birthday Squirrels!

We marked a very special double celebration last term!

Not only was it National Squirrel Appreciation Day on the 21st January, but we are also celebrating five years of Squirrel Scouts!

To mark this milestone birthday, our drey's got busy in the kitchen making some delicious celebratory biscuits. The best part? To commemorate five years of adventure, every Squirrel will receive a special birthday badge which they can wear proudly on their uniform for the rest of the year.

Happy 5th Birthday to all our Squirrels. Here's to many more years of fun and friendship!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND SQUIRRELS WAITING LIST

27th March: Squirrel Sleepover

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>

Beavers Reach for the Stars on Hob Moor

Our Beavers enjoyed a brilliant evening hike last term, trekking from Holgate all the way to the open skies of Hob Moor.

The night provided the perfect backdrop for our young explorers to learn about the wonders of the night sky. With heads turned upwards, the colony practised identifying the North Star and spotting famous constellations like the Big Dipper and searching for different planets.

We discussed how stars are used for navigation and even talked about the different phases of the moon. It was a fantastic way to combine some healthy exercise with a bit of cosmic discovery - well done to all our Beavers for showing such great curiosity and hiking spirit!



Beavers Tackle Winter Wildlife and the Power of Friendship

The Beavers have been incredibly busy lately, starting with a brilliant project to support our local wildlife. The Beavers showed off some truly fantastic engineering skills by designing and building bird feeders entirely from recycled materials. There were some ingenious ideas on display to ensure our feathered friends stay well-fed and watered throughout the winter months!

In addition to their environmental work, the Beavers spent a meaningful evening exploring the importance of kindness and community. They celebrated these bonds by crafting some wonderful friendship bracelets to share.

To top off a productive few weeks, everyone has been working hard towards their Disability Awareness badge, gaining a better understanding of the world around them.

Great work, Beavers, you should be very proud of your creativity and your kindness!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE DATES

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

11th-13th Sept: Beaver FamJam, details to follow

See page 9 for more dates

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

Penguin Night at Cubs!

It was a "cool" night at Griffin Cubs this week as we dove headfirst into Penguin Night! The pack braved the "Antarctic" conditions to learn all about these amazing flightless birds through a series of chilly challenges and active games. From mastering the famous penguin waddle to learning how they huddle together to stay warm in the freezing cold, the Cubs showed great teamwork and spirit. We explored the different species of penguins and discovered how they survive in some of the harshest environments on Earth. It was a brilliant, fun-filled evening that proved our Cubs are definitely "cool" under pressure!



Camp in a Year!

What a fantastic way to end the term, with a weekend of "Good old Cub camp" fun!

We managed to squeeze an entire calendar of celebrations into one trip, visiting every holiday and season you could imagine. The Cubs were non-stop from start to finish - baking delicious biscuits, getting creative with seasonal crafts, and testing our skills with wide games. We even mastered some traditional Backwoods cooking over the fire! Between playing loads of games and enjoying some truly great food, it was a jam-packed adventure that brought the best of the scouting spirit to every "season" of the weekend.

Well done to everyone involved!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

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

1st-4th May: County Cub Camp: Details to follow

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

See page 9 for more dates

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.

From Burns Night to Stop-Motion Magic!

The Scouts had a brilliantly creative term, with a traditional Burns Night celebration complete with haggis! The group then rolled up their sleeves for some hands-on craftwork, with everyone designing and crafting their own custom woggles. One of the real highlights of the term was seeing the Scouts' "fantastic stop-motion creativeness" come to life; they worked in teams to storyboard, build sets, and film their own mini-movies using stop-motion animation.

To wrap up their outdoor requirements, the scouts headed to Snowball, where they spent the evening practising essential campfire skills - perfecting their fire-lighting techniques and, of course, enjoying some traditional campfire songs.



Adventure's at Sconce Scout Campsite!

The Scouts had an action-packed weekend at Sconce Scout Campsite in Shipley, where the weather kept everyone on their toes!

Upon arrival, we were treated to Jamie's now-legendary "epic" hot chocolate, and hot dogs supper, which was the perfect way to warm up as we settled into camp.

We experienced a real mix of British weather, including a dusting of snow that led to a small snowball fight.

When we weren't dodging snowballs, the Scouts were testing their balance and bravery on the crate-stacking and climbing course, showing fantastic teamwork to build their towers as high as possible.

It was a brilliant weekend of traditional scouting adventure and resilience!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

21st-22nd March: Scout Camp, Snowball. Details on OSM

28th March: Districk Engineering Day. Details on OSM

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.

Teamwork in Action

Explorers headed to the BBC York studios for an exciting behind-the-scenes look at the world of broadcasting. The groups enjoyed a fascinating tour of the professional studios, learning exactly what it takes to bring local news and radio to life. The highlight of the evening was getting hands-on in the recording booths, where the Explorers stepped into the roles of presenters and producers to create their very own podcasts. From mastering the equipment to finding their "radio voices," it was a brilliant night of digital creativity and a fantastic insight into the media industry!



The Traitors: Bramhope Edition

The Explorers took over Bramhope Scout Camp for a weekend of mystery, suspicion, and high-octane adventure with their very own Traitors-themed camp! While players tried to sniff out the "Traitors" among the group, there was plenty of action to keep the "Faithful" busy.

The weekend was packed with adrenaline, from racing around the track in go-karts to finding the mark with archery and testing their balance on the crate-climbing stack. Of course, no strategy session is complete without a bit of fuel, and there was plenty of delicious cake to go around between rounds of accusations and challenges. It was a brilliant mix of tactical gameplay and classic outdoor scouting fun - well done to everyone for making it through the weekend without getting "banished!"



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

31 March: District Youth Forum (invite only)

12-14 June 2026. Group Camp

25 June: Junior Warrior

3-5 July 2026. Practice camp (Denmark participants only)

18-26 July 2026. Denmark International Jamboree

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

- **15-16 August:** DofE Bronze Expedition (provisional)
- **18-20 September:** Ignite (provisional - depends on Leader/adult support)
- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **17-18 October:** Escape 24-hour wide game
- **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
Deputy Group Lead Volunteer	Chris Calpin	chris.calpin@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
Section 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	Phin Petherick	phin.petherick@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

