

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

WWW.1STHOLGATESCOUTGROUP.ORG.UK



WELCOME

It's been a whirlwind of activity here at 1st Holgate, and we are incredibly proud of everything our young people have achieved over the last few months.

As we look ahead to a busy summer of camps and community events, we want to say a huge thank you to the parents and volunteers who make this all possible. Grab a cuppa, enjoy the updates from across the sections, and please take a look at our upcoming fundraising date, we'd love to have you on board!

FUNDRAISING - DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Fundraising is vital to keep our group running and our adventures affordable.

- Saturday 23rd May: Leeman Road Community Day – Helping on our refreshment stand.
- Sunday 28th June: West Bank Park Fair – Running our Loaded Fries Van, serving refreshments, and general event support.

Whether you can give an hour or the whole day, every bit of help counts!

Please contact simon.tayloy@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk to join the team.



Support us through
easyfundraising

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>

NEXT ISSUE... DUE W/C 1ST JUNE

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.

YOUNG VOICES

BEAVERS

EDITION



Paws, Pointers, and Signing:

1st Holgate Beavers Welcome Hearing Dog, Gretta!

The Beavers were absolutely fascinated to meet her and to learn how she helps her owner with everyday tasks. They were quiet as mice as they listened to all the ways Gretta provides life-changing support.

They learned that Gretta:

- **Is an Alarm Clock:** She gently wakes her owner up in the morning by nudging them when their alarm clock vibrates!
- **Is a Safety Sentinel:** If the fire alarm sounds, Gretta doesn't bark - she goes to her owner and takes her downstairs, and her owner can then determine a safe route out of the building.
- **Is an Oven Timer:** She helps with cooking by "alerting" her owner when the oven timer goes off, letting them know the food is ready.

A Night of Curiosity (and Smiles!)

The Beavers had lots of questions, showing just how engaged they were. The curiosity was flowing, from practical questions about Gretta's job to the most important question of all:

"Is she a boy or a girl?" (She's a girl!).

The Beavers were incredibly calm, respectful, and showed Gretta lots of gentle love. Their behaviour was a real credit to the group.

The night concluded with big, beaming smiles all around. Well done, Beavers - here are just some of the comments from the night!

"Gretta was so cool! I can't believe she knows exactly what to do for a fire alarm. It was the best night!"

"I liked learning how to sign my name with my fingers. It's like a secret language!"

"I loved stroking Gretta, she was so soft. It was amazing how she wakes her owner up without making a sound!"

"It was the most brilliant night ever. Can Gretta come back every week?"

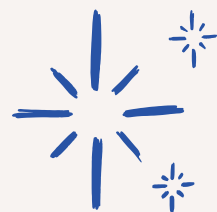
There was extra excitement at Beavers last term, as we were joined by a very special (and very furry) guest: Gretta, a hearing dog! Her visit was timed perfectly with British Sign Language (BSL) Week, giving the Beavers a unique, hands-on understanding of communication, independence, and amazing animals. The evening started with fingers flying, as the colony learned the BSL alphabet. They practised hard and were soon able to fingerspell their own names - a brilliant and useful new skill for everyone.

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!



Vincent, Otis, Thomas,
Charlie and George join
Buttermere Squirrels.

Lawrence, Leonard,
Leo and Jayden join
Windermere
Squirrels

Poppy and
Foster join
Montana Beavers.

Bobby, Toby, William,
Mathilda and Juniper
join Dakota Beavers.

Emma and Albert
join Oregon Beavers.
Sam, Iris and Robin
join Phoenix Cubs.

Ralph, Jack, Matthew
and Monty join
Pegasus Cubs.

MOVERS AND STARTERS!

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



Aria and Ullises join Hadrian Scouts. Sam and Roman join Severus Scouts.

Finn, Arthur and Zachary join Constantine Scouts. Nathaniel joins Loki Explorers.

Brogan, Annabel, Bailey, Laura and Emily join Odin Explorers.

HELP AT OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS

To keep our adventures going and our equipment up to scratch, we rely on fundraising at local community events - and we can't do it without our amazing volunteers! We have two big dates coming up and are looking for helpers to join the team:

- Saturday 23rd May: Leeman Road Community Day. We need volunteers to help man our refreshment stand.
- Sunday 28th June: West Bank Park Fair. This is a big one! We need help running our refreshments and our Loaded Fries Van, as well as general support throughout the day.

Whether you can spare an hour or the whole afternoon, your time makes a huge difference to the Group. If you can lend a hand, please get in touch with Simon Taylor to sign up (simon.taylor@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk).

Let's make these events a massive success for the Scouts!



Squirrels' St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Last term, both Dreys had a fantastic time celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

The Squirrels fully embraced the Irish spirit, filling the hall with music and energy as they joined in with some lively Ceilidh dancing.

Alongside the music, the Squirrels got stuck into themed crafts, creating some brilliant masterpieces to take home.

It was a wonderful highlight of the term, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to Elaine and Rowan for organising such a fun and engaging programme for both groups!



Exploring New Worlds at Acomb Library

The Squirrels had a fantastic evening last term visiting the newly refurbished Acomb Library. As part of their Storytelling badge and celebrations for World Book Week, the drey spent time exploring the shelves and discovering the magic of the new space.

Well done to all our Squirrels - you were incredibly respectful while "squirrelling around" and represented the group brilliantly!

A huge thank you to the team at Acomb Library for making us feel so welcome and helping us find all our favourite stories.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND SQUIRRELS WAITING LIST

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

11th July (TBC):
Squirrel Climbing Day

See page 11 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 "Bring an Adult" Night

Our recent "Bring an Adult" night was once again a resounding success, and it was wonderful to see the hall so full of energy.

The Beavers always take such pride in showing their grown-ups exactly what they get up to at Beavers, and last term's session was particularly special.

The evening focused on creativity, with the Beavers and their adults working together to decorate beautiful glass jars and craft heartfelt cards for the special mums, grandparents, and important adults in their lives, as part of our Mother's Day celebrations.

The effort put into these handmade gifts was fantastic, and it was clear how much both the youngsters and their adults enjoyed the chance to get creative side-by-side.



Easter Egg Hunt at West Bank Park

To wrap up last term, the Beavers headed out to West Bank Park for a brilliant evening of exploration and mystery.

The Easter Bunny had been busy ahead of our arrival, leaving a trail of clever clues hidden throughout the park for the Beavers to track down.

It was fantastic to see each colony working together to solve the puzzles and navigate the park. The excitement was high as they reached the final stop, where the hard work paid off - every Beaver ended the term on a sweet note with an Easter egg to take home!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE DATES

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

20th June: Squirrel and Beaver Scout Activity day at The Yorkshire Arboretum. £10, spaces are very limited - invites to be issued soon

11th July (TBC):
Beaver Climbing Day

See page 11 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

Hergarth Challenge: Creativity & Teamwork

The Cubs had a brilliant time taking part in the Hergarth Challenge, a prestigious annual event that has been a City of York District tradition since 1965. Originally founded by Herbert Garthwaite to celebrate non-sporting achievements, the challenge remains a mystery until the very moment the Cubs arrive! Representing all three of our Cub packs, our teams - each made up of an eight, nine, and ten-year-old - had just 90 minutes to tackle this year's secret task: creating a vibrant poster celebrating the event's anniversary.

The hall was a hive of activity as the Cubs worked to fill every inch of their posters with colour, carefully using tissue paper and dye (hopefully without staining their hands too permanently!). While we didn't bring home the trophy this year, our Cubs did us proud. They showed fantastic teamwork, made new friends from across the District, and fully embraced the spirit of the challenge. Well done to everyone who took part!



A Trip to the Emerald Isle with Cubs

Last term, the Cubs celebrated St. Patrick's Day by diving into the rich culture and history of Ireland. The evening was packed with "craic" as the packs put their knowledge to the test with a competitive Irish-themed quiz, covering everything from shamrocks to snakes!

The creativity didn't stop there; the Cubs also got busy crafting their very own Irish-themed finger puppets, bringing some legendary characters to life. It was a fantastic way for the Cubs to learn about our neighbours across the Irish Sea while picking up some new craft skills along the way.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

1st-4th May: County Club Camp

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

See page 11 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.

Scouts' Got Talent: A Night of Stars

Last term, our Scouts took to the stage for a truly memorable Talent Night, showcasing an incredible breadth of skills and hobbies. The hall was filled with everything from mind-bending magic tricks and hilarious joke sets to fantastic musical performances on the piano and guitar.

There was a "whole host" of a display that proved just how multi-talented our Scouts are! Beyond the acts themselves, the real highlight was the fantastic atmosphere; seeing the Scouts cheer each other on and offer such genuine encouragement to their peers made for a brilliant evening of entertainment and group spirit.



Adventure at Snowball

Last term, the Scouts headed to Snowball Plantation for an action-packed two-night expedition under canvas. Braving the elements in their tents, it was a fantastic opportunity for our older Scouts to step up and put their leadership qualities into practice. By supporting the younger members of the troop and taking charge of camp life, many were able to make significant progress toward completing their Leadership Badge.

Of course, it wasn't all hard work; the evenings were spent in classic Scouting style - gathering together for songs and stories around a roaring campfire. It was a brilliant weekend of teamwork, growth, and making memories in the great outdoors!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

16th May: Climbing Day: Details on OSM

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

See page 11 for more dates

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.

District Explorer Camp: Walesby Forest

From March 6th to 8th, our Explorers joined units from across the City of York District for an unforgettable weekend at Walesby Forest. The camp was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to meet fellow Explorers, test their skills in a new environment, and enjoy the extensive activities offered at this premier Scout Activity Centre. It was a brilliant weekend of adventure and district-wide camaraderie that saw everyone return home tired but inspired!



Shaping the Future of York Scouting

Several of our Explorers recently took an active role in the City of York District Youth Forum, ensuring that the voices of young people are at the very heart of the District's future strategy.

This event was a fantastic opportunity for them to "Shape our District," discussing everything from local activities to the long-term goals of Scouting in York. By collaborating with other units, our Explorers shared their ideas on how to make Scouting more inclusive, adventurous, and youth-led. It was inspiring to see them represent our group so articulately, proving that they aren't just the future of this movement - they are leading it right now!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

12-14 June 2026. Group Camp

25th June: Junior Warrior

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

18-26 July 2026. Denmark International Jamboree

See page 11 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

- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Beavers

- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Cubs

- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **16-18th October:** Cub Camp: Indoor at Blackpool: Details to follow
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Scouts

- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

Explorers

- **14th - 16th August:** Summer Camp (TBC)
- **18th - 20th September:** Ignite
- **4th October:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **17th - 18th October:** Escape
- **6th December:** Church Parade, Holgate Methodist
- **15th -17th January 2027:** New Year Camp

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	Tom Neale	tom.neale@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

