

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

WWW.1STHOLGATESCOUTGROUP.ORG.UK



WELCOME!

It has been another busy and action-packed term across all sections at 1st Holgate, filled with outdoor adventure, skill-building, and community spirit. None of these fantastic opportunities would be possible without the dedication of our incredible team of volunteers, so a huge thank you goes out to everyone who helps keep the adventure going week after week.

Read on to see exactly what each section has been up to over the past few months!

FUNDRAISING: WEST BANK PARK 28TH JUNE

We require a wide range of help on the day, with roles including serving cake and drinks, cooking the BBQ, and even preparing loaded fries. Everyone can get involved - including our Young People - so please take a look at the sign-up sheet:

<https://volunteersignup.org/C4YWH> and choose whatever slots you can cover.

If you cannot assist on the day but are able to bake some goodies for us to sell instead, this would also be a massive help! For any questions, please email:

simon.taylor@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk

JOIN US AT ACCOMB FEST

1st Holgate Scout Group has been invited to be involved with AcombFest (3rd – 5th July), a massive community arts festival featuring live music, local events, stunning murals, and art projects across Acomb! We are hoping to be there in some format and use the event as a fundraiser, with plans to set up a stall over the weekend at a location to be confirmed soon. We'd love to offer some easy refreshments - potentially something sweet like classic strawberries and cream! If it all comes together, we will definitely need plenty of hands on deck over the weekend to help run it. Please keep an eye on your inbox over the coming weeks for more information and updates!



NEXT ISSUE... DUE W/C 7TH SEPTEMBER

WE ARE A NUT FREE GROUP!

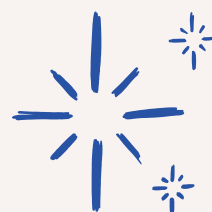
1st Holgate Scout Group has many young people and volunteers with allergies. Please do not send any products containing nuts to Scout meetings and events.

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



St George's Day Parade

It was a proud day for the 1st Holgate Scout Group as we joined nearly 1,000 children from across North Yorkshire for the annual St George's Day Parade in York. As one of the most significant dates in the scouting calendar, it was fantastic to see our young people looking so smart in their full uniforms as they renewed their promises.

The day was split between two meaningful services: the Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers took part in the traditional service at York Minster, while the Squirrels and Beavers enjoyed an age-appropriate celebration at the Central Methodist Church. A highlight of the day was seeing the entire group - from our youngest Squirrels to our oldest Explorers - reunite at Deans Park to parade through the streets of York together.

Beyond the marching and music, the event was an opportunity to support incredible causes. Through our collections, we were able to contribute to York Inspirational Kids, York Minster, and Carecent York, helping to support homeless and socially excluded members of our community.

The day concluded with a group photo in Dean's Park before many of the "1st Holgate family" headed down to The Fox to celebrate a successful day in the beer garden.

A huge thank you to all the leaders, parents, and most importantly, the young people who represented our group with such pride!



Wear Your Achievement: A Guide to Badge Placement

As we celebrate all the hard work our young people put into earning their awards, we've had a few questions about where exactly those badges should go! While the specific "Section" badge changes, the general layout remains the same whether you are a Squirrel, Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer.

The Golden Rules of Badge Placement:

- **Right Sleeve:** This is the home for your Group, District, and County badges.
- **Left Sleeve:** This is where you'll find Leadership stripes (like Sixer or Patrol Leader) and Activity badges - those circular awards earned for specific skills like cooking or hiking.
- **The Chest:** The right side is for "Occasional" badges (like the St George's Day or Event badges), while the left side is reserved for the Membership Award and the Challenge Awards (the diamond-shaped ones leading up to your Bronze, Silver, or Gold awards).

Moving Up? Don't Forget Your "Carry-Overs"

When it's time to move up to the next section, your uniform gets a fresh start, but some achievements stay with you! The following should be removed from the old uniform and sewn onto the new one:

- **The Chief Scout's Award:** Acorn Award (Squirrels), Bronze (Beavers), Silver (Cubs), or Gold (Scouts). This stays on the uniform until you earn the next level up.
- **Staged Activity Badges:** These are the blue circular badges with numbers (like Swimmer or Musician). You always move the highest numbered version you've achieved to your new uniform.

Beaver's: Example Badge Placement



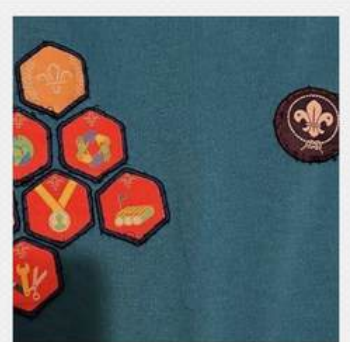
Right Arm



Left Arm



Front Right
(as you look at it)



Front Left
(as you look at it)

- **Green colony name tag.**
- **District badge** (Navy Blue York City) to the left hand side under the colony name tag.
- **Country** (Red North Yorkshire badge) to the right hand side under the colony name tag.
- **Beaver activity badges** (yellow with blue border)
- **Highest staged badges** (light blue with a number under the image).
- **Membership badge** (purple)
- **Joining in awards** (small square badges with stars and numbers on) Above the membership award.
- **Occasional badges** Above the Membership and Joining in award. Currently non issued so there shouldn't be a badge there.
- **Chief Scout Award** (latest one achieved in Scouting).
- **Challenge Award Badges** (red hexagonal badges. In Beavers, Chief Scout Bronze award replaces the Acorn award once earned).

YOUNG VOICES

CUBS

EDITION



Around the World and Back Again: 1st Holgate's CubJam 2026 Adventure!

Last term, for the Early May Bank Holiday, some 37 Cubs From 1st Holgate and West Thope, joined hundreds of other Cubs from across North Yorkshire for an unforgettable weekend at County CubJam 2026. From the moment the tents went up, it was clear this wasn't just a camping trip - it was a global expedition.

The Cubs "travelled" across six different continents, proving that you don't need a passport to find adventure. The energy was electric as they tackled a massive itinerary of activities, including:

- High-Octane Thrills: Go-karting, laser tag, and mountain biking.
- Precision and Skill: Tomahawk throwing, archery, and bottle rocket launching.
- Creativity and Logic: Global-themed arts and crafts and intense team challenges.

A Historic Celebration

The weekend held extra magic as we celebrated the Cubs' 110th birthday. We marked the milestone in the best way possible: a massive party featuring a sea of giant inflatables. Watching the Cubs bounce through a century of history (and several bouncy castles) was a definite highlight.

Voices from the Campfire

We asked our 1st Holgate superstars what they thought of their weekend under canvas. Here is what they had to say:

"The Tomahawk throwing was the best! I didn't think I'd be able to hit the target, but when it stuck, I felt like a real explorer."

"The go-karts were so fast! CubJam is great because you get to try things you never do at home or school."

"I loved the inflatables for the 110th birthday. It was like the biggest party ever. I've made three new friends from different groups."

MOVERS AND STARTERS!

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



Harriet and Max join
Windermere Squirrels.
Arlo and Rory join
Buttermere Squirrels.

Hazel and Ernest
join Montana Beavers.

Edan, Tommy,
Conan, Alfie and
Ronnie join Dakota
Beavers.

Florence joins
Phoenix Cubs.

James joins
Pegasus Cubs.

Eben joins
Severus Scouts.

Sirens, Blue Lights, and Adventures!

Last term, the Squirrels had a fantastic adventure at Acomb Fire Station! The Squirrels were treated to a fantastic, behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to be a firefighter, turning a really interesting educational visit into an unforgettable adventure.

The absolute highlight of the trip? Just as we were learning the ropes, the station received a real-life emergency call-out! Watching the crew spring into action, gear up in seconds, and roar out of the station with blue lights flashing and sirens blaring was a massive thrill for everyone.

A huge thank you to the incredible team at Acomb Fire Station for hosting us and giving our group a front-row seat to heroism in action!



Squirrels Go Wild at West Bank Park!

The Squirrels, had a brilliant time at Acomb Primary School in the woods, putting their engineering skills to the test!

Armed with plenty of enthusiasm, teamwork, and an impressive collection of branches, leaves, and twigs, they built some fantastic dens. The Squirrels worked hard to make sure their dens were sturdy, to earn their coveted Den Building Badge.

It was wonderful to see them exploring nature, getting stuck in, and supporting one another - future survival experts in the making!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND EXTRA SUPPORT NEEDED

12th-14th June:
Group Camp (now full)

12th July:
District Sports Day. Acomb Primary School, places available, details on OSM.

See page 12 for more dates

Monday Squirrels needs your help!

Some of our brilliant, long-standing volunteers are stepping down at the end of this term. Squirrels is all about introducing our youngest members (ages 4 to 6) to the joy of Scouting through games, crafts, and outdoor fun. You don't need any previous Scouting experience to join us - just energy, enthusiasm, and a desire to help young people grow. Whether you can help out every week or on a rota basis, you'll be part of a brilliant, supportive team making a massive difference in our local community. If you are interested in keeping the adventure going for our Monday Squirrels, please get in touch!

Celebrating 40 Years of Beavers!

Last term, we marked a huge milestone as the Beaver section celebrated its 40th birthday!

It was wonderful to see so many of our young people come together on Wednesday, 6th May, for an evening filled with high-energy party games and activities.

A massive thank you to all the parents and carers who contributed to our "bring and share" feast; the table was packed with delicious treats (and thankfully, more than just crisps!), which made the celebration feel truly special.

It was a fantastic way to honour four decades of Beaver scouting and a great reminder of the fun and friendship that defines our group.

Fantastic effort and well done Beavers!



Beavers turn nature detectives

The Beavers visited West Bank Park to get up close and personal with the great outdoors!

The young adventurers turned into true nature detectives as they set off looking for mini-beasts, peering under logs and leaves to discover all sorts of creepy-crawlies. The excitement didn't stop there; they also embarked on a treasure hunt that tested their tracking skills.

To top it all off, the Beavers showed their love for the environment by building fantastic custom bug hotels, creating the perfect five-star habitats for their new insect friends to move into. It was a wonderful day of teamwork, exploration, and learning how to look after our local wildlife!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE DATES

12th-14th June: Group Camp: Now full

20th June: Beaver Scout Activity day at The Yorkshire Arboretum. Now full

11th July (TBC): Beaver Climbing Day

11th - 13th September: Beaver FamJam. Details to follow. Approx cost £70 per parent and child

See page 12 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

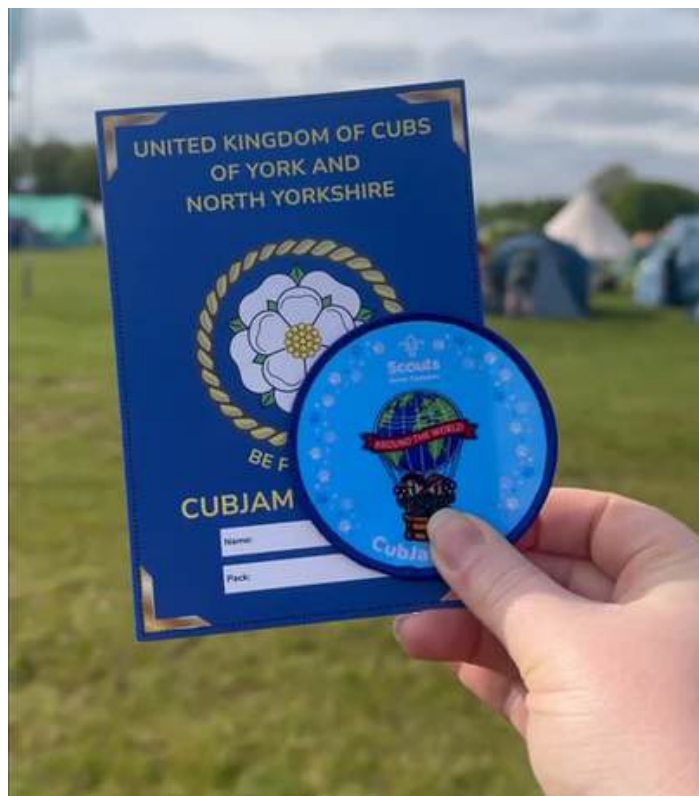
Cubs were Fiesta-Ready for Cub Jam!

Last term the Cubs were busy traveling across the globe - metaphorically speaking - as they dived into learning all about Mexico!

In preparation for last terms Cub Jam, where Mexico was our group's designated country, the pack fully embraced the theme. Donning their finest Mexican hats, they explored the country's vibrant culture, discovered the meaning behind its colorful flag, and got active with a hilarious and energetic game of "Burrito Relay."

It was a fantastic, high-energy way to get everyone excited for the big event, and our Cubs were officially ready to bring some serious Mexican spirit to Cub Jam!

To see how the Cubs got on during Cub-Jam, please see page 5 for more details!



Cubs are First Aid ready!

The Cubs stepped up to become local heroes in training as they dove into an essential First Aid session.

They rolled up their sleeves to learn vital life-saving skills, practicing everything from how to check if someone is breathing to putting each other into the recovery position. There was plenty of focus as they mastered the art of wrapping the perfect bandage and treating minor cuts and bumps.

The Cubs showed fantastic maturity, asking brilliant questions and proving that you're never too young to know how to help someone in an emergency!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

12th-14th June: Group Camp: Now full

4th October: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

See page 12 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.

A Galactic Journey for Holgate Scouts

Last term, the Scouts put their recently practiced map-reading skills to the ultimate test by navigating the York Solar System Discovery Trail.



Building on the navigation techniques learned the previous week, each section successfully tracked the scale model of our universe.

From the Sun to the outer reaches of the planets, the Scouts used their maps to identify milestones and calculate distances, gaining a brilliant hands-on perspective of both cosmic scale and local geography - well done Scouts! A Galactic Journey for Holgate Scouts

High Climbs and Campfire Creations!

The Scouts pushed their boundaries and tested their resourcefulness with two fantastic outdoor adventures last term.

First, they headed to the Brimham Rocks for an exhilarating day of climbing, conquering challenging routes and cheering each other on to new heights.



The adventures continued with a backwoods cooking challenge at Snowball Plantation, where the Scouts were truly put to the test. Given a mystery basket of raw ingredients on the night with no recipes or modern kitchens, they had to use their wits, fire-lighting skills, and creativity to cook over an open flame. From scratch to finish, they managed to whip up some surprisingly delicious - and entirely edible - dishes all by themselves, proving they are true survival chefs in the making!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

12th-14th June: Group Camp: Now full

4th October: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

See page 12 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.

Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

Last term was a milestone term for the Explorers, starting with a warm welcome to our newest members moving up from Scouts and a fantastic send-off party for our oldest members turning 18.

The young people have truly taken the lead in developing their own leadership and life skills, organising their own First Aid training night and taking charge of campfires and outdoor fun at Snowball.



Alongside proudly representing 1st Holgate at the annual St George's Day Parade, several Explorers put their leadership into practice by volunteering to help support the massive CubJam event - gaining invaluable hands-on experience as they prepare for their upcoming Europe '27 and World Scout Jamboree expeditions with North Yorkshire Scouts.

Making a Splash at Aldwark

The Explorers swapped their hiking boots for paddles last term for a fun-filled water-sports adventure near York.

Taking to the river at Aldwark, the Explorers enjoyed a fast-paced kayaking session, learning new paddle skills, navigating the water, and-of course - making sure everyone had a thoroughly brilliant (and slightly damp) evening of outdoor fun!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

12-14 June 2026. Group Camp

14th - 16th August: Summer Camp (TBC)

18th - 20th September: Ignite

See page 12 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

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

Explorers

- **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

*** Until September, then Helen Roskell is lead volunteer**

