1ST HOLGATE SCOUTS

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026 WWW.1STHOLGATESCOUTGROUP.ORG.UK



WELCOME BACK!

As the nights draw in and the festive season approaches, our young people have been keeping wonderfully busy! In this bumper edition, you'll find a half-term recap for all sections, details for our adult volunteer Christmas party, and ways you can help out behind the scenes at the Christmas Fair.

Plus, our Christmas tree sales are back - see page 2 and make sure to place your orders by November 29th, with recycling collections available in the new year. Finally, don't forget that our AGM is on November 20th, and we hope to see you there!

JOIN OUR TEAM: SQUIRRELS WAITING LIST ADMINISTRATOR!

We're looking for an organised volunteer to join our small admin team behind the scenes!

You'll manage the Squirrels waiting list - allocating places across our two Dreys, contacting families, and welcoming new starters using Online Scout Manager (OSM).

It's flexible and will take around 2 hours over each school holiday (every half term). Interested? Drop Jackie an email for an informal chat: secretary@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk.

SUPPORT US WITH EASYFUNDRAISING!

Support us through 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 11TH JANUARY

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.

Scouts 1st Holgate

Place your Christmas Tree Orders Now!

It's the most wonderful time of the year - almost!

Once again, we are selling beautiful non-drop Nordmann fir trees, with all proceeds going towards 1st Holgate Scouts.

Prices start from just £35.
Deadline to order your tree: 29th November

We are also offering a January collection service of any real tree for £10 (£7 if you buy your tree from us!). Collection booking deadline: 1st January

Scan the QR code below, or visit https://1stholgatescoutgroup.sumupstore.com/

Please share this with friends, family and work colleagues etc. in the York area - all profits go towards helping us provide even more adventurous activities to our young people!

Scan the QR code to order

For help ordering please email
info@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk

Merry Christmas from all of us at 1st Holgate Scouts!

Chris Rodaway, Group Scout Leader 🎅

Christmas Party: Celebrating OUR Incredible Volunteers!

Scouting simply doesn't happen without our incredible team of volunteers. Whether you're running section nights every week as a Leader, looking after our waiting lists behind the scenes, helping out on the executive committee, or lending a hand at fundraising events and camps—you make 1st Holgate what it is!

To say a massive thank you for everything you do, we're inviting all of our adult volunteers and their partners to a night of festive cheer and celebration (Bonkers Bingo, anyone?!).

The Party Details:

- 📅 When: Saturday 12th December at 7:30pm
- 📍 Where: Our Lady's Church Hall (off Cornlands Road)
- 🎟️ Tickets: £15 per person (covers food!). Buy your tickets online here (Please use the link twice if you need 2 tickets).
- 🍾 Drinks: Bring your own drinks (BYOB)—there won't be a bar on site.
- 🥗 Dietary Requirements: Email Mike at mike.richardson@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk with any food requirements.
- ⏰ Deadline: Ticket sales close on Sunday 30th November so we can finalise numbers for catering.



Come along, relax, celebrate your hard work, and enjoy a night you won't forget!

Could You Join the Team? We Need You!

To keep offering amazing opportunities to local young people, we urgently need more adults to get on board. You don't need to put on a uniform or commit to being a full-time section leader! We have flexible roles to suit every lifestyle and schedule - from behind-the-scenes admin, equipment maintenance, and event coordination to occasional parent helping.

Why volunteer with 1st Holgate?

- **Learn new skills:** Gain experience in leadership, team management, administration, and outdoor activities.
- **Boost your wellbeing:** Getting active, spending time outdoors, and stepping away from your routine is a fantastic way to recharge.
- **Make real friends and connections:** Join a supportive, welcoming adult community (and enjoy social nights like our Christmas party!).
- **Give back and make an impact**: See firsthand the confidence and independence young people build because of your support.

Whether you can spare 2 hours to help with admin or want to get stuck into outdoor adventures, there's a place for you on our team. If you or someone you know would like to find out more for an informal chat, please contact us at info@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk

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

Christmas Fair Donations Needed – How You Can Help!

IIt's that time of year again! We're running two stalls at the Holgate Methodist Church Christmas Fair: a Traditional Tombola and a Chocolate andSweet Raffle (featuring a massive star prize!).

We know life is hectic, so we aren't asking for your time - just your unwanted treats! Our fundraising team has the event covered, but we urgently need prize donations:

- Tombola Prizes: Re-gift those unwanted gifts sitting in your cupboards!
- Chocolates: Bars, boxes, or festive selection packs.
- Sweets: Any kind, big or small!

(Work at Nestlé or a company that donates corporate prizes? Let us know or put us in touch!)

How to Donate:

- At Meetings: Send items with your young person to their section meeting by November 21st.
- Drop-off Point: Leave donations anytime at Taylor's of Acomb (Post Office) marked for Simon Taylor.

Fundraising keeps our group thriving and keeps our activities affordable for everyone. Thanks so much for your support!

(P.S. If you'd like to join our friendly fundraising team for future events, email simon.taylor@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk - we'd love to have you on board!)

1st Holgate Group Clothing – Perfect Christmas Gifts!

Looking for the ultimate Christmas present for your Scout, leader, or family member?

We've designed an exclusive 1st Holgate leisure range - including hoodies, t-shirts, polo shirts, fleeces, and softshell body warmers (adult sizes) - ideal for camps, events, and casual wear! (Note: These supplement, but do not replace, the official weekly uniform).

Our clothing is being provided through Edge Clothing, a Scarborough based company that provide clothing to many Scout groups in the area. You can buy directly through their website: https://bit.ly/3VpBaMN but you will have to pay £7 delivery per order.

How to order:

Place your order in person at the AGM or email simon.taylor@1stholgatescouts.org.uk. Check out the styles and sizing guides online, and get your orders in soon to guarantee delivery in time for Christmas!



MOVERS AND STARTERS!



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

Frieda, Wilfred, Rose and Henry join Buttermere Squirrels

Freddie, Matthew, Harry and Eli join Windermere Squirrels.

Elvie, Iris, Fletcher, Alfie and Charlotte join Montana Beavers.

Isaac, Fin and Wren join Dakota Beavers. Ralph, Jaxon and Jacob join Oregon Beavers.

Laurie joins Phoenix Cubs. Arthur and Sam join Pegasus Cubs. Raphael joins Griffin Cubs.

Isaac joins Hadrian Scouts. Felix, Alex and Oscar join Odin Explorers.

Squirrels get Creative!





The Squirrels have had a brilliant half term settling into their new venue and putting their core rules - Be Kind and Be Safe - into practice during games with friends.

They've been channelling their inner artists by learning about recycling to create eco-friendly art, as well as diving into all things autumn! The Dreys also did an amazing job decorating the church entrance for the Harvest Festival Parade, showing off their creative talents with painted pumpkins, sweetcorn models, tree pictures, and leaf collages.

Well done, Squirrels!



Squirrels Reach for the Stars!

Our youngest explorers have been busy reaching for the stars as they work towards their Space Explorer badge!

The Squirrels spent an action-packed session diving into the wonders of the universe - learning all about the different planets in our solar system through fun outdoor games, before getting creative to craft their very own solar system models to take home.

It was fantastic to see their curiosity blast off as they learned more about the world beyond our own!







DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - SQUIRRELS ADMIN SUPPORT NEEDED

20th November: AGM and Presentation Evening, Holgate Church. 6pm - 8pm

5th December: District Squirrels Christmas Party

6th December: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church

See page 13 for more dates

Squirrels Admin Support Needed

We're looking for an organised volunteer to join our small admin team behind the scenes! You'll manage the Squirrels waiting list - allocating places across our two Dreys, contacting families, and welcoming new starters using Online Scout Manager (OSM). It's really flexible and will take around 2 hours over each school holiday (every half term). **Interested? Drop Jackie an email for an informal chat: secretary@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk**

Zootropolis FamJam Fun!

What a fantastic weekend we had at our Zootropolis-themed FamJam!

The Beavers and their families brought incredible energy, teaming up to tackle a weekend packed with fun challenges, from crafting custom team flags and building safari vehicles to racing them and hunting down clues on a site-wide scavenger hunt. The entire camp was filled with teamwork, laughter, and adventure as parents and Beavers alike got stuck into the wild activities.

A huge thank you to all the families and volunteers who came along to make this year's FamJam such a memorable, action-packed success!















Exploring Acomb's Vibrant Murals!

The Beavers stepped out into the local community for a fantastic evening walk around Acomb!

The young explorers had a great time hunting for the colourful murals hidden around the area, using their keen eyes to spot each artistic creation.

Along the way, they learned all about the meaningful stories and history inspiring each artwork, giving them a wonderful appreciation for their local neighbourhood.

It was a fun, active evening filled with curiosity, learning, and plenty of local pride!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th November: AGM and Presentation Evening, Holgate Church. 6pm - 8pm

6th December: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church

Sunday 29th November: Beaver trip to Eureka. £15. Fully booked, but welcome to join wait list.

See page 13 for more dates

WE NEED BEAVER 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.

Bright Lights & Big Adventures in Blackpool!

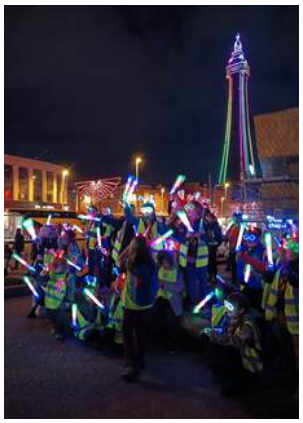
Cubs had a fantastic two-night camp in Blackpool packed with non-stop excitement!

After arriving and settling into their rooms, the Cubs kicked things off with fun games and a cosy supper to get ready for the big weekend ahead.

The highlight of the trip was exploring the famous Blackpool Zoo to see all the incredible animals, followed by taking in the spectacular Blackpool Illuminations as the sun went down.

It was a brilliant weekend filled with big smiles, teamwork, and hopefully memories that will last a lifetime!







Spooktacular Fun!

The Cubs had a spooktacular evening last term, packed with Halloween games and fantastic teamwork!

Working together in their Sixes, they tackled a series of spooky challenges - from laughing their way through traditional apple bobbing to racing to wrap each other up as toilet-roll mummies.

The highlight (and biggest test of bravery!) was reaching into mysterious buckets to guess the gross contents hidden inside. It was wonderful to see so much team spirit, and brave Cubs getting stuck in!




DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

20th November: AGM and Presentation Evening, Holgate Church. 6pm - 8pm

6th December: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church

16th December: Joint Cub Christmas party

See page 13 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.

Expedition Challenge Accomplished!

A massive congratulations to our older Scouts for completing their Expedition Challenge Award!

Over two tough days, the team covered a gruelling 13 km+ each day. On Day 1, they pitched their own tents, whipped up dinner despite limited ingredients, and enjoyed a well-earned sleep before hitting the trail again for Day 2.

Showing incredible determination and navigation skills, they all smashed it - finishing in one piece and right on target at the end.

Fantastic effort from everyone!



Spooktacular Adventures at Blackhills!

Halloween brought both chills and thrills for our brave Scouts as they headed to Blackhills Scout Camp for an unforgettable Halloween-themed weekend!

Not even the wild winds and rain of Storm Boelo could dampen their spirits. The Scouts headed out on a hike before the storm arrived and then got stuck into a packed lineup of hauntingly fun activities. From showcasing their creativity during a pumpkin carving competition to unwinding with a cosy film night to escape the weather, the weekend was non-stop excitement. The highlight for many was definitely a hilarious game of pumpkin bowling.

A huge thank you to all the leaders and Scouts who braved the storm to make it such a memorable camp!









DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

20th November: AGM and Presentation Evening, Holgate Church. 6pm - 8pm

6th December: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist

16th December: Joint Christmas Party

See page 13 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.

Explorers Conquer the Escape Event

What another fantastic Escape event this year! For those who don't know, this high-stakes challenge sees teams of Explorers navigating approximately 45km across the Yorkshire countryside in just 24 hours - all while evading "capture."



It demands incredible planning, determination, resilience, and teamwork, and our Explorers demonstrated all of that superbly.

Members of the wider Escape team were particularly impressed by the incredible spirit on display, watching teams rally around and support teammates who were struggling.



To top off a brilliant weekend, 1st Holgate had a winning team this year! A massive well done to everyone who took part!



Explorers Head to Ignite at Stockeld Park!

1st Holgate Explorers joined hundreds of Scouts from across the county for Ignite at Stockeld Park!





Ignite is North Yorkshire Scouts' premier action-packed weekend camp - an "open-programme" experience packed with everything from climbing and archery to water sports, off-road biking, car maintenance, coding and epic evening entertainment.



It was a weekend filled with non-stop adventure, teamwork, and great memories as our Explorers took on every challenge thrown their way!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

20th November: AGM and Presentation Evening, Holgate Church. 6pm - 8pm

6th December: Church Parade, Holgate Methodist Church

15th -17th January 2027: New Year Camp

See page 13 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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOLGATE METHODIST CHURCH

As you all know, most of our groups now meet at Holgate Methodist Church. This is also where we store a lot of our scouting equipment and where the church parade takes place.

The church runs several events suitable for children and the wider community and would love to welcome scouting families.

Once a month is Messy Church – a relaxed Saturday afternoon meeting with lots of crafts and followed by a light meal and a (very) short worship session suitable for all ages. It is open to everyone, and there is a calm corner for those who want to take part but are not so keen on getting messy!

There are also a selection of other social events which take place in the church building and include games afternoons, film showings, a community sing and a family BBQ in the summer!

If you would like to receive e-mails about these events please sign up: https://bit.ly/4iQUH4B

You don't need to sign up in advance to come along, and you can sign up to hear about just events, just messy church or both. You will also see posters up about each event around the church.

If you would like any more information about what happens before signing up to the mailing list, please contact: messychurch@holgatemethodistchurch.org.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The next Messy Church is on 21st November, and the theme is Light up the Darkness.
- The December one is a dress-up nativity and is on the 12th.
- There will also be a Christmas Fair on the morning of 28th November
- A family Christmas film will be screened on 19th December.

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

- **14th December:** Joint Squirrel and Beaver Christmas Party
- **25th April:** St George's Day Parade. Details to follow

Beavers

- **25th April:** St George's Day Parade. Details to follow
- **Apr / May:** Scarborough Sleepover. Details to be confirmed, £60 approx.
- **12th - 13th June:** TBC Beaver Damboree (details to follow once we have more info)

Cubs

- **3rd Feb: Awards** Celebration for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers (Chief Scout Award recipients and parents only). Details to follow
- **25th April:** St George's Day Parade. Details to follow

Scouts

- **3rd Feb: Awards** Celebration for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers (Chief Scout Award recipients and parents only). Details to follow
- **25th April:** St George's Day Parade. Details to follow

Explorers

- **3rd Feb:** Awards Celebration for Cubs, Scouts and Explorers (Chief Scout Award recipients and parents only). Details to follow
- **5th - 7th March:** District Explorer Camp. Details to follow
- **25th April:** St George's Day Parade. Details to follow
- **12th -18th August** (provisional date). Explorers summer camp. Details to follow.
- **17th - 19th September** (provisional date). Ignite. Details to follow.
- **16th - 17th October**. Escape. Details to follwo

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
Deputry Group Lead Volunteer	Chris Calpin	chris.calpin@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Squirrels	Helen Roskell	helen.roskell@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	Nick Beckett	nick.beckett@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Lead Volunteer Young Leaders	Poppy Ibbott	poppy.ibbott@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Section Team Leaders		
Windermere Squirrels	Helen Roskell	helen.roskell@1stholgatescoutgroup.org.uk
Buttermere Squirrels	Michelle Gracias	michelle.gracias@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 Ibbott	poppy.ibbott@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

