

THE HISTORY OF 1ST BROADBRIDGE HEATH SCOUT GROUP

In Great Britain in 2012 we are celebrating the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11, the coming of the Olympic Games to this country and Euro 2012 football.

In Broadbridge Heath this year we are also celebrating the official centenary of Broadbridge Heath Scout Group, later to become 1st Broadbridge Heath Scout Group.

The Beginning

In 1876 Baden-Powell joined the 13th Hussars in India with the rank of lieutenant. He enhanced and honed his military scouting skills amidst the Zulu in the early 1880s in South Africa. During one of his travels, he came across a large string of wooden beads, worn by the Zulu king, Dinizulu, which was later incorporated into the Wood Badge training programme he started after he founded the Scouting Movement. Baden-Powell's skills impressed his superiors whilst working as intelligence officer for the Director of Military Intelligence. He frequently travelled disguised as a butterfly collector incorporating plans of military installations into his drawings of butterfly wings.

Baden-Powell returned to Africa in 1896, and served in the Second Matabele War. This was a formative experience for him not only because he had the time of his life commanding reconnaissance missions into enemy territory in Matobo Hills, but because many of his later Boy Scout ideas took hold here. It was during this campaign that he first met and befriended the American scout Frederick Russell Burnham, who introduced Baden-Powell to the American Old West and *woodcraft* (scout craft), and here that he wore his signature Stetson campaign hat and neckerchief for the first time.

Baden-Powell served in the Fourth Ashanti War in Gold Coast and, in 1897, at the age of 40, he was made the youngest colonel in the British Army and given command of the 5th Dragoon Guards in India. A few years later he wrote a small manual, entitled *Aids to Scouting*, a summary of lectures he had given on the subject of military scouting, to help train recruits. Using this and other methods he was able to train them to think independently, use their initiative, and survive in the wilderness.

Baden-Powell returned to South Africa prior to the Second Boer War and was engaged in further military actions against the Zulus. He organised the Legion of Frontiersmen to assist the regular army. While engaged in this, he was at Mafeking when it was surrounded by a Boer army, at times in excess of 8,000 men.

During the siege, the Mafeking Cadet Corps made up of boys below fighting age stood guard, carried messages, and assisted in hospitals, and so on, freeing grown men to fight. Baden-Powell was sufficiently impressed with the courage with which they performed their tasks that he used them later as an object lesson in the first chapter of *Scouting for Boys*. The siege was lifted on 16 May 1900. Baden-Powell was promoted to Major General and became a national hero.

In 1910 Lieutenant-General Baden-Powell decided to retire from the Army, reputedly on the advice of King Edward VII, who suggested that he could better serve his country by promoting Scouting.

On the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, Baden-Powell put himself at the disposal of the War Office. No command was given him, for, as Lord Kitchener said: "he could lay his hand on several competent divisional generals but could find no one who could carry on the invaluable work of the Boy Scouts."

Scouting as we know it today began on Brownsea Island in 1907 when Lord Baden Powell took a group of 20 boys camping and participating in activities that were to become the mainstay of Scouting. Today there are 30 million Scouts spread across 216 countries and territories. To date over 300 million people have passed through the Scout Association as Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and leaders.

The very beginning of Broadbridge Heath Scout Group is hazy. As the Scout Association was in its infancy, it appears that many Scout Groups were started unofficially with a group of boys and their leaders meeting in various venues around the towns and villages to follow the ideology of Baden Powell – in Broadbridge Heath this can be traced back to 1909, later coming under the umbrella of the then Boy Scout Association. The Scoutmasters had no official training, just an enthusiasm to share their knowledge and teach the basics of Scouting to the local boys, with the aid of Baden Powell's 'Scouting for Boys'. In this area there was plenty of farm and common land to practise their Scouting skills.

From these very simple beginnings the Scout Association now partake in enumerable activities for both boys and girls throughout the world, have television adverts on Discovery Channel and links on Twitter, YouTube and Facebook!

The Scout Association archivist has found the copy of a warrant issued to Mr H Raynham of Trowhurst Farm, on 30th August 1911 to be an Assistant Scout Master with Broadbridge Heath. This is the earliest recorded warrant for the group that I can find.

Taken from an article by Mr Brian Slyfield for The Horsham Society Newsletter July 2010 it quotes *"on the afternoon of Saturday 22nd October 1910 a meeting was held to mark a very significant occasion: the establishment of a local association of Baden Powell's Boy Scouts' for Horsham and District. The venue was the Brigade Hall and in the chair was Mr C J Lucas (from Warnham Park) with district commissioner Sir Hanbury Brown in attendance, together with Captain Innes (Roffey Park), Captain Ashworth and Mr G Blunt (Springfield Park). The appointed Scoutmaster was Mr Edward H Dewdney and it was decided that the association should encompass the outlying villages (some of which already had existing groups) including Broadbridge Heath".* A central fund was to be established and a list of examiners to be responsible for issuing badges 'for the lads' These badges covered a wide range of skills, such as clerk, electrician, teacher and stalker.

I have a tape recording of Harry Selby, older brother of Albert Cyril Selby – Scoutmaster in 1930's, made by Charles Weston on 26th June 1977, when Harry was reminiscing about the first Scouts in the village.

This is a transcription of a small part about the Scouts: - *"The date, 1910, I remember Alf Goring and Tony White and one or two others with their home made poles leaping over that hedge between the Forge and the road. Well, with this new enthusiasm, which was rife throughout the country, for this new movement and the room for adventure it gave you. We must have one in the village and the two chief instigators of the first Scouts in Broadbridge Heath were Miss Granville of Field Place – I understand that she was the sister of Lady Hutton, wife of Major General Sir Edward Hutton. I understand she was her sister and they all lived together with Lady Charles Paulet – she was the mother. Well, she and Miss Way the daughter of the school...., between them started the Broadbridge Troop.*

When the Scouts were formed in 1908..... Ours was probably 1910, all the lads of the village that were Scouting age, had all got their poles cut and were leaping over the fords and hedges and all the rest of it. And all of us that were not old enough howled our eyes out because we were not old enough. We were so disappointed we were not old enough to be Scouts. Miss Billing our schoolteacher was going to form a special – Cubs was it – well, before Cubs was it. There is a story about the first Cub in the village”

Regrettably that was where the tape ended, so perhaps we will never know the story!

It was not until 1912 that the group was officially affiliated to the Scout Association. The first documented Scout Leaders being Miss Granville and Miss Janet Way. Miss Granville lived at Field Place with a relative, Lady Hutton (born Eleanor Mary Paulet), wife of Major General Sir Edward Hutton KCMG, CB. Lady Hutton’s mother was Joan Frederica Mathewana Paulet (nee Granville), wife of Lord Charles Paulet of Wellesbourne Hall, Warwickshire. Miss Way, I believe is Janet Way, daughter of Mrs Jessie Way, the local schoolmistress and was born in 1881 in Fife, Scotland.

Below is a picture of Miss Way, far right, who also became a schoolteacher in Broadbridge Heath with her class.



The next official record held shows Mrs Isabel Whalley of Corsletts Farm as Scoutmaster from 26th March 1917. At that time there were 14 Scouts. Mrs Whalley’s daughter, Flora apparently ran the Cub section. Mrs Whalley was still Scoutmaster in 1928 with an assistant, Mr E Vinall. There were then 11 Scouts and 6 Rover Scouts. Mrs Whalley was also instrumental in the on-going success of the Group, thanks to her generosity in the form of the present Scout Hall. Prior to this, the Group met in various venues around the village.

At present I can find no details of other Scout Troop leaders around this time.

The Early Scouts

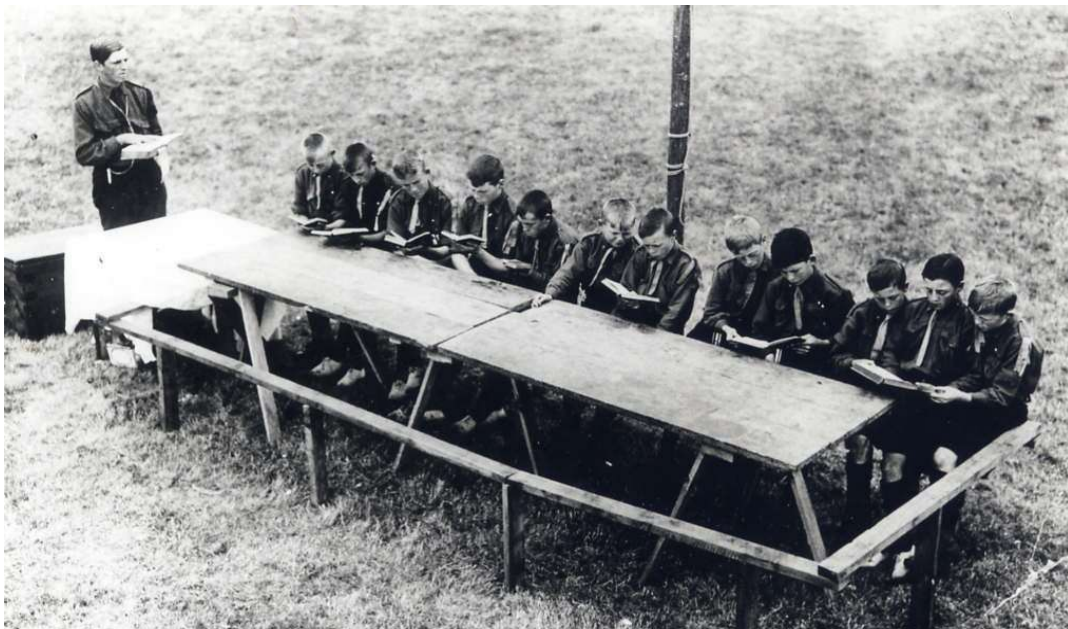
Charles 'Percy' Buck was possibly one of the first Scouts in Broadbridge Heath, below is a photograph of him, age 14, with his fellow Scouts in 1912 at Field Place. Percy is the Scout in the centre of the back row (regrettably he died in 1917 of tuberculosis) Tom Goring, aged about 10 years, front row far right. Photograph loaned by Mrs Goring, originally for the 80th anniversary of the Group. Albert Selby also joined the troop in 1910 and over 60 years later was still an active member of the Scout Association, retiring as Assistant District Commissioner, aged 65. More about Mr Albert Selby, later.



The next photograph shows a district camp also held at Field Place in 1912, attended by at least 50 local Scouts and 30 Guides. This photograph was kindly loaned by Mr Pritchard Jones of Field Place for the 80th anniversary celebrations.



This photograph shows another group camp in 1915. Tom Goring is one of the Scouts. Could the Scoutmaster be Mr Raynham?



Around 1930 Mr Albert Selby became Assistant Scoutmaster and then Scoutmaster within the group. His wife, Helena, who was born in Foochow in China, the daughter of a missionary, ran the

Cub section. In 1939 he joined the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal squad, but returned to Scouting as soon as he was released from the Army. Helena then became Brownie Mistress of the 2nd Broadbridge Heath Brownies.

In September 1971 (from a report in the local newspaper on 3rd September 1971) they returned to Broadbridge Heath for a camp at Nowhurst Lane, bringing with them a combined Cub and Brownie pack in their home town of Hinton-on-the-Green, Evesham. Mr Selby lived next to the Scout outdoor training centre, which he ran for the Scout Association. Albert Selby went to school in Broadbridge Heath and one of the houses now in the old school building is named 'Selbys' after the family. Mr Selby made a shield with the school motto 'Play the Game', which hung in the classroom there. It is no longer the motto of the present Shelley school. Mr Selby's daughter, now living in Australia, recalls *"My father was very good with his hands. I think he was a carpenter once. He built wooden canoes which were used by us kids and a lot by the Scouts on the Isbourne River, metres from the compound. He would build a new design and the Scouts got to test the new model out which didn't always work out quite as planned and there were some wet Scouts!!! The canoe was then remodelled. I was not allowed to join in with the Scouts....now a teenage girl. That's how it was then."*

When Charles Weston became a Wolf Cub (eight to eleven years) in the 1930s they met at Chantry Barn, now known as Mulberry Place, also at The Village Room in Wickhurst Lane. The Scouts (eleven to fifteen and a half years) and Rover Scouts (over fifteen and a half years) met in a wooden hut built on land belonging to Mrs Whalley near Homemead. A cinder track from the Billingshurst Road, close to what is now Kingsmead Road, led to the ex-army hut that was erected by the Rover Scouts and Mr Selby, this hut included a stage where the Scouts put on plays and shows.

Below is a photograph of the Scouts on the stage of the old wooden hut in Billingshurst Road.



Charles Weston also recalls the story that in 1924 Mrs Whalley made arrangements with Mr Albert Hecks of Sullington Farm for the Troop to hold a camp on his land. They trekked there, pulling their loaded cart the fourteen miles to Sullington.

He also recalls another time in the 1930's they used Tommy Thorns' cattle truck to take them to the farm and along the farm track to a large barn, where they slept due to the very heavy rain. Two Guides were also camping there and a tent was erected inside the barn for them to sleep in. Little did they realise that when they lit the candle inside their tent – they made a perfect silhouette.....! The equipment was later hauled up the hill on wooden sledges, which were made by the Scouts, to the campsite. These were then used for sliding down Sullington Hill. The water was carried in canvas buckets from a tap at the barn to their campsite.

In 1928 the Group system was introduced, before that date the Scout Troop and the Cub sections were independent of each other – separate organisations.

Physical training was another activity undertaken by the Scouts and the photograph, below, shows the Scout Gymnastics team on the lawn at Corsletts in 1934/5.



Mr Jim Charman a Cub in 1937 recalls a Scout camp on the Isle of Wight led by Mr and Mrs Selby. Six Cubs went along with the Scouts and he remembers them all sleeping the old 'bell tents'. Mr Basil Stenning recalled that Mrs Whalley sent £5 for a trip around the island by coach. They were camping in Shanklin and decided to go to the carnival in Ventnor – so they all walked there, a long walk there and back!

In 1938 there was to be another camp in Bognor, but with the threat of war some of the parents would not let the boys go.

8th June 1946 – Peace celebrations. A midnight dance was held, dancing to ‘Charlie’s’ music. The Master of ceremonies was Mr Charles Weston.

Sports day seems to have been the highlight of the year, every year, with much planning by one of the many sub-committees. Gifts that were given by the local landowners for the raffle included pork from Mr Richardson of Corsletts Farm and pheasant from Mr Warren of Lower Broadbridge Farm. It seems to have been a grand affair with participants coming from all around the area. There is a story that Mr Harris, the local headmaster always entered the running race – it was a handicap race and Mr Harris started halfway down the field and NO-ONE was allowed to pass him. In 1953, Coronation year, they had a grand opening in all languages of the commonwealth.

Mr Spence Ellis, father of Louis, who is mentioned below, was the local shoemaker in Broadbridge Heath and he held the entry lists for all the events for sports day. His daughter, Angela Hockley, recalls that her mother became quite frustrated that, when sports day was coming up, they seemed to spend all their accepting entries for the different events and few shoes were being made!

In fact, Angela’s family have all been involved in Scouting one way or another for many years. Her husband Mick has held many positions within the Group committee, including Chairman. Angela was secretary for the local Guides.

In 1950 Louis Ellis was a Scout in Kingfisher Patrol and, working towards his woodcraft badge, he kept a nature diary. I believe that his Scoutmaster was Mr Charles R Hendrie. This diary contains many excellent drawings of birds and flowers including pressed leaves and flowers, seen in Broadbridge Heath and the surrounding area. Sadly Louis died young, but the diary is still looked after and treasured by his sister. The diary is a wonderful reflection of the social and natural history of the area as it names the farms and land and the owners where he saw the wildlife. In fact when the local council wanted to change the name of Granny’s Lane to Byfleets Lane, this book was used as proof that the original name had been used for many years – a partial victory as the sign now reads “Byfleets Lane, formerly known as Granny’s Lane”.

In an extract from Louis’ diary, shown on the next page, he obviously recognises many different birds and their song. The yellow hammer’s song sounds as if he is saying ‘a little bit of bread and no cheese’. He is upset that between his morning and afternoon visit someone or something has stolen the blackbird’s eggs – he was a very caring and observant boy. He mentions going out on these trips with another Scout, P Corthine. Some of the many farms and areas he mentions he would still recognise today, but many have now been swallowed up by development and many of the different species of birds are no longer seen in the area. Much of the Scout training then was so much simpler and they took pleasure in their surroundings – a world that today’s Scouts would find difficult to envisage! A much simpler world then!

1st April.

In morning found blackbirds nest with three eggs. In bush. Up at the top common.

Saw tree or meadow pipit.

Also yellow hammer.



TREE

PIPET.

or meadow

Some.

YELLOW HAMMER.

A little bit of bread
and no cheese.



Saw pair of Moorhens on horse pond.

Found Nutcracker nest in hole of an tree.

Believe they have young, are not



FONGUS. more.

Received information as to the whereabouts of an owl nest.

Species unknown as yet.

Intend to visit soon.

Blackbirds which was found in this morning had no eggs this afternoon.

Do not know who took them.

April 21st

Went bird watching again with P. Borthine
We found a blackbirds nest in the copse. with 3 eggs
in.

We saw a pair of mallard, really wild fly up from
the marsh.

I picked hundreds of primroses, violets, lady's smock,
and dandelions.

Other birds or animals seen or heard.

Squirrel.

Blackbirds

Thrushes

g. Woodpecker.

Rook.

Marsh tit.

Blue tit.

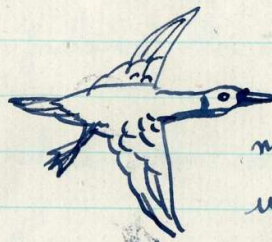
Great tit.

Wrens.

Robins. "

Coots

Moorhens.



mallard taking
wing.

So far I have seen

1 peacock.

1 brimstone.

2 small tortorhell
and several cabbage white
butterflies.

There are of course a

great amount of small insects now that the
weather is fine.

For anyone that is interested, a copy of the complete diary is available.

I have received intelligence from an 'undisclosed source' that in around 1959 some Scouts found out how to make gunpowder. Having succeeded in this, they packed the substance into an old bicycle frame, took it to the common, set the fuse and set off the explosive! Quite impressive display I am told.

Scout camps were often held at Lower Broadbridge Farm where they arrived with all their equipment on their trek cart, they also camped at Broadstone Warren in the early 1960's.



The New Scout Hall

The hall, originally known as The New Village Hall, was built in 1910 and given to the village by Mrs Isabel Whalley and dedicated for public use, in memory of her husband Laurance and her son, James Laurance, who both died in 1907.

Laurance Travell Whalley was born in 1855 in Wretham, Norfolk the son of James, Rector of East and West Wretham and his wife, Agnes. He seems to have come to Sussex to work as Estate Agent for his uncle Henry Broadwood of Lyne House, Newdigate – a farm of 668 acres and gardens. Isabel Henrietta Napier was born in 1863 in Wiston, Sussex, the daughter of Charles Walter Albyn Napier, Rector of Wiston and his wife, Marianne Flora Etruria Talbot. If one particular family tree is correct, then Mrs Whalley has many grand ancestors going back to William the Conqueror! Laurance and Isabel later lived at Corsletts, Broadbridge Heath.

The hall was used as a Working Men's Institute, but, according to village legend, in the 1930's 'the finances were on the wrong side and alcoholic drink was taken'. Mrs Whalley did not approve of this and so the hall was donated to the Boy Scouts and became The Scout Hall on 5th February 1938. Mrs Whalley is quoted as saying, at a committee meeting, in December 1933 *"I am not putting you straight anymore. I am handing the hall over to Scout Headquarters"*.

She instructed Mr Holland, the local builder, to take down the bronze plaque which bore the words *"In memory of her husband and son for the greater happiness of her neighbours"* and destroy it. It was apparently buried near the Forge.

At the end of WW1 a war memorial was erected on the land directly in front of the hall (see picture below).

In the 1960's a new memorial was erected in front of the church in Billingshurst Road. In 1995 the present memorial was erected opposite the church, next to the rectory. Were the tablets from the original memorial kept or destroyed?



The Scout Hall and its various uses

An air raid shelter was erected at the start of WW2 to the left of the side door, between the hall and No. 49 Billingshurst Road. It was never used for its intended purpose, but Charles Weston suggests that 'courting couples' made good use of it! At this time the local headquarters of the Civil Defence ARP (Air Raid Precautions) was the Scout hall, telephone number 85. It was always manned during Air Raids and the senior Warden was Mr Weston, Charles' father. In subsequent minutes in the 1950's it was debated many times that they really must have the shelter demolished. In the minutes of 22nd May 1956 –Mr Lintott was approached to remove the air raid shelter. In all the minutes that we have I could not find when it actually disappeared!

Also with so many evacuees sent to Broadbridge Heath from London, the school could not cope with the extra numbers, so extra classes were held at the Hall – the local children being taught in the morning and the evacuees in the afternoon. During the afternoon the local children were taken on nature rambles.

ARP Poster shown below.



CIVIL DEFENCE A.R.P.

Horsham Urban & Horsham Rural District Councils.



1. Learn to use a Stirrup Pump and see that you get one! Apply to A.R.P. Headquarters. Join a **Supplementary Fire Party** or be a **Street Fire Bomb Fighter**. **Ask your Warden.**
2. Keep in readiness a supply of **Water in a bucket** (bath water may be used if not too soapy); **Sand in Bucket**; **Two Sandbags half filled with sand or dried earth**, tied at mouth.
3. Empty lofts and remove **flammable junk** from attic or top of house.
4. **BEGIN BLACK-OUT EARLY—END IT LATE.** Black-out **before switching on lights.** Inspect your windows each evening from outside and if you see a light in a neighbour's house tactfully inform the occupant: close co-operation will assist the police and reduce the danger. Guard against light streaming from an open door.

*Beware of the hovering Nazi "kite,"
He will bomb you out if you show a light.*
5. Choose and prepare your **refuge** room or **safe** place under the stairs and use it during Air Raids.
6. Wire netting, preferably $\frac{1}{2}$ in. mesh, fitted inside your windows minimises danger from flying splinters of glass; if wire unobtainable, stick curtain netting on window panes.
7. See that your respirator fits and **get used to wearing it.** Be prepared. **Consult your Warden.**
8. When leaving your house unoccupied inform your neighbour or Warden. Curtains should be left undrawn and inside doors open on top floor.
9. Don't spread rumours; idle talk is **dangerous**; **sound** information is invaluable! **Tell it to your Warden.**

Your house is situated in Sector

The Warden's Post is at THE SCOUT HALL B.H.

10. 'Phone 85 and it is always manned during Air Raids.

Senior Warden (name) F. WESTON 'Phone 142

Address 1 Council Cottages Heath

Look to your Warden for help and advice.

11. Further information on Civil Defence, A.R.P., Enrolment, Training, Stirrup Pumps, Respirators, etc., may be obtained from:

A.R.P. OFFICER, H.U. & H.R.D.C.'s,
CAUSEWAY HOUSE, HORSHAM.
Telephone 1189.
12. Voluntary Service is a true mark of patriotism; willingness to help your neighbour encourages the team spirit.

PUT THIS NOTICE WHERE EVERYONE CAN SEE IT.

The Springfield Press, Printers, Horsham Phone 246

According to the minute books the New Scout Hall was used for numerous different activities. The Guides and Brownies have been meeting there at least as early as the 1950's. The youth club held meetings and dances in the hall. The whist drives were extremely popular with the villagers and were held weekly by the local football club. Whist drives were also held by the Group itself. They were so popular that extra tables were required, as you will see from the minutes from 1954!

There were dances, harvest suppers, wedding receptions and parties for all occasions. The shows put on by the Scout Group were enjoyed by all and many, many hours were spent in the preparation. The making of the costumes and the hours of rehearsals were undertaken by the committee, leaders and, of course, the boys themselves.

Playgroups have used the hall for many years and the Kellybrook Montessori playgroup is still the major user of our hall.

The hall was the heart of the village and we would like to think that we try to carry on that tradition.

Changes to the Group

The group was originally just Broadbridge Heath Scout Troop, but on 15th February 1949 became 1st Broadbridge Heath Scouts with Mr Charles Roy Hendrie as Group Scoutmaster and Michael West as Scoutmaster. Mr Hendrie was first appointed Scoutmaster of 1st Broadbridge Heath Group on 11th October 1947, when he was issued with a Temporary Warrant 'issued for the period of National Emergency' and on 1st May 1949 a full warrant was issued appointing him as Scoutmaster.

TEMPORARY WARRANT H.C. 51.

Cancelled on change of warrant.
Royal Warrant sent 30.4.49

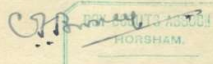


THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER

WARRANT

You CHARLES ROY HENDRIE
of 3 Spring Gardens, Trafalgar Rd.
Horsham
are hereby appointed Scoutmaster of the
1st Broadbridge Heath Group
in the Horsham District in the
County of Sussex

Dated Oct. 11th 1947


District Commissioner
ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF SCOUT.

This Temporary Warrant is issued for the period of National Emergency and is the property of the Boy Scouts Association. It is to be returned to the District Commissioner on the person named ceasing to hold the office for which it is issued, or at any time on demand.

Sometime around this date the group became a Sea Scout Group and in 1952 Charles Hendrie was noted in the committee minutes as being Sea Scout Master. In 1953/54 the Sea Scout Group was disbanded and in 1954 re-formed as Broadbridge Heath Scout Group. The Sea Scouts wore green and yellow scarves.



The minutes on 2nd March 1954 show that 1st Broadbridge Heath Sea Scouts was left satisfactorily with no outstanding debts and that it was hoped to re-start the troop meetings again on 17th March 1954 under the leadership of Mr Usher as Scoutmaster. At the same meeting it was decided that the Village Hall would be renamed The Scout Hall. The Cub mistress Mrs D M Leadbeater on 30th March 1954 handed £2 from the proceeds of a jumble sale to the Scouts to help them with the re-forming of the troop.

In a photograph (below) taken at the Group Christmas party, held 1st January 1959, the boys are shown wearing a plain green scarf, so it changed again after the Sea Scouts were disbanded.



April 1958

The Troop was disbanded due to lack of a leader. It re-opened again in February 1959 with just 3 boys who had come up from Cubs. This seemed to happen regularly from this time until the 1970's – the boys were distributed around the district, until a new leader could be found. In 1961 it was suggested that any boys still interested should join Needles Estate troop and return to Broadbridge Heath when they had a new leader. Mr Parry did take over the troop soon after this.

May 1963

The Cub pack increased from 17 boys to 27, two of them gaining their Leaping Wolf badge. The Cub pack seemed to thrive with a permanent waiting list of boys wanting to join and sufficient leaders. It was the Scout troop that had problems – the commitment for camps and many other activities – adults could not find the time after long hours at work.

In 1964 the troop formed a link with their counterparts in Horsham Pennsylvania USA to establish penfriends.

1965 Crisis point! It was suggested that as they were unable to get new leaders and the membership of the Scouts had dropped from 22 to 8, that Broadbridge Heath Troop was closed and the boys should join 1st Horsham. The committee resigned en bloc and all responsibility for the hall was passed to the Scout Association.

28th September 1966

In the Group Committee meeting re-starting the Scout Group was mentioned. 'Mr W Ross, the Group Scoutmaster, informed the Committee that he was very pleased to be able to report that the first meeting of the re-formed Troop would be on Friday 30th September, when parents would be invited to meet the Scoutmaster, Mr A P Waller and his assistant, Mr Patrick Rolton, a Rover Scout with the 2nd Horsham Group.'

The next minutes that survive are from 22nd January 1968 when there was a discussion about the amalgamating of Broadbridge Heath and Slinfold Scouts. This was agreed and it was suggested that the new scarf would be black and gold. This was taken from the minutes of that meeting, but at a meeting on 28th June 1989 the minutes state that 'as the Scout Association has discontinued black and yellow scarves the Group would change to black and gold!'

29th April 1968

The Chairman, Mr Brian Higgins, opened the meeting by paying tribute to the late GSL Mr W Ross saying how sadly he will be missed and how much pleasure it would have given him to know that the troops had decided to amalgamate, as this had been his wish. The William Ross Shield, for Inter Patrol Competition, was started in 1969. The Group still has this trophy in its possession.

On 1st June 1968 the group amalgamated with Slinfold to become 1st Broadbridge Heath and Slinfold, which continued until 6th November 1979 when the two groups returned to being separate groups of 1st Broadbridge Heath and 1st Slinfold.

Also in 1968 the Rover Scouts became known as Venture Scouts.

There is little information about the happenings in the 1970's onwards – I assume that all went smoothly within the Group. From the scrapbooks that we own all the sections were very busy at summer camps, district and county events. The Group took part in most activities and, obviously there were fewer problems with recruiting adults as section leaders and helpers.

In 1977 some of the Cubs formed part of a guard of honour when Princess Alexandra visited Horsham.

After the storms in 1987 many trees were lost in the area. In March 1989 various local groups sponsored a tree on the common and below is a picture of the Scouts and Cubs with their leaders standing in front of 'their' tree with a plaque showing that it was donated by the Group.



Fundraising was always a priority, in the early days necessary to pay the day to day bills and later to fund extra equipment for the hall or camping. Even in the 1980's, Ted Parry, the then Group Chairman, tells me that they needed a new lawn mower and that it was going to cost £40, so they went to the treasurer, Ted Inkin and was told that £40 was all they had in the kitty. A jumble sale was quickly arranged to recoup the money spent on the mower. The mower is still working well today – so, money well spent.

September 1989 welcomed a Beaver section and they wore a turquoise scarf, not the Group scarf, but in 1990 they chose to wear the black and gold group scarf.

In 1991 girls were allowed to join the Scout Association. The first girl to join the Group in Broadbridge Heath was Emily Newport, who also was chosen to represent West Sussex Scouts at the Jamboree in Chile in 1999.

1992 was a good year for the Group -a Venture Unit was started, we were the 2nd Group in the district to be awarded the County Standard which was presented on 20th November, Ted Inkin was awarded a Medal of Merit and his wife Anne was awarded a Silver Scout Thanks Badge for all their past and continuing work with the Group.

In 2004 with new European safety regulations the Group risked losing the hall for public use unless it could raise £40,000 to update the electrics and refurbish throughout. The assistant Scout Leader Becky Williams obtained a lottery grant and an appeal went out to the village for help. The 4th Shelley Arms charity day was held in aid of our fundraising, but still we were a long way from finding the money needed to do the work. Polly Clark was instrumental in obtaining a Biffaward for the remainder, spending many hours poring over and completing mountains of paperwork, but it was worth all her hard work as in 2006 we obtained the grant and the work could commence. On 25th May 2007 a party was held to celebrate the re-opening of the newly refurbished hall.

Since then we have obtained grants from Saxon Weald towards renovating the garden to make a cooking and seating area and to smarten up the whole garden. Also grants were obtained from Broadbridge Heath Parish Council for various projects. Some local businesses have been generous with donations of cash, goods or services.

World Jamborees

Shortly after the start of Scouting in 1907, it rapidly and unexpectedly spread to other countries and Baden Powell realised that Scouting needed to be more organised if it was to include all nationalities. The First World War put these ideas on hold, but BP decided on an 'Imperial and International Jamboree' which was the first World Jamboree, it was held at Olympia, London in 1920, where 8,000 Scouts from 34 countries attended. Again, after World War 2, the 6th jamboree was held in Moisson, France in January 1947, known as the Jamboree of Peace and 24,152 people attended.

The last jamboree (22nd) was held in 2011 in Kristianstad, Sweden where 40,000 Scouts from 146 countries attended, including Matthew Kimber from 1st Broadbridge Heath. We have had other Scouts chosen to go – Emily Newport went to the 19th World Jamboree in Chile in 1999 and also went as Support Crew to the 20th World Jamboree in Thailand in 2003. Also in 2003 Ben Watkins was chosen from our Group to go to Thailand. Neil Phillips went to the Canadian Jamboree in July 1983 in Banff. They are chosen by rigorous tests of their camping and other skills at numerous assessment weekends, competing with many Scouts from all over to represent our district.

There is also JOTA – Jamboree on the air, where Scouts from all over the world can speak to each other on amateur radio frequencies. Several of our members have taken part over the years in this venture. The 55th JOTA will be held on 20th and 21st of October 2012 and half a million Scouts and Guides are expected to come together on air.

Now there is JOTI – Jamboree on the internet – connecting Scouts around the world online.

Also we have JOTT – Jamboree on the Trail – an annual day for the World Scout Movement to hike together wherever they may be.

The “Soap Box” Derby

I cannot claim that Broadbridge Heath drove to fame in the first Soap Box Derby held 17th June 1939, or even, entered, but I feel that it is an interesting part of Scouting history and we did have three members that went to that meeting.

Quote from the programme as follows:-

“The idea of the Derby arose out of the success of similar races in America. After early difficulties, the editor of The Scout obtained the co-operation of the British Motor Race Organisers’ Association, and arrangements were made for a national competition. The semi-finals of the Southern Area were held at the Crystal Palace track on 20th May and the races were televised by the BBC. We (Ford works at Dagenham) co-operated in the arrangements for the finals to be held today, and will award the prizes. The cars entered for the British National Championships must have been built by the boys themselves, and the cost must not exceed 50s. Troops in all parts of the country have entered.

Event Number Four – Finals, Scouts’ National “Speedster” Championship 1939

Months of painstaking labour have been put into the construction of the ingenious “Specials” which will line up for three miniature car races this afternoon. All the cars have been made by the boys themselves at a cost limited to 50s. each, and are pedal propelled.

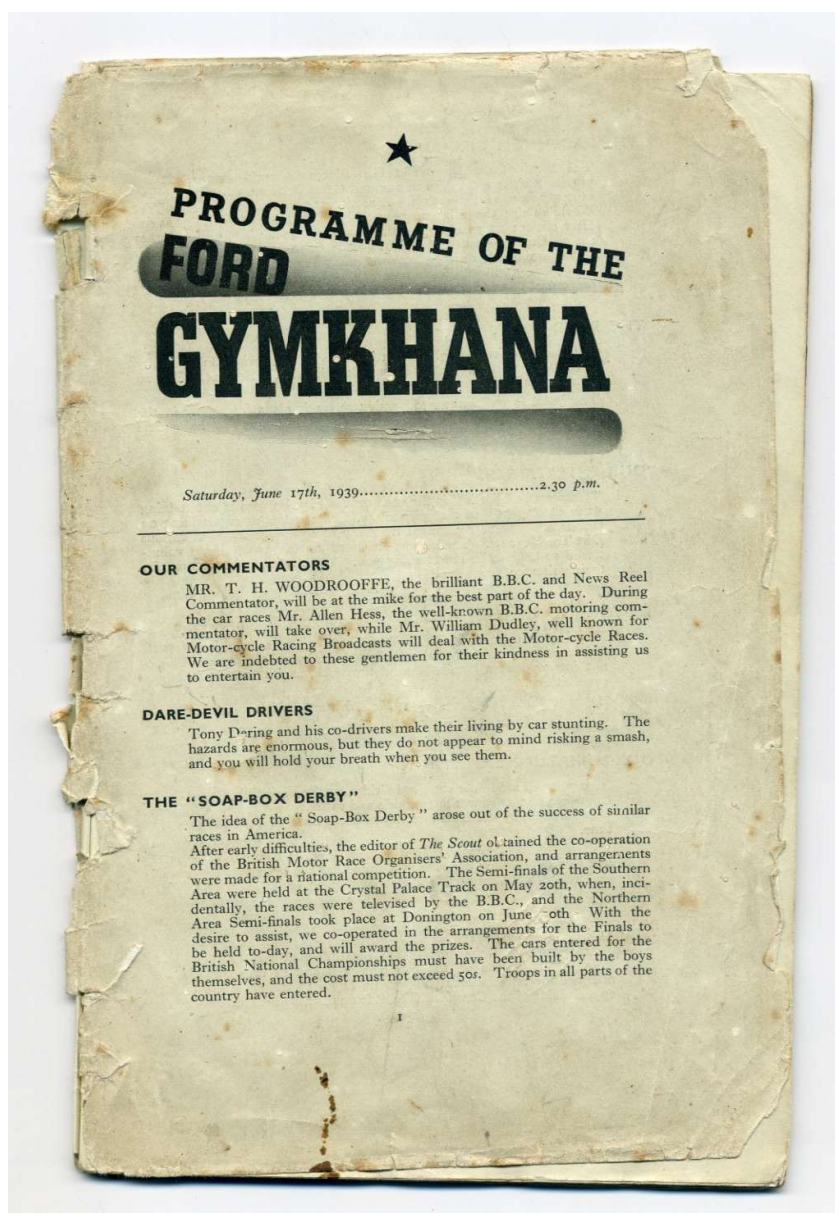
Event Number Fourteen – Scouts’ “Speedster” Obstacle Race

Be Prepared for a laugh each second as the Scouts and their model cars come into action again! This time it’s an Obstacle Race, and there’s a thrill – and maybe a spill- along every yard with furious pedalling or freewheeling down the hazardous course. Among obstacles awaiting these do-or-die drivers is trying a clove hitch on a cross-bar while in the car, driving over a see-saw, eating a biscuit, and bursting a balloon.

Event Number Fifteen – Prize Presentation and Scouts’ Camp Fire

Sir Malcolm Campbell MBE has kindly consented to present the prizes. Just before the Scouts’ “Speedster” Obstacle Race the stage will be thrown open to allow the public to get to the Grand Stand for the prize giving. The day is brought to a close with a traditional camp fire and the singing of the old songs in the time-honoured way. The camp fire will be led by Jack Beet, of the London Gang Show and there will be community singing for all. A camp fire provides an unforgettable experience and we hope all visitors will long associate it with memories of an enjoyable and interesting day.”

On that day in 1939 Scoutmaster Albert Selby cycled to Brooklands from Broadbridge Heath with Charlie Weston on the back of his tandem and Fred Weston cycling alongside! He also went to the semi-finals at Crystal Palace.



Snippets from the Minute Books (or How Life has Changed)

September 1952 - It was agreed that the football club could use the hall as a changing room for their Saturday home matches.

November 1952 – The Old Time Dance Club hired the hall, but in addition to the hire charge if they wished to use the stove 2/6 was charged, the tea urn 1/- and the kettle 6d.

1952 - All Scout social events cancelled due to the death of the King.

1953 – There was a broken window in the Ladies toilet, so a dance was held and the profit used to fix the window.

2nd March 1954 – The committee agreed that the hall was deteriorating and that several locks were required. Also decided that they would sell the old Sea Scout boat, but they couldn't find the trailer.

30th March 1954 – Locks for the internal doors were 'procured' and fitted by the Cub Leaders, but more were needed. The lost trailer was found at Southwoods.

23rd April 1954 – Mrs Short said her husband would kindly fit the remaining locks.

1st June 1954 – Locks not yet fitted as Mr Short had not the necessary tools. The treasurer announced an outstanding gas bill of £13-15-0d, so it was agreed to turn off the gas for the next four months.

6th July 1954 - Mr Hunter thought it might be an asset to have card tables (for the whist drives)..... it was suggested that the Scouts might be able to make some more cheaply.

September 1954 – Extra-ordinary Meeting - It was agreed to approach the Army Camp if transport were needed for a jumble collection.

May 1956 – Mr Stride suggested that to save money any small electrical repairs required in the hall could be carried out by the Scouts.

September 1956 – after many attempts the boat was finally sold for £10 – over two years after the decision was originally made to sell it!

19th February 1957 - It was noted that the logs that the Scouts had sawn during the summer were disappearing, so the local police officer would be asked to give this special attention. Also it was proposed by Mr Hunter that the land that the hall stands on would sell for building. At a special meeting later Mr Charrett said it should remain as a Scout Hall. The committee agreed that a phone kiosk should be erected 18 feet from the footpath, not 28 feet as on the plans and would be supplied by the P.O. and one shilling per year rent would be charged.

26TH March 1957 - It was decided (after some weeks, it seems, of deliberation) that 3 cwt. of coal should be purchased. Anyone hiring the hall was charged extra for the use of the coal.

October 1957 - A social evening would be held and that Mr and Mrs Lambert would be approached with a view to borrow their radio-gram. In fact, a record player was borrowed, but it broke down during the social, so Mr Mander had the task of asking for a reduction on the charge for the use of it!

Throughout 1950 – 1960

In the minutes there was a running theme that every small item to be purchased, even down to a new bowl for the kitchen, was debated, proposed and seconded. If the committee needed something done by the Scouts then the Scoutmaster was written to by the secretary of the committee. Bills that required payment were discussed and eventually paid months later! The committee was permanently short of cash. The system seemed to be that the Scouts had money for

their requirements, the Cubs the same and if either section needed more cash for a particular items – more tent pegs were always needed – then they asked the committee for the money or, sometimes, the Cubs would kindly give the Scouts some money from their jumble sale profits. It was a very complicated system. On 4th September 1963 Mr Copeland said that if all the outstanding bills were paid the group would be insolvent. The meeting s did seem to end at a reasonable hour, but you wonder how!

1963

In 1963 when the Football Club hired the hall for their bingo session they requested a reduction in the hire charge as they supplied their own coal.

A group magazine was started 'to keep the parents in touch with troop activities, work and badges'.

A fundraising event – 8 dozen ball point pens with the Scout logo were purchased to be sold around the village. Whether or not this venture made a profit wasn't mentioned.

November 1963 - Committee to enquire of the Bomb Disposal Unit if they had a spare stove that could be used to heat the hall. The purchase of a free standing stove for heating the hall rumbled on for years.

During these years there was a sub- committee for every and any event – Christmas party, socials, camps, a parent and supporters committee, Cubs and Scouts had separate committees, summer sports and fete, hall bookings, new year party and finally the group committee.

December 1963 - The subscriptions were increased to 9d per week for Scouts and 6d for Cubs 'to go a little way towards paying the increased membership levy by Headquarters from 3 shillings per annum to 8 shillings.

The hall needed a clock, but they were too expensive so Mr Warburton was looking into the question of making an electric clock.

19th May 1972 AGM - Mr Welland apologised for the fact that there would be no film show this year's AGM, as owing to the rail strike, the films had not been received from Kodak'.

1975 - Scout summer camp – a refund of £3 was given to each boy as they had not eaten as much as expected!

1979 – The coin-in-the-slot gas meter was changed to a normal meter, but the hall lettings cost would reflect this. However, the electric meter would be replaced with one that took 10p and 50p coins.

25th January 1982 – As we now had cups and saucers it was agreed to purchase 100 plastic spoons. It was also suggested that the secretary should write to British Telecom asking for an increase in the ground rental for the telephone kiosk.

1st March 1982 – British Telecom were giving it their attention.

26th March 1984 – Still in correspondence with British Telecom! (To be continued)

14th June 1982 – The Assistant Recruiting Officer of the Army has asked if the group would be able to make 2 trestle tables. This was being costed out.

16th November 1982 – After much consultation at several committee meetings it was decided to purchase a new door mat as the existing one was badly worn.

1st March 1989 – A committee member asked road workers working locally if they could dispose of their superfluous concrete into two potholes in the forecourt. Later that evening at the committee meeting the members were advised that those who had parked on the forecourt had driven through the wet concrete. Some of the committee agreed to tamp down the concrete again before they left!

10th April 1991 – Awaiting another ‘second hand road surface to repair the forecourt’

8th March 1993 – The District Council notified us that a new public payphone kiosk was to be erected outside the hall. It was decided that we would register our opposition stating that the present one was more in keeping with the age of the hall and we were willing to periodically repaint it ourselves if necessary, and the 25p per year rent was not considered sufficient to cover the cost of wear and tear to our parking area. (Note by secretary – It has since been realised that if they do remove it, it would be necessary for our Group to install and maintain a telephone line within the hall – so it was decided not to protest too strongly)

21st March 1993 – Mr Parry has in fact been offered the old telephone box for our use!

Our Group Today

From the 1990's to date the Group has grown and we now have 60 boys and girls and each section has at least 3 leaders / helpers. The helpers include parents, young people who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award, young leaders and numerous ‘casual helpers’ that are called upon when the need arises.

Although life is still hectic, time is always found to help out the different sections at camp, outings or craft and cooking evenings that always need an extra pair of hands.

The Group is in a more stable position with a permanent waiting list for young people to join, sufficient leaders (but there is always room for more, there can never be too many helpers) and we no longer have to hold a jumble sale in order to pay the gas bill. We are never complacent when it comes to fundraising for potential problems with our wonderful 102 year old building and funds to give the youngsters a great time.

Now the movement, although still true to Baden Powell's original concept of helping young people to be self-sufficient and good citizens, is based more on personal development with the emphasis on having fun and enjoyment. The original Beaver motto was ‘Fun and Friends’ and really sums up Scouting today. All the sections take part in a wide variety of activities from sleepovers, camping (both home and abroad), hiking, geo-caching, climbing, kayaking, outside visits to places like fire stations and theme parks - with the activity & proficiency badge schemes the list is endless.

Then and Now

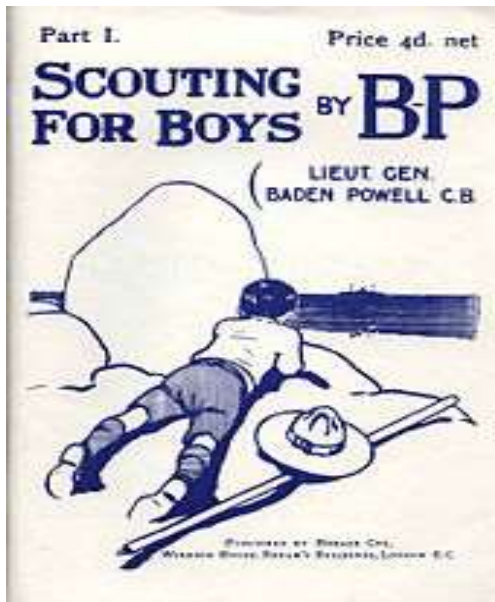
The Scout Emblem in 1912



The Scout Emblem in 2012



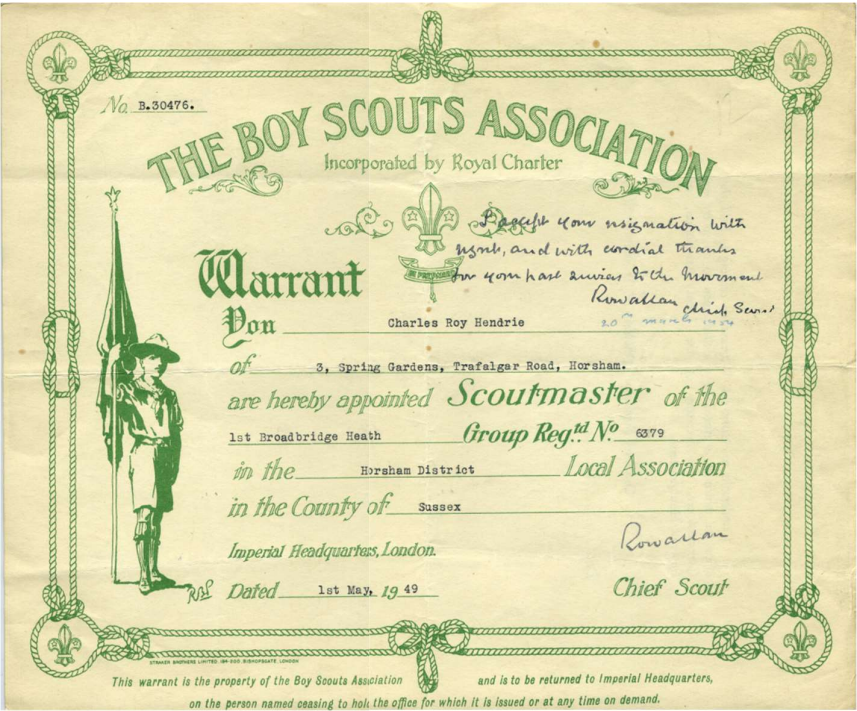
The First "Scouting Magazine"



Scouting Magazine as it is today



An early Leader's Warrant – a large document printed on velum.



Today's Leader's Warrant – a small 'credit card' size piece of plastic



The First Chief Scout - Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell 1st Baron Baden-Powell Bt, OM, GCMG, GCVO, KCB



The Present Chief Scout – Bear Grylls



Broadbridge Heath Scouts at Broadstone Warren campsite circa 1960 (photograph kindly loaned by Richard Greengrass)



Camping at the 2011 Jamboree in Sweden (photograph kindly loaned by Matt Kimber)



Badges worn by Scouts in the 1930's



County Badge



Cyclist



Master at Arms

Badges worn by Scouts in 2012



County Badge



Cyclist



Master at Arms

1908 Uniform



2012 Uniform





I intended to compile a list of all the leaders, assistants and committee members, but I soon realised that I would not then have enough room in this booklet for any history. I am sure that I would also have unintentionally missed some names, so I decided just to say that thanks to all the numerous adults and young leaders that have played a large part in the Group, without whom it would not be the thriving Group that it is today.

This has been my first attempt at any literary exercise. Please excuse any errors or omissions. A lot of the early records no longer exist, only anecdotes from former members and helpers and some of that 2nd hand from their families.

In conclusion

A story told to me by Mr Fred Weston, who was a Scout in the 1930's. When Scoutmaster, Albert Selby was called up for active service and joined the Bomb Disposal Unit in 1939, Fred Weston took over the Troop as there was no one else to run it. He was officially too young to be a leader, but was given special dispensation in unusual circumstances. After 18 months Fred was also called up and joined the RAF and, on leaving, was given a silver Scout badge on a wristband as a thank you for his services. This he wore throughout his service in the RAF. He recalled that he was posted to the Middle East and one day when walking through a local market a young man came up to him and offered him his left hand – the official handshake of the Scout Association. The man had recognised the badge that he wore on his wristband and came over to speak to him. Fred says they became good friends for the few weeks that he was in that part of the world. Scout friendship is recognised throughout the world and in all circumstances.

This is what Scouting is all about.



Acknowledgements

Charles Weston for the information, photographs and memorabilia that he has given to the Group

Anne Inkipin for all the photographs given to the Group for previous exhibitions.

Jonathan England for allowing me to use some information from his forthcoming book

Brian Slyfield for allowing me to use some of the article written for the History Society

The Scout Association Archivist and Denis Wyatt, the District Archivist for the information given

Eileen Sturgess for the loan of Peter's camp blanket and information

Angela Hockley for the loan of the photograph and Nature Book belonging to her brother Louis Ellis

Richard Greengrass for his photographs and information

Basil Stenning, Jim Charman and Kevin Murdoch for their reminiscences,

Last, but not least, Barry, for rushing to my aid every time that the computer didn't do as it was told!

Sandy Mursell

**JOIN THE
ADVENTURE.**

