

HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH of April 2021

Traditionally the time to mark St George's Day is on the nearest Sunday to the 23rd April.



Until the outbreak of War in September 1939, all St George's Day Parades were held centrally in St Albans followed by a march to the Cathedral for a commemorative service. After 1939 these services were suspended until hostilities ceased in 1945. It was then agreed to allow individual Districts to make their own arrangements as is the current situation.

The photo above, from 1925 shows **Percy Everett (CC)** walking with the **County President, Viscount Hampden** to the saluting base in front of St Albans Town Hall. The assembly of Troops can be seen far into the distance.

One can only imagine the noise with most Groups and Districts having their own Bands at that time and wanting onlookers to be impressed with their tuning up! The image on the right, is from the same event, taken in front of St Albans Town Hall after the Service, with the County President addressing the assembly of several thousand Boy Scouts.



In 1966, the **Chief Scout Sir Charles Maclean** published his Advance Party Report that revolutionised and updated many aspects of Scouting. Amongst these, girls were allowed to join as Scouts and the Training of all Adult Section Leaders became compulsory and was to be completed within 5 years. Boy Scouts were renamed Scouts, Wolf Cubs became Cub Scouts and Rovers and Senior Scouts were abolished. In came Venture Scouts and the 8-P Guild of Old Scouts was renamed The Scout Fellowship. Many of our commissioners also felt uncomfortable with a new uniform look that included long trousers and berets and felt the need to resign. Another change was that any Leader over the age of 65 was rule was later relaxed under national Government legislation.



Many older Cub Scout Leaders will remember **Les and Mary Frost** who in 1966 were members of the County Leader Training Team. The ACC Leader Training **Len Spikesley**, who had to re-organise and recruit, asked them to stay on to lead the Cub Scout Section Leader Training. Following their retirement some decades later, **Les Frost** died in 2017 and **Mary** has more recently been taken into a care home. Their son **David** has contacted me to donate all their Scouting memorabilia. This collection has proved to be of considerable interest, containing many rare and previously unseen items that will enhance the County Scout Museum at Well End. This image of **Les and Mary** was taken at Tolmers Activity Centre in 2004 at an exhibition to celebrate the extraordinary Scouting life of **Len Spikesley**, a former ACC Leader Training.

Hertfordshire County Scout Council

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 County Commissioner: **Liz Walker** County President: **Robert Voss CBE** County Chairman: **Michael Shurety**
 Charity No: 302606 Scottish Charity No: 39650 VAT registration No: 761 4558 19

On 19-20 March 1966, the *Hertfordshire County Cub Leaders Palaver* was held at Watford Technical High School. It was the 50th year since the foundation of Wolf Cubs so there was a record attendance.

I have heard from a Beaver Leader in Hitchin who has two great-grandsons of **Norman Hyde RIBA** in her Colony. She was inquiring on their behalf as to what **Norman** did to get his Silver Wolf Award? I have offered to meet when circumstances permit and share this information. I knew and met with **Norman** many times during the decades, both as County Training Administrator and as County Scout Historian and have a considerable file on his most interesting Scouting life. He is remembered in particular for his work at Lochearnhead Scout Station.

Please also be aware that during the Pandemic restrictions I am still very active in providing a service to help Groups and Districts with their history where possible. Unfortunately, I currently have no access to the County Heritage Centre or the Archive Cabin Facilities at Well End but I do have considerable resources at home.



A blue plaque was unveiled on the house where the first Scout in Hertfordshire **Alan Emery** made his Scout Promise. The plaque was fixed to his former home at 128 Estcourt Road, Watford on the anniversary of his making The Scout Promise (or Oath as it was then) on 1 March 1908. This anniversary event was held on 1 March 2019 and followed a widely advertised and researched occasion. The plaque was unveiled by young Scouts from the 1st Watford South (Countess of Clarendon's Own Scout Group) that was formally the 1st South West Herts Troop. This was **Alan's** original Troop and also the first to be registered in Hertfordshire. The event took me over 18 months to organise and I was thankful for the help and support received from many quarters especially from **Roger and Janet Sands, Liz Jack** and **Councillor Rabi Martins, Chairman of Watford Borough Council**. The picture shows Members of the unveiling Team with the blue plaque visible between the two upper windows.

I am pleased to report that in my latest advisory list of national Silver Wolf Awards, **Tom Shirley** the Manager of the Potters Bar Scout Active Support will receive his on St Georges Day 2021. A full list of all awards received in this year's Roll of Honours can be found on the County website.

I also receive an annual updated list of recipients of the International World Bronze Wolf Award. This started in 1935 and the first recipient was **Lord Baden-Powell (the Founder)**. Since then there have been 377 awards of the Bronze Wolf (world-wide) and these include 39 from the UK. Two were awarded to Hertfordshire Scouts. In 1965 to **Bob Thomas** and in 1971 to **Charles Dymoke Green**. Both of these were members of the 4th St Albans Scout Group.

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All Scouts will mourn the "Going Home" of the **HRH Duke of Edinburgh** on Friday 9 April. A man of exacting standards, he will be remembered for so many initiatives especially the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme that many Scouts achieved. Having consulted with **Steve Skittrall**, Hertfordshire's Adviser for the DofE Award, I can reveal that in Hertfordshire there have been 654 Bronze, 506 Silver and 153 Gold Awards to date.

Amongst many others, **Bear Grylls** appeared on TV to pay tribute to **The Duke's** dedication and influence in introducing the scheme to 144 countries throughout the world. The scheme was founded in 1956 and was designed to develop Life Skills to young people. **The Duke** was without doubt a most extraordinary leader and he always made a point of personally meeting and speaking with every Gold Award holder. **Bear Grylls** also wrote a very complimentary article in The Daily Telegraph on 14 April, praising **The Duke's** interest and work with Scouting over many years.

Frank Brittain

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