

The 2nd Orpington Scout Group News :

No.7 March 1972



THE SEVEN YEAR (H)ITCH

The news was recently released of the appointment of our G.S.L., W.K.Tickner, to the rank of District Commissioner, succeeding Mr. D. W. Gemmell, who retired at the end of the year.

Keith Tickner has been involved in the affairs of the 2nd Orpington Scout Group since 1964 when he was elected Chairman of the Group Committee, a role he filled with exactitude and with verve for some years.

Time passed and his impact on the Group became more evident daily. His foresight and drive were second to none, and many of his then Committee colleagues still remaining with the Group are but a shadow of their former selves, having been driven into the ground by this familiar, friendly and somewhat portly genial genius! The extraordinary thing about it all is that the majority of them are STILL active within the Group gluttons for punishment? maybe, but you know it IS rather a wonderful Group to be involved with.

The magnetism emanating from Keith's leadership and guidance, is nothing short of being miraculous, in that many of the helpers have no real connection with the Scout movement at all!!

Keith's appointment to D.C. is apt recognition for his services to Scouting in the past, and there is no doubt that the District will have a Champion that is indeed worthy of the trust bestowed upon him in the years that lie ahead. He will have a tough job, for Doug Gemmell has set a very high standard in the area.



A D.C.'s job is a very important one, and time-consuming. In its execution after all, the welfare of some 1500 Scouts is a responsibility of some magnitude and entails a considerable amount of travelling around the locality.

It is however pleasing to note that for the time being anyway, the 2nd Orp have not lost him as a 'father figure', but it does mean that a deputy G.S.L. will have to be appointed pretty soon.

It is sincerely hoped that Keith's Scouting future will be ever bright, and every good wish goes with him on the occasion of his new role in years to come.

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CHAIRMAN MAU MARCHANT'S PARTY REPORT

I'M SURE THAT all our Scouts, Cubs, Parents and Supporters will be delighted to hear that our Group Scout Leader, Keith Tickner, has been appointed Commissioner for the Orpington District, from the New Year. He takes up his new appointment with our heartfelt good wishes and we are all confident that under his leadership, the 'District' will continue to grow on the foundations so firmly laid by his predecessor "Gimlet".

2ND ORPINGTON is extremely lucky because one of the Group Council — Mr. Maurice Stagg, has volunteered to become Assistant Group Scout Leader, taking over from Keith many of his co-ordinating and administrative duties.

WE MUST CONGRATULATE Malcolm Clarke on his forthcoming marriage to Dierdre, Akela of 'A' Pack. After their wedding, they will be leaving the area and setting up home in Tunbridge Wells. We wish them every happiness in the future. Miss Sally Ives, also of 'A' Pack, is now Mrs. Smith and also has our very best wishes. Fortunately, she and her husband are not leaving Orpington so she will not be leaving 'A' Pack nor her "nag".

SINCE THE SUMMER, the Parents and Supporters Association has been very active. We had a working weekend in early September, which was aimed at painting the outside of the H.Q. and generally tidying up. There was a good turn out of parents, the weather was kind and we repainted the exterior.

AS ALWAYS, the Cheese & Wine Party went with a bang. Arthur Robinson and Ron Girling worked out the theme and decor — a Mediterranean village by the sea. The ladies produced food which could only be described as superb; our guests were delighted with its beautiful and imaginative presentation. Thank you, ladies. The Cheese & Wine Party is given by the Group for all the Parents and all the Supporters and although there were many of the latter, there were a disappointing number of parents. Mums and Dads, it is laid on for you, so do try and come next year.

THE AUTUMN JUMBLE SALE was a great success. We collected an enormous amount of jumble, much of it of very high quality. The labours yielded a profit of £88 — an all time record. Well done all the helpers and donors — very many thanks.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ENDS by wishing that 1972 may be a happy and memorable year for us all.

WHO'S WHO! **Know your Committee**

C. MARCHANT (Chairman)

A. ROBINSON
J. BETCHLEY (Secretary)
R. GIRLING
S. VENN
E. WHEELER
M. HOBBS
L. THOMAS
A. UTTON
D. JAMES
P. MINNIS
D. PARKHURST
W. LAKE
F. THURBON
J. CURRIE
K. THEOBALD (Treasurer)
R. MAUNDERS
M. STAGG
W. SMITH
P. HOWETT
A. PARKER
M. SAPWELL
D. SMITH

THE ASSISTANT GROUP SCOUT LEADER

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT THE 2ND ORP WELCOME MAURICE STAGG AS THE NEW ASSISTANT GROUP SCOUT LEADER. MAURICE IS NO NEWCOMER TO SCOUTING NOR TO 2ND ORP.

HE FIRST JOINED THE SCOUTS IN 1940 WHEN EVACUATED TO A VILLAGE IN HERTFORDSHIRE. ON RETURNING TO LONDON IN 1942 HE TRANSFERRED TO HIS LOCAL TROOP AND STAYED WITH THEM UNTIL HE WAS EIGHTEEN. THEN FOLLOWED A TWO YEAR BREAK WHILE HE COMPLETED HIS NATIONAL SERVICE IN THE ARMY. AFTER HIS TIME WITH THE ARMY HE RETURNED TO LONDON AND WAS FOR THREE YEARS ASSISTANT SCOUT MASTER TO HIS LOCAL SENIOR SCOUT GROUP.

MAURICE HAS WORKED FOR THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY SINCE HE WAS FOURTEEN AND HAS SEEN MANY CHANGES THERE. HE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE GODINGTON NORTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND WAS A WELL KNOWN FIGURE OF THE WALKING CHURCH. MRS. STAGG IS A VERY ACTIVE MEMBER OF BLENHEIM SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION.

MAURICE HAS BEEN A HARDWORKING MEMBER OF THE GROUP COUNCIL FOR SOME TIME. THE COUNCIL ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ALL HIS HELP IN THE PAST AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM IN THE FUTURE.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Owing to circumstances beyond our control, the current issue of 2nd SIGHT is somewhat shorter than anticipated. It is hoped however that the deficiency be made up in the next issue. Due apologies for any inconvenience.



TELEPHONE:
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**Mike
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**Shoe repairs &
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A rectangular advertisement for Mike Summers. At the top, it lists the telephone number and address. Below that is the name 'Mike SUMMERS' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The central illustration shows a fish on the left and a shoe on the right, with a line connecting them, suggesting a link between fishing and shoe repair. At the bottom, the services offered are listed in a bold, italicized font.

For Valour, Cornwell V. C.

JOHN TRAVERS CORNWELL had already attained the rank of First-class boy on on H.M.S. Chester when, in 1916, the Battle of Jutland began.

In the official despatches describing that terrible contest, many names were mentioned of gallant officers who had performed lustrous deeds; and many instances were cited of the fine handling of ships; but in all this stirring record there was nothing to excel the story of Jack Cornwell.

His admiral, Sir David Beatty, singled out this unassuming, gallant-hearted lad for mention above all others. The official citation reads :

"Boy (1st class) John Travers Cornwell, of the Chester, was mortally wounded early in the action.

He nevertheless remained standing alone at the most exposed post till the end of the action, with the gun's crew dead and wounded all around him. He was under sixteen and a half years.

I regret that he has since died, but I recommend his case for special recognition in justice to his memory, and as an acknowledgment of the high example set by him."

Jack was sight-setter for the gun and throughout the action he was exposed to enemy gunfire. Within less than five minutes of the opening of the battle his gun was put out of action by an enemy shell, and he was savagely wounded and losing much blood. When he recovered from the early shock he considered his position.

"But," said his captain, "he remained steady at his most exposed post at the gun, waiting for orders. His gun could not bear on the enemy; all but two of the ten of the gun-crew were killed or wounded, and he was the only one who was in such an exposed position. but he felt he might be needed; so he stayed there,

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standing and waiting under heavy fire, with just his own brave heart and God's help to support him."

First-class Boy Cornwell felt himself one of those whom England expected to do their duty.

After the action, they bore him back to Grimsby, and there, in the hospital, the nurses asked him how the battle had gone.

"Oh, we carried on all right," he said.

He knew of our victory and was content, and he said nothing of his own immortal deed. He lived on twenty-four hours after being carried into the hospital, and his mother arrived from London too late.

"I know my mother is coming; give her my love", were his last words.

The little hero's body was buried at Manor Park Cemetery; but when the news of his heroism was published he became a national hero. Dead though he may be, his memory has become immortal.

Jack Cornwell was awarded a posthumous V.C. — the youngest ever British recipient.

It is small wonder that the Boy Scout movement has named its highest award after him.


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THE ROYAL NAVY TODAY

It is quite possible that some of you may be surprised to hear that Great Britain still has a Navy. Well, it has, and although it is not now the biggest and mightiest in the world, as it once was, it is still by far and away the biggest in Western Europe and is only outdone by the navies of Russia and the United States.

Once upon a time, our fleets were made up of great lines of great grey battleships, bristling with guns and packed with sailors. Now the picture is different, the ships are far smaller — frigates, whose job is to hunt down submarines; destroyers, armed with deadly guided missiles; assault ships carrying soldiers and helicopters; and finally the great nuclear powered submarines which are a far cry from the cramped smelly submarines of twenty years ago.

In spite of all these changes, the Navy's job hasn't changed. It is the same as it was in the days of Nelson, and the same as it was a hundred years before him. It is neatly summed up in the words of an old naval prayer —

"To be a safeguard unto our most Gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our Island may live in peace and quietness."

Although the job hasn't changed, the men have. In place of the brawny Jack Tar, hauling at sails, pulling a boat or swinging a cutlass to repel boarders, the modern sailor is a highly trained technician. Much of his time is spent training ashore for, whether he is maintaining a complex guided weapon system, controlling a nuclear reactor or sending radio messages round the world, he is an expert through and through. He has to be capable of thinking and acting for himself in a way his predecessor of a hundred years - or even fifty years - ago could not begin to understand.

It's all a far cry from Nelson — wooden ships and iron men, but the Navy moves with the times; more than that, it has to keep ahead of the times to be one step ahead of its rivals. However you look at it, of one thing you may be sure — "THE NAVY HAS IT!"

C.P.M.

'B' PACK REPORT

- AWARDS :-**
- Bronze Arrow* — Paul Messenger
 - Silver Arrow* — Paul Edwards, Simon Gower, Andrew Howat, Steven James
 - Gold Arrow* — Jonathan Chivers, Jonathan Hobbs
- PROFICIENCY BADGES :-**
- Athlete 1* — Mark Callender, Paul Sapwell, Michael Theobald
 - Explorer* — Jonathan Chivers, Ian Gibbons, Jonathan Hobbs, Matthew Stagg, Michael Theobald
 - First - Aider* — Mark Callender, Ian Gibbons, Simon Gower, Andrew Howat, Steven James, Michael Theobald.
 - Rescuer* — Andrew Howat, Jamie Kimber
 - Swimmer 1* — Jonathan Chivers, Andrew Evans, Paul Messenger, Oliver Parker, Timothy Parker, Nigel Rawlins, Richard Theobald, Robert Todd.
 - Swimmer II* — Jonathan Chivers, Paul Messenger, Andrew Simmonds
- LINK BADGE :-** — Jonathan Chivers, Jonathan Hobbs, Matthew Stagg

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

B PACK REPORT (continued)

On September 9th, the Pack meetings re-started after the summer holidays. On the 11th the first football match of the season was played, and surprisingly resulted in B Pack winning 6-2. All our efforts to train a new team last season had not been wasted. Well done boys. At the time of writing this report our match results are even, 3 wins and 3 losses. This is a tremendous improvement – the team already have more goals than they earned for the whole of last season! It is good to see that the Dads have come back as enthusiastic as the boys, and we are especially grateful to Roger Payne who has once again agreed to act as our Referee.

From the 17th - 19th September 14 Cubs went to camp at Buckmore Park together with a number of boys from A Pack. It was a very good weekend weatherwise. Activities included go-karting, roller skating and swimming. (Several boys gained swimming badges). Throughout the weekend any spare time was used for making bivouacs which proved to be great fun as each group tried to build bigger and better ones than the next. On Saturday evening we were joined by some Scouts and their Leaders for a glorious sing-song around the camp fire. Altogether it was a very enjoyable camp, and was made easier for the Scouters by the help of Mrs. Magee who acted as head cook and bottle-washer. Thank you, Mrs. Magee.

On the 24th October Sixers from both Packs were invited to join the Scouts who were in camp for a wide game, an evening meal and a get-together round the camp fire.

On the 17th November, the boys going-up took their parents along to meet the A.S.L. 'Buzz', to discuss their future in Scouting over a cup of coffee. On the 20th November a coffee morning was held to welcome new boys and their parents into the Group.

We welcome into the Group Oliver Parker and Richard Theobald who were Invested on the 11th November. Also, Philip Green and Paul Smith who have just been enrolled, and Marc Open who has transferred from the 7th Morden having already gained his Bronze Arrow and Athlete Stage 1 Proficiency Badge.

Up to the Troop on the 22nd November went Jonathan Chivers, Jonathan Hobbs and Matthew Stagg, so although we bade a Cub's farewell to them we will still see them from time to time when the Group meet together. Happy Scouting, boys.

We are sorry not to be seeing so much of Paul Edwards now that he has become a boarder at a Choir School, but he is still a member of our Group and is welcome to attend Pack meetings whenever he is in this area.

We were also sorry to hear of the mishap to Nigel Rawlins when he thought he could mimic a bird and fell 20 ft. from a tree.

Unfortunately for Nigel, Cubs do not possess wings, and for several weeks he has had both arms in plaster. We were very pleased to welcome him back to the Pack recently and the following week to see that one of the plasters had been removed. We hope it will not be too long before the other plaster is removed and life is back to normal for you again Nigel.

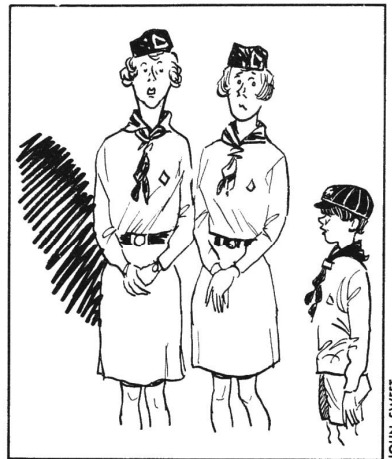
Swimming Sessions are again taking place on the first Friday in the month. These are held at Darrick Wood Baths from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. (Meeting at H.Q. at 6.50 p.m.) Already several boys have gained badges since the season began. There are only 7 boys in the Pack who do not hold a swimming certificate, and 2 of these have now mastered a few strokes so will soon be earning their first stage badge. Will those boys who cannot swim please make a special effort to attend the Group sessions so that we can help them.

We looked forward with particular interest to Saturday, 11th December, when we challenged the A Pack to a football match in the morning, and then joined them for a most enjoyable Christmas party in the afternoon.

Once again, many thanks to all the Scouters for their help throughout the year.

Best wishes to you all, and to the boys and their parents, for a very happy 1972.

AKELA



'My Mum says she doesn't much like what yer doin' to my character!'

Scouter for a Weekend

.....

WHEN I HEARD FROM RIKKI THAT HE HAD ASSURED AKELA A THAT I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO GO TO CAMP WITH THE CUBS AND HELP WITH THE COOKING, MY EXCLAMATION "WHAT!" MUST HAVE BEEN HEARD IN GREEN ST. GREEN.

"BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BOY SCOUTS" I protested.

"THAT DOESN'T MATTER" he blandly informed me, "AND IT'S JUST 'SCOUTS' THESE DAYS".

"HOW MANY ARE GOING?" I asked, feeling faint.

"OH, ONLY ABOUT 30 ODD".

Well, there were 36 in all in the end, 27 boys and 9 adults, plus one small *GIRL* ! This last item had been my last excuse (and I had produced quite a few, and original ones too!) for wriggling out of going. However Akela A smiled sweetly and said "WE'VE GOT PERMISSION FOR HER TO COME TOO".

I GAVE IN.

So there I was on the Friday evening, clutching my sleeping bag, toothbrush and hot water bottle and trying not to stare at the mountain of pots, pans, utensils and great square tins (sorry, dixies). All these, plus a great number of sleeping bags, kit bags, sundry holdalls and noisy excited boys were tucked away in assorted cars and vans and the convoy started off.

We were soon at Buckmore Park and after Kim had performed the miracle of finding the right switches, Grey Wolf had produced the right size coin for the gas-meter, the Akelas A and B and the Scouters had led the boys on safari to the Providore (shop to you) to hunt for food, I carried out my first duty. I made a pot of tea for the Scouters and cocoa for the boys. Off went the boys to bed and that was the last I heard of them that night (though it wasn't the last that Grey Wolf & Co. heard, but that's another story).

Saturday morning started at 7.00 for Akela A, Bagheera and me, but it was already a couple of hours old for most of the boys. There was plenty of activity outside our hut, I could see Grey Wolf coaxing a fire alight like a true Scout, and soon there was just as much activity inside as out. The breakfast was soon under way and I quickly realised that it was a combined effort. We all joined in, the Scouters cooked and prepared the food and the boys set the tables and then afterwards did the washing-up, and it was the same at each meal.

After breakfast, the boys went go-karting, and when they returned it was obvious that they had had great fun, although I think I detected a slight note of disappointment that no-one had actually broken a leg or an arm or a head. Not a drop of blood was spilled, though one boy did come near to distinction, as he crashed at over 120 m.p.h. (their figure, not mine!). They were clamouring for their dinner and on hearing that it was mince, peas and spuds (what silly boy asked me "What are spuds?") there were loud groans, but needless to say when the plates were collected after the meal every scrap had been eaten. The washers-up got cracking and, spurred on by loud cries of encouragement from the G.S.L., they soon obliterated all traces of the meal. Then after a suitable respite they were off again, this time for a swim.

Before very long there was more preparation, groans, eating, empty plates, washing-up, G.S.L.-type cries of encouragement, and then we were off again to try the roller-skating and this time I went along too. This was an unforgettable experience. Every boy had a go, even the most timid, and believe me, it took courage to venture out among the dozens of people whizzing round the hall when one has never had on skates before, and these boys skidded round the rink or crawled round the walls, quite unconcerned about falling or getting knocked over. It was very funny to see the attendants wheeling them off the rink when a Ladies Only session was announced. Grey Wolf and G.S.L. also had a go and I was very impressed with Grey Wolf's graceful performance, VERY professional he looked, gliding over the rink with his hands clasped behind his back, and I'm sure G.S.L. WILL be very good too, after he has had LOTS of practice!

When we returned to our Camp, Rikki and Kim had got the camp fire started and so we all gathered round to sing. For a lot of boys this was the highlight of the weekend, sitting in the firelight singing songs, both familiar and new, improvising lyrics about their friends, doing little sketches and telling hilarious jokes. We had been joined by some other Scouts and Scouters who were camping round about and they contributed to the entertainment. A VERY enjoyable evening. Sleep came quickly to the boys that night.

Breakfast on the Sunday was much more chaotic than the previous day. Well, just think of it, 36 eggs to fry in two small pans. It was quite a feat. After the first dozen I threw professionalism to the winds, and taking Rikki's frantic advice, I cracked four eggs in each pan and then cut them in four. And I wonder which bright spark decided we were having fried bread? - and then which jolly Scouter went berserk and fried slice after slice of bread without counting them and had to eat them all himself? What relief when breakfast was over!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.

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OUR aim ? - TO PLEASE

DOWN HOUSE

During the holidays I went to Down House where Charles Darwin, the Naturalist, lived. He was born on the 12th February, 1809 and died on 19th April 1882. In 1839 Darwin married Emma Wedwood. For more than 3 years they lived in London; then they moved to Down House. Here he wrote his famous book called "The Origin of Species". In the house I saw a collection of beetles and a glass case full of birds.

In the garden there is a worm stone. It is a stone in the ground with an iron bar in the middle. With it Darwin found out how many tons of earth the earthworms moved a year.

TIMOTHY PARKER
B Pack

LULLINGSTONE ROMAN VILLA

Lullingstone is 10 miles from Orpington and is easily reached by road or rail. The villa was first found in the 18th century when a park fence was being built. When the farmer was digging the holes for the fence he found the mosaic floor. 200 years later in 1949 people started digging for the ruins. The villa stands by the River Darent.

There are lots of interesting things to see, coins, bronze pottery, iron and glass, but my favourites were the bones of animals and the Roman Baths. They first went into the cold room, then the tepid room and then into the hot room; this room would have been full of steam like a Turkish Bath.

There is also a coffin made out of lead, with the remains of a rotted body in it. It is a nice place to visit as you can really see how the Romans used to live, and then you can have a walk along the riverside.

PAUL SAPWELL
B Pack

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND BRITISH CUBS

Apparently very little as the Handbook is printed in England, but the following may be of interest :-

For Silver Arrow they have to tell a Maori legend.

In one Group they use N.Z. trees as Troop names - Matai, Rimu etc.; N.Z. birds as Patrol names - Kea, Kaka, Kiwi, etc. The Leaders call themselves Takaro and Toa, but the meaning is unknown. If anyone can find out the answer to this please let the Editor know so that we can publish it in the next magazine.

It is also interesting to note that there is a Maori badge for Brownies - for this they have to tell a legend, describe a special Maori toy, an item of food and make a head band.

SUPPLIED BY ONE OF THE MUMS FROM B PACK

THE CHURCH

The outside of the Church is built of dressed flints. The Church was built in the 11th century. In the stonework on the right hand side of the door a small cross is carved, which is probably one of the crosses used in the consecration of the Church, or it may be a Mason's mark. Parts of the inside of the porch are built of hard chalk. The tower was much smaller than it is now. It was very badly damaged in the great storm in the year 1771. The height was reduced by 44 ft. There is a huge yew tree in the churchyard. It was planted on the grave of John Watson in 1701.

ANDREW EVANS
B Pack

Patrol Camp at Downe - October 1971

The Scouts arrived in darkness at 19.50 hrs. on Saturday, 23rd October. One of the large brown tents and the Scouters' tents had been put up by Duncan and myself that afternoon. The other large tent had been prepared to be erected.

It was a good site, surrounded by trees; the leaves were dry and plenty of nearby firewood. There is also an open-air Swimming Pool at the Camp which some hardy (or foolhardy?) Scouts swam in (for a short while).

We strung the tarpaulin from Buzz's trailer which had been brought up on Friday night, between three trees to provide a cooking shelter, and hot tomato soup greeted the Scouts soon after arrival.

There was a lot of "first night at camp" talking after lights-out as expected, and the rest of us were awoken by early risers from one of our Patrols collecting and chopping wood for their fire.

We built a rope walk-way along one side of our Camp and a hoist to the top of a large tree on the other side for the Cubs and Scouts to play on. We also set the Cubs and some of the younger Scouts on the Camp Commando Course, suitably scaled down of course. This was the only muddy patch of the Camp.

We were joined in the afternoon by Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler and Cider who attends so many Cub and Scout functions; he is almost a living Mascot. We were later joined by two more families - the Marchants and the Magees - who had bangers, beans and "Smash" with us in the darkening gloom and, by the end of the meal, the light of trolley lamps which gave our visitors an exciting, if eerie, atmosphere. Unfortunately cooking in the dark meant that many of the bangers took on a darker hue than normal. Still, who minds a burnt banger or two at camp? This is part of camp life.

We had a wide game organised by John Whitlock (in the DARK? exclaimed the uninitiated Cubs). Relief all round from visiting parents no doubt, when all arrived back safely to the site.

Meanwhile, a huge log fire had been lit in preparation for the Camp Fire, which started quietly; then, as the evening wore on, the Cubs got into their stride and had to be restrained from telling any more sickly jokes, but for most of them it was quite an experience to be round a 'real' live camp log fire.

We had cocoa and biscuits, then our visitors and the Cubs returned home, rather envious of the Scouts left to sleep amid the trees.

After breakfast on Monday we started off with the intention of doing some pioneering but due to the lack of interest (maybe tiredness?) this was abandoned and we did testwork until lunch.

Afterwards we had a football match with some Scouts from West Wickham which we lost 2 - 0. In the evening another troop had a rather large fire in the woods with flames which were over 40 ft. high and were scorching the trees above.

Buzz then took the Scouts back to H.Q. on Monday evening to help with the jumble collection. Duncan and I stayed at the site to clear up. On return the Scouts were rewarded for their efforts with large mugs of hot cocoa and a short camp fire.

Tuesday morning was spent with more test work and general light-hearted tomfoolery. In the afternoon we started the cleaning up. This was not finished until after dark, making the final check of the camp for tidyness very difficult, having only torches to see by.

We finally arrived back at the H.Q. tired, dirty but cheerful, to put away the equipment with the minimum of disturbance during the A Pack Cub Meeting, who were already encountering difficulty with the mountain of Jumble stacked in the corner.

The camp was enjoyable and a good opportunity for Scouts to complete Test Work. The weather was really good - sun during the day and no wind. We were lucky for our last camp under canvas this year and thanks to Buzz for his numerous trips between Downe and H.Q. and home.

P. J. WHEELER
P/L Swifts

ATTENDANCE :-

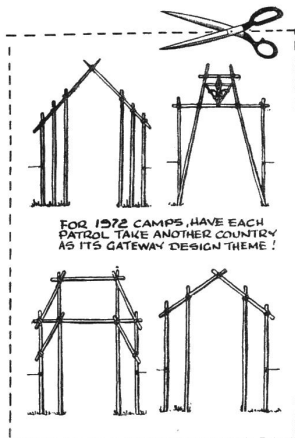
PHILIP WHEELER
DUNCAN HELLICAR
BUZZ

Roddy Haire
John Whitlock
Tony Kiernan
Paul Towel

Michael Jordan
Stephen Wheeler
Chris Blake
Richard Northam
Brian Patrick

After breakfast two Patrols turned their allotted areas into proper camp sites. We also tested the Commando Course built by the Warden which we found very hard (with the exception of Duncan).

Buzz and I left after lunch on Sunday to return to the H.Q. to collect 7 Cubs who had been invited to visit the Camp that afternoon and have a preview of camp life before going up to the Troop.

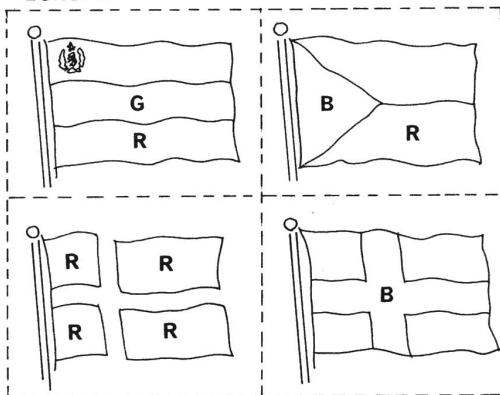




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CHILDREN WELCOME

A WORD FROM THE G.S.L.

You will no doubt have all heard of my appointment as District Commissioner for Orpington as from 1st January, 1972. That I should have been given the chance to accept this appointment, is, without doubt, due to the wonderful co-operation and organisation that exists within '2nd Orpington', and I hope that I shall be able to follow adequately the path of Gimlet and his 42 years of experience as a Scouter. I am, with the County Commissioner's approval, maintaining my connection with the 2nd. Orpington Scout Group, but just as our own Group Council resolved some years ago to help the District in any way it is able, so will I do my best for Scouting within this well populated District.

In our last magazine we printed a letter appealing for a new Badge Secretary for the District; I was delighted to find that one of our 'Dads' responded to this appeal – he does however need help – so what about another volunteer? I would not have been able to accept the District appointment if it was not for the fact that I have been able to find a Deputy Group Scout Leader. I take this opportunity to welcome Maurice Stagg of 48, Eldred Drive (Orpington 30570), as an active Scouter once again and feel sure that you will all wish him well.

We have also to welcome the assistance of Gwen, Laura, Evelyn and Peter in the Cub Packs, and John Dawes who will be working as a Scouter with the Group. We are certainly increasing the numbers of our Cub Scouters, and I am delighted to be able to say that the new Scouters in the Group fully realise the value of the training that is provided. Unfortunately we shall soon be losing the services of Deirdre (Akela of A Pack) and Malcolm (Assistant A Pack) who are to marry and move away from the District (but not away from Scouting). (May I point out to those young single ladies who might like to help – all single lady Scouters who have left the Group have done so after marriage – you don't stay single with the 2nd. Orpington). I must thank all the Scouters in the Group for their continuing loyal support. If we can increase the number of Scouters then perhaps we shall be able to increase our intake of Cubs by starting another Cub Park and another Scout Troop; the present waiting list is quite astronomical.

Active Scouting in the Group is greatly helped by the well-organised parental backing that we receive under the capable hands of our Chairman. As this year comes to a close I must take this opportunity of thanking him, and his Group Council, for the best support organisation possible in Scouting. May I ask for even more support in the future; if we are to provide Scouting for all those that wish it there are many jobs that need filling in the Group. Our last Quartermaster moved to Essex – any volunteers please to fill this very important office?

G. S. L.