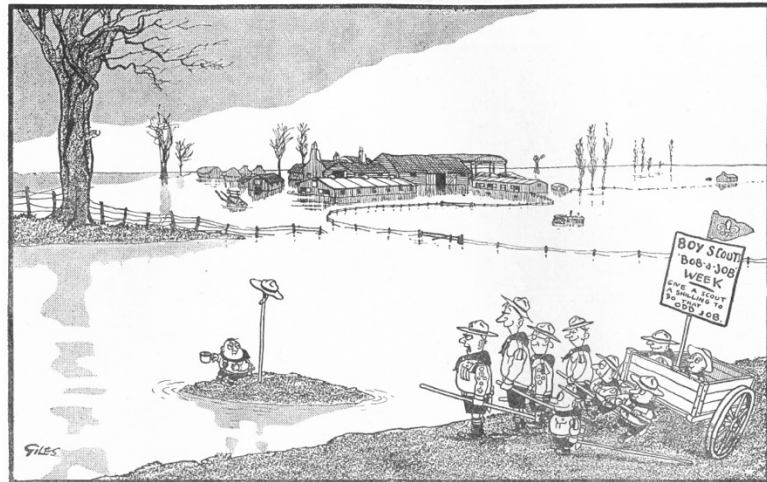


HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF Nov 2020.

In 1924 the annual Hertfordshire County Conference was held in St Albans and was well attended. The Assembly sent a message to **B-P** who was reported to be “under the weather” for the time being. He replied immediately and with enthusiasm to the County Secretary **D. Francis Morgan**.

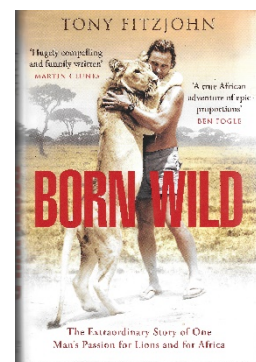
In 1946 Bob-a-Job joined the Nations vocabulary for the first time. In its first year Hertfordshire Scouting raised £1522.15s.6p. In those days prior to decimalisation this was still a decent amount of money being the equivalent of £54,244.00 today. The term “Bob” was slang for a shilling, now the equivalent of 5p today. The scheme allowed Wolf Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rovers to generally “go knocking on doors” and asking for work to support the Scouts. There was a certain amount of exploitation as shown in the cartoon. It continued to be a national event into the 1990s changing to “Scout Job Week” when decimalization did away with the Shilling. In 1975 a Membership subscription was brought in and Bob-a-Job virtually ceased.



“If you let him talk you into drinking all the water off his farm for a shilling, your chances of becoming Chief Scout are pretty thin.”



In November 2010 there was a 6-page article in *The Daily Telegraph Magazine* about a former Hertfordshire Scout **Tony Fitzjohn OBE**. He was born in 1945 and joined the Second Cockfosters Scout Group in Barnet District that was then part of Hertfordshire Scouting. When he was 18 he became an assistant to **George and Joy Adamson** who were conservationists and wrote the Film *Born Free*. Tony spend nearly 20 years with the couple helping to return previously injured Lions and leopards to the wild in Central



Kenya. After **George and Joy** were murdered by Somali poachers, Tony escaped to Tanzania to start up another Game Reserve. He returned to the UK to receive an OBE from **HM the Queen** and to attend Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne to launch his book *Born Wild* the same year. He did a presentation to an invited audience of several hundred that included a number of his former Scout colleagues including myself. As part of this presentation Tony went to some length to explain how his training as a Scout had helped in his conservation work.

Hertfordshire County Scout Council

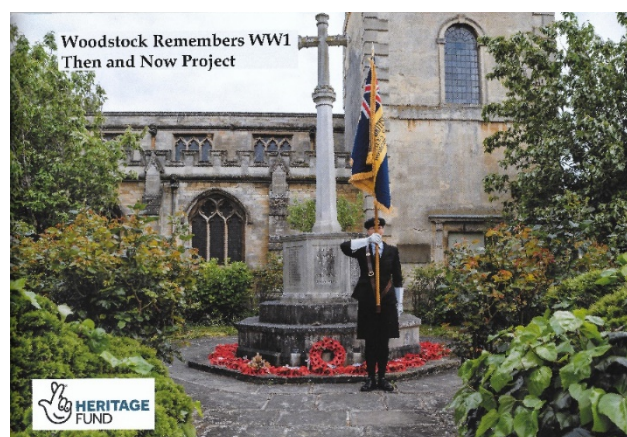
County Headquarters: Well End Activity Centre, Well End Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire WD6 5PR
 Tel: 020 8236 0040 e-mail: info@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk www.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk
 County Commissioner: **Liz Walker** County President: **Robert Voss CBE** County Chairman: **Michael Shurety**
 Charity No: 302606 Scottish Charity No: 39650 VAT registration No: 761 4558 19

Another delivery has been made to my home. This was made by **Paul Norman, GSL** of the First Elstree Scout Group. During lockdown their Leaders have taken the opportunity to carry out some urgent repairs to the ageing Scout HQ, named after their Founder **Percy Everett**. In doing so they have opted to transfer many of their more vulnerable items to the care of the County Heritage Centre at Well End. These included a selection of rare Group Flags, already mounted and preserved for display. The inaugural meeting of this Troop took place on 13 March 1908 and was led by **Percy Everett**. The meeting consisted of two Patrols, the Eagle Patrol with nine members. This included **Varley Everett** and his sister **Winn Everett**. **Winn** is accepted as the first girl in the UK to become a Scout aged 6. The other Patrol had eight members and they chose the name of the Otter Patrol.

I promised to let you know about my visit to the newly opened local Museum in Radlett. This is a volunteer run Museum and I was met and shown round by **Stuart Nagler DL**. **Stuart** is a Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire and also a Scout Leader in Elstree District. He and I have met at several previous events in the County. The Museum is located to the rear of Radlett Village Institute at the junction of Theobald Street and Watling Street. It is well stocked with local history and we discussed various options for a display about Scouting in the village.

Ken Hartfield the former Chairman of Hertford Scout District has contacted me to ask if I would like any additional copies of his 2001 book *Scouting in Hertford District*? He has sent me two additional mint condition copies. My original copy was signed by the three Authors, **Charles Murkin**, **Ken** and **Bill Procter** and was gifted by **Laurie Johnstone**. **Ken** also included a nearly mint condition copy of *My Record Book, B.P.s Family in Picture and Story*, published by The Boy Scout Association in 1937. This slightly bigger than A4 hardback was originally owned by **Tony Dean**. **Tony** was a Cub Instructor with the Pack at St Thomas, Oakwood and continued as C.I. with the 193 North London (St Andrews) Scout Group. He then took over the Pack from his sister in 1949. He left for a while and was persuaded to return by the vicar to become SL of the 16th Southgate Scout Group. The book makes remarkable reading and lists every *Award of the Silver Cross for Bravery in the world* (totalling 830) from 1909 – 1937. Eight Hertfordshire Troops and Groups are listed - 1916 First Berkhamsted – 1918 First Elstree & First Shenley Troops – 1922 First Hemel Hempstead Troop – 1927 Third Boxmoor Troop – 1928 Third Harpenden Troop – 1929 x 2 First Waltham Cross Group.

Over the nearly 20 years of writing this Newsletter you will be aware of my many visits to Blenheim Palace. This is the birthplace of **Winston Churchill** and my visits there have brought me into contact with senior staff including the **Duke and Duchess of Marlborough** on several occasions. These visits have also enabled me to be invited to exhibitions at Blenheim Palace. In Woodstock. In 2017, **Sylvia and I** attended an event sponsored and researched by The Marlborough Church of England School.



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This was relevant to the men of Woodstock who had been killed in WW1. The exhibition was tabled in the Girl Guide HQ and we were shown round by School Library Manager **Joanne Onions** who had organised the exhibition with the assistance of Pupils and local Girl Guides. This was soon after my own Exhibition at Well End where I had staged a similar display, listing all the Hertfordshire Scouts who had died in WW1. I showed considerable interest in their display and was able to encourage the presenters with more ideas. **Joanne** has now obtained Lottery Funding to publish a 32-page A5 landscape booklet *Woodstock Remembers, WW1 Then and Now Project*. This contains all the details of the young men of Woodstock. I am delighted to have been sent a copy.

More recently there has been an exhibition staged within the Blenheim Estate with the Column of Victory in the distance. *Standing with Giants* contains 200 life-sized soldiers and 75 poppy wreaths. The art installation is in memory of The Unknown Soldier and the Scouts of Oxfordshire who were killed in action. As a frequent visitor and privileged card holder I have been invited to attend this spectacle.

>>>>>



Rose de Roeck has been a regular donor to the Heritage Collection for many years and I made a socially distanced visit to her recently to collect another contribution. This included several books, papers and many photographs of activities in Hitchin District. I have worked with **Rose** for many years since she was appointed as Administrator at County HQ Office at Well End. We met up weekly when I was appointed County Archivist in 2003 and she helped with my research role in the early days. **Rose** ran County Office with great efficiency and **Di Brimley** looked after the County Accounts. They were an exceptional team. In 2007 as County Scout Historian, I was invited to the unveiling of the statue of **B-P** on the Quay at Poole Harbour that overlooks Brownsea Island. I invited **Rose** to accompany me and we met up with **Ken Johnson** who was staying in the area. While we were in Poole, **Rose** and I visited the former home of **Olave St Clair Soames** who married **B-P** in 1912. I still meet with descendants of **B-Ps** family on appropriate occasions.



Frank Brittain

Hertfordshire Scouts Archivist and Historian

archivist@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

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