

HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF October 2020

On October 17 1959, the foundation stone of B-P House in Kensington, London was laid by **Olave Baden-Powell**. The building was opened by **HM the Queen** on 12 July 1961. Just before the opening, a statue of **B-P** was unveiled at the end of the steps by the National Scout President **HRH the Duke of Gloucester**. At the time this was the only granite statue in London. It was carved by **Don Potter** and was a gift from the Scouts of London.



On 24 October 1985 the Chief Scout **Major General Michael Walsh** presented a Silver Cross Gallantry Award to **ASL Tony Griffin** of the First Watford Central Scout Group in recognition of his prompt action to rescue a female diver who was found unconscious at a depth of 50 metres. **Tony** was taking part in "Operation Raleigh" on Roatan Island in the Gulf of Honduras. His rare Silver Cross award for Gallantry was the 17th awarded in Hertfordshire since 1911. Most of these awards are for water connected rescues and will have involved the rescuer putting themselves at considerable risk to complete. Since then there have been further awards, in 2007 & 2009.



In 1922 the Salwey Cup for League Wolf Cub Football was founded. **Herbert Salwey** was a respected Scouter and a keen sportsman from St Albans, he was often seen riding a collapsible bicycle as well as wearing a pedometer when he went on long walks. He taught hundreds of Scouts to swim in the Cottonmill open air pool and introduced many more to the rules of Football. In 2022 the cup will be 100 years old it is still competed for annually. It is hoped to get the cup uniquely recognised in the UK. (Watch this space) The cup bears **Herbert's** name and is believed to be the oldest Amateur League Football Trophy existing in the UK. (It is listed as a first for Hertfordshire).

Like many others in the UK, The St Albans District Gang Show will not take place in 2021 due to Corona-virus. However, planning for the 2022 event is in hand and I am assured this will be a spectacular Show.

I previously drew your attention to **REQUEST2021**. This is an expedition by Kent Scout Council who plan to send a specially selected team to walk in the footsteps of **Ernest Shackleton**. This is scheduled to take place on the 27 December 2021 to 18 January 2022, 100 years after his famous trek. The expedition have so far raised about half of the £120,000 required. If you have a mind to help financially, visit www.ReQuest2021.org.uk and please mention Hertfordshire Scouts. **Colin Walker**

Hertfordshire County Scout Council

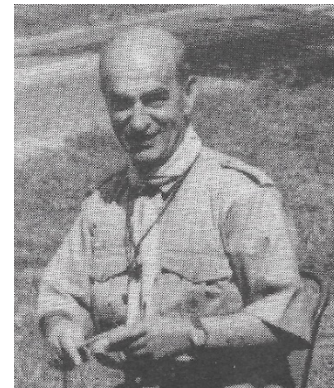
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and I attended the launch of this project in July 2009 at which **Colin** made a presentation based on his own experiences during a visit to the South Pole.



Great news that **HRH the Duchess of Cambridge** has become a joint President of The Scout Association. She is seen here on a visit to the 12th Northolt Scout Group in West London. The Duchess, who was also awarded the Silver Wolf, joins the **Duke of Kent**. He has been the President of the Association since 1975. HRH has previous experience as a volunteer with a Cub Pack from Anglesey. Perhaps we should extend an invitation to visit Hertfordshire sometime? I am sure she would like to visit the first Scout County in the World!

I recently received several Wolf Cub & Scout Annuals from **Steve Lindsay**, former GSL of the First St Albans Group. We already stock many of these in the Heritage Centre Library and I was pleased to find **Steve** had included a copy of The Wolf Cub Annual for 1941. This 212 page book is full of stories and programme ideas of the time and included an obituary of **B-P** who had died on 8 January that year. The Annual also featured the names of Wolf Cubs who had joined during the year all over the UK and of badges gained. Several of these were from Hertfordshire and showed the Packs they joined. **John Sweet** was also a contributor who wrote short stories and later became a public speaker on behalf of the Association. When he became Field Commissioner for Hertfordshire he travelled, speaking at conferences and gatherings and was a frequent visitor to Well End, giving talks at Patrol Leader and Wood Badge Courses.



JOHN SWEET 1904-1991

In the postponed "Queen's Birthday Honours" Matt Hyde, the Chief Executive of The Scout Association and an Assistant Leader of a Scout Group in St Albans has been awarded an OBE. This news was announced in the Press on 10 October.

A full page article appeared in Potters Bar Eye headed Scouts under Lockdown. This was written by **Mike Aston** a Vice President of Potters Bar Scouts. **Mike** explained in good detail the way in which Scouting in Potters Bar was coping and was continuing to be active in spite of COVID-19.

One of the callers to my home this month was **Anne Barnes**, a former DC of Hemel Hempstead, Deputy County Commissioner, and a Leader with the Jamboree to Chile in 1999. **Anne** brought me her personal collection of Jamboree memorabilia and some other items for filing into the County Archive Cabin and possible display in the County Scout Museum.

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A Museum has now opened in Radlett by the District Council following many years of fund raising and discussion. I have asked the Trustees for an interview to see how Hertfordshire Scouts can help with a display to highlight the life of Scouting in the District. I will be meeting the Chairman who as a former Hertfordshire Scout has met me previously. I will update you next month on the outcome of our meeting.

Gone Home



I am sorry to report the “Going Home” of **Colin Frank Turner** who died during this month. **Colin** and I, were together as Boy Scouts at Cockfosters, Barnet from the 1950s. As Barnet District was then in Hertfordshire, we shared many Hertfordshire camps and activities together, including the packed Scout shows held at Cockfosters Church House where we were both performers and Back-stage staff for many years. We were fortunate to have Leaders like **Don Hellmuth** and **Len Spikesley** who were also Members of the Hertfordshire County Scout Leader Training Team. He had followed **Len Spikesley** as Chairman of Tolmers Activity Centre in 1992 and steered that Centre with strong leadership.

Colin’s funeral was held at the modern Woolensbrook Cemetery and Crematorium at Hoddesdon. Under restrictions, attendance was limited to 30 of his closest friends and relations and the Service was available to non-attenders through the internet. The Service was led by The **Revd. Deacon Gill Newman** who also read the many tributes. The family eulogy was read by his Son-in Law Greg and as his oldest and closest Scouting colleague, I was privileged to be asked to deliver the reading from Ecclesiastes 3. The congregation included many of his close Scouting colleagues from his many links with the County and several non-Scouting close family acquaintances. **Colin** and I were both members of the 2nd Cockfosters Scout Group in Barnet District since the late 1940s a District that was part of Hertfordshire Scouting until 1965. We remained good friends throughout our Scouting lives and he was an occasional visitor to the County Heritage Centre at Well End.

Colin (above) is seen here speaking in 2009 at Tolmers Activity Centre as Chairman, at the Memorial Service to his predecessor **Len Spikesley**.

I regret to report the “Going Home” of **Martin Baverstock** who has died aged 69. He was a Cub and Scout with the Fourth St Albans Group. A “larger than life” figure he had a good sense of humour up to the end of his life and will be missed by his many friends.

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News has arrived that a Scout Leader from Potters Bar **Brian Hamshere** has “Gone Home.” **Brian** became a highly respected member of the community since moving to Potters Bar in 1963. He became a member of TSA in 1978 having first taken Leader Training at Well End in 1978 and before joining the Fourth Potters Bar Scout Group. He was awarded the Silver Acorn in 2003 in recognition of “Distinguished Services to Scouting.” **Brian** was someone who extended his skills throughout the community and was involved in many local kindred organisations.

As an active member of the Marshalswick Community in St Albans, I have learnt that a Trustee of Sandridge Scout Group has “Gone Home.” **Pat Forward** died at the age of 82. She was for many years very active on the Parents Committee of the Group before being appointed a Trustee. As a former St Albans Girl Guide, **Pat** also help extensively for many years with the District Scout Gang Show and as a member of the Parish Council.

Frank Brittain

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