

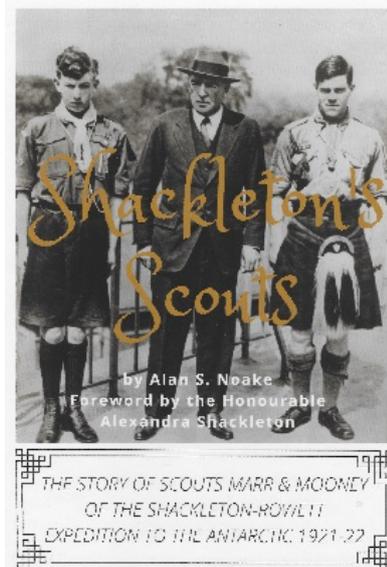
HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2021

This monthly Newsletter was first published in 2003 soon after I was appointed County Archivist by **Roger Sands** who was CC 1995 – 2004 and following my 35 years as County Training Administrator. The Newsletter was originally incorporated in the excellent County monthly Magazine *HSN* that was posted or delivered to every Leader in the County. This was cancelled to save money in 2006. The purpose of the Newsletter is to inform Leaders and Commissioners and for them to appreciate how our Scout County of Hertfordshire became the first in the World and how it has helped contribute to the development of other Counties. Following recruitment of others onto my Team of Archivists, I was then able to concentrate on the Historical record of the County. I have written two books. The first for the centenary in 2008, *Milestones of 100 Years of Hertfordshire Scouting* and an update in 2013.

I remember having written in previous months about a plan by the **County of Kent Scouts** to send an Expedition to **Antarctica** later this year. This will follow in the footsteps of **Ernest Shackleton** and **Patrol Leader James W.S Marr** from Scotland. He was selected as his Cabin Boy. The trip was made 100 years ago to visit and explore the Continent of Antarctica.

This next project of exploration is being led by **Alan S Noake, ACC (Global Projects Kent)** and was launched at their County HQ, Lower Grange Farm, Maidstone on 29 June 2019. **Sylvia** and I accompanied **Colin Walker** who was making a presentation about his own visit to the area. We were pleased to meet with **Alan Noake** and his guest speaker, **The Honourable Alexandra Shackleton**, Granddaughter of **Ernest**.

Alan has now written a book about the original expedition. *Shackleton's Scouts*, and I am pleased to have contributed in a small way. Hemel Hempstead Scout **Frank Sears**, was 12 when he answered a request in *The Scout* to write a 1200 word essay on "Why I would like to go to Antarctica?" All essays were requested to be sent to *The Daily Mail* who received 1700 within a few days. **Frank** was one of 50 Scouts who won a visit to the ship *Quest*, an evening meal on board, a meeting with **Shackleton** and **Captain Wild** and to attend a show in London. **Frank** was too young to be Cabin Boy but had a great time on his first trip to London.



Alan's book describes in some detail **Frank Sears's** experiences.

Frank went on to write an unpublished autobiography shortly before he died in December 1956 in which he devoted six pages about his experience of the competition and his visit to the ship *Quest*. This concludes – I am indebted to **Frank Brittain**, Scout Historian of the County of Hertfordshire for his research and the uncovering of **Frank Sears's** story.

Kent Scouts have planned an expedition to "Follow in the Footsteps of Shackleton and James Marr." Two years in the planning, this Expedition will first visit Gilwell Park to unveil a plaque on 5 September. The plaque is to the memory of **Patrol Leaders Moony and Marr**. Two weeks later is the official launch of *The Request 2021 Project* on the River Thames. The ship *The Lady Daphne* will sail under Tower Bridge on Friday 17 September 2021, marking the start of the Expedition. **Colin Walker** and I have

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

been invited and hope to board the vessel (and get off again before she sails). I hope to receive updates during the voyage and Expedition which will enable me to keep you all informed of their planned and achieved Objectives.

This extensive planning reminds me of the two ambitious Hertfordshire Scouts Expeditions to the **Lofoten Islands** that took place in July & August 1971. The Leader, **CC Melville Balsillie** stated in his report "*This was the most complicated project that Hertfordshire Scouts have ever attempted.*"

I have been invited by **Guy Marshall**, a St Albans **SL** and former Manager at **TSA** to an event in his residential Road to commemorate the 15 men who lived there and were killed in WWI. A book has been written about them. Where any of them Scouts? More news next month!

Frank Brittain

Hertfordshire Scouts Archivist and Historian

archivist@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk

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