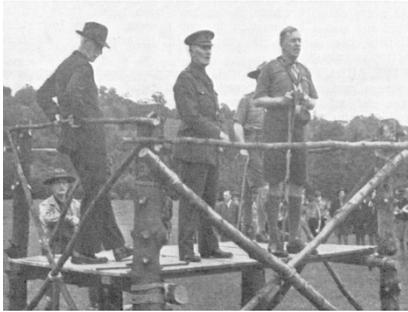


**HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2021.**

As a reminder to all Leaders, this newsletter provides an insight into random key historic events of Hertfordshire Scouting over the past 113 years and helps you to understand our important Role as the first Scout County in the World. If you need help to convert this into programme material, please let me know.

I recently paid a visit to the home of former ACC **Chris Searle** who wanted to transfer some of his collection of artefacts to the County Scout Archives. Many of these were of significant interest. I was in particular, drawn to an edition of *The Thirty-Sixth Annual Report* dated 1945. This was the first to be printed after the 1939-1945 War and contained some fascinating, historic information. Several National Vice Presidents and members of the Committee of the Council were listed as active from Hertfordshire. These included **The Earl of Lytton, Sir Percy Everett, Charles Dymoke Green, and General Sir John Shea.**



**The Lord Wigram** who opened Tolmers Campsite in 1940 was also a member. He is seen here with **Sir Percy Everett CC** who is introducing VIPs at the opening.

This *1945 Annual Report* also made considerable and glowing mention of the brief tenure of **Lord Somers** (who was brother to Lady Clarendon of Watford). He was previously Deputy Chief Scout to the Founder **Lord Baden-Powell** and succeeded him as Chief Scout for a brief three years until his own death. The *Annual Report* also contained considerable detail regarding the work of Scouting during WW2 and listed all awards, both military and civil. These included several from Hertfordshire.

I had a very pleasant visit from **Roger and Janet Sands** who brought me some items from **Peter Males** who had “Gone Home” in November. Many will remember him as the first ADC (Scouts) of North Watford District when it was created in 1972. He had previously been a member of 9<sup>th</sup> South West Herts (now 1<sup>st</sup> North Watford Scout Group). We send our condolences to his twin Paul, Carol and the rest of the Males family at this sad time. **Peter** was an active member of the original Lees Wood Campsite Service Crew and was also a member of the Watford Gang Show for many years. He had willed the County his magnificent Camp Fire Blanket. We have several in the Heritage collection and this one is quite the most outstanding.



In 1966 the County Cub Leaders Palaver was held at Watford Technical High School. As it was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wolf Cubs it was very well attended. The theme was “Taking Stock” and the event was organised by **Phyllis Robertson** (ACC Wolf Cubs). Speakers included many famous people of the time – **Ralph Wheeler** (ACC Rover Scouts), **Melville Balsillie** (CC), **Barry Moule** (HQ Commissioner for Wolf Cubs) and **Conrad Ascher** (ACC International). **Conrad** spent some time talking about his role as a Barrister, putting the humorous case of Snodgrass v Witherspoon. An act so hard to follow, he was deliberately placed last for everyone to go home laughing.

**Hertfordshire County Scout Council**

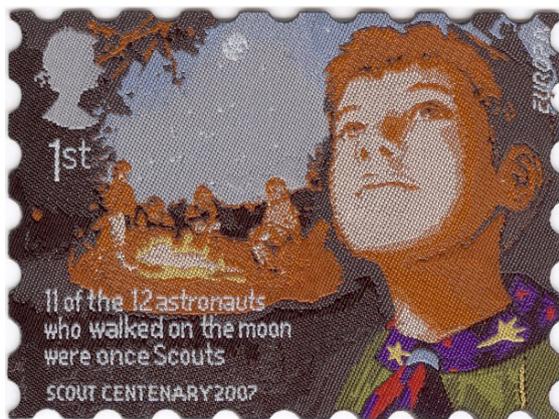
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The month of May has always been important as it usually contains two Bank Holidays. In previous decades these were well known for staging superb and ambitious County Camps that were



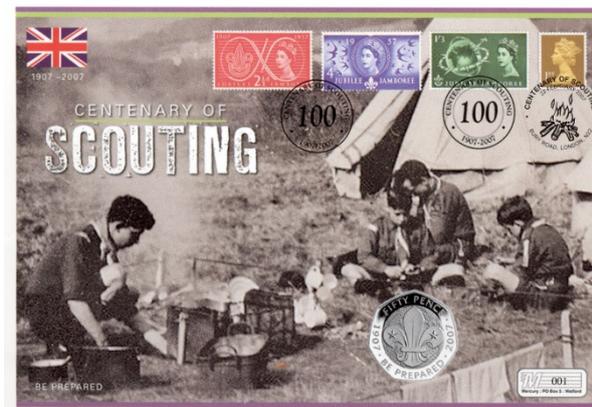
sometimes visited by a Chief Scout. My own early recollection was of the 1954 County Camp at Gorhambury, St Albans that was at the invitation of **Lord and Lady Verulam** and was attended by **Chief Scout Lord Rowallan**. The Camp (that was held 5-7 June) was organised by **Charles Atkins**, DC of St Albans. He was assisted by seven local Sub Camp Chiefs. As the **Chief Scout** entered *The Dell* to meet the thousands of Wolf Cubs of the County, they converged to a central circle. **Senior Sixer Roger Cooper** of 9<sup>th</sup> St Albans Pack led the Grand Howl. At that time I was a humble but keen 15 year-old Cub Instructor and was pleased that my <<<<< photo of the **Chief** addressing the Wolf Cubs after the Grand Howl was included in the official report of the Camp. He is seen here addressing the Wolf Cubs surrounded by Leaders from Barnet Scout District.

This large District of Barnet and Potters Bar was a significant part of Hertfordshire Scouting until 1965. It then moved into the new Scout County of Greater London North and its significant and active contribution was then lost to Hertfordshire. However, Potters Bar & District remained, becoming a new Hertfordshire District in its own right. A former DC of Barnet, who was originally a Barnet Boy Scout and later a Superintendent of a Remand Home, **J. Dudley Pank** became their first DC.



It was sad to read during the month of the death of **Michael Collins** the American who piloted the command module Apollo 11 (Columbia) that landed the first men on the moon in 1969. None of his obituaries mentioned that one of the reasons he was chosen as the pilot was that his companions **Neil Armstrong** and **Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin**, were both American Scouts and part of their plan was to take their Eagle Scout Badges to deposit in a prescribed place on the surface of the Moon. Others followed

with the same objective in due course. It should be noted that by 2007, 11 out the 12 men who had walked on the Moon had been former Scouts, **Michael Collins** was not a Scout! In the same year, commemorative centenary postage stamps were issued to mark these events. This >>>> stamp also included an image of the newly minted 50p piece that showed the Scout Arrowhead on the obverse.



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In 1940 **Ellis Edward Talbot**, who was previously a Scout with the Elstree School Troop, was awarded the George Medal for his gallantry in defusing a bomb that had fallen near a railway station in Wales. The bomb had penetrated so deeply that his team had to dig for over 12 hours before reaching it. Upon examination he found the fuse was new to him and calling to his men to take cover, he hoisted the device onto his shoulder and carried it some way off before detonating it. He was later killed in action in 1941.



In 2008 at the County AGM and to mark the centenary of Hertfordshire Scouting, a display was tabled by the County Historian of 100 items of Hertfordshire Scout memorabilia (one from each year). These were on display for several weeks in the County Heritage Centre at Well End



and to launch the book, *Milestones of 100 Years of Hertfordshire Scouting*. A copy of the book was later donated to every Scout Group and sponsored by the County Executive under guidance of **County Chairman Michael Shurety**. Five years later the book was updated to 2013 and issued again to Districts. The picture shows **Colin Limming**. He became the first *ACC Scout Fellowship* when the *B-P Scout Guild* was replaced by *The Scout Fellowship* in 1977. He is holding the competitive trophy designed in 1982. The trophy was carved by **John Hudson** who was DC of Harpenden and Wheathampstead. It consists of three interwoven rings. These

represent aspects of the Scout Promise - *Duty to God and the Queen: Helping other people: The Scout Law*.

Since the 1940s the Isle of Wight has had a historical connection to Hertfordshire Scouting when **Sir William Henry Dyke Acland MC, AFC, TD** a former DC of Mid Herts 1919-1934 and County Scout Treasurer, had a holiday home there. He died in 1970, his memorial Service was held on the I.O.W. at Seaview Church but he was buried in Hertfordshire near to his former family home in Datchworth. Over recent years and during my visits to the Island I have traced several descendants of **Sir William**, visiting them at home or meeting them at various Scout or Guide events

*The Daily Telegraph* has stated that **Prince Charles** has announced plans to create a green legacy to mark his mother's 70 years on the throne. The tree planting will commence from October and continue to the end of 2022. **The Scout & Guide Associations** are specifically mentioned as expected leaders in the planting of three million free saplings that are available on a first come, first served basis. I trust **Hertfordshire Scouts** will be one of the first to apply. "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" is the national slogan.

### **Frank Brittain**

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