

## HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (July 2017)

More fame came to Hertfordshire! In 1910, as preparations started in July for the fifth out of 77 'First's for Hertfordshire'. At the invitation of **Lord Salisbury**, the *first County Rally in the UK* was held in Hatfield Park. It started on August Bank Holiday Monday and was organised by the Scoutmaster of the First Welwyn Scout Troop, **Canon A.R. Davies**. He was also the Secretary of Mid Herts Scout District. Davies led a strong and enthusiastic team (see photo) and the Rally was followed by a week's County camp. **B-P** wrote in *Headquarters Gazette* on 20 August "The organisation and success of this County Rally and Camp in Hertfordshire should be viewed as a model and example for others to follow".



One Troop, the Third St Albans, under Scoutmaster **Tubbekke** claimed to be the first Troop in the County to own a 'Trek Cart'. They showed it off by pulling it from St Albans to Hatfield and then gave demonstrations of its versatility by converting it for use as a table and benches. It created quite a stir and was soon copied by others.



One of the first uses of the new Wembley Stadium in 1924 was an exhibition to show off the industrial might of the British Empire. **B-P** thought it would be a good idea to have an Imperial Jamboree to run 1 July – 8 August. This was based at Fryent Country Park and was opened by **HRH the Duke of Connaught**. Hertfordshire sent Scouts from 18 towns and villages with a Grand Imperial Scout Fair occupying the Stadium for one day and on Sunday a Thanksgiving Service was held. It was expected that every Scout at the Jamboree would attend. It was an amazing spectacle. As the clock struck 11, through the tunnel under the Royal Box and into an empty arena, marched a column of Scouts four abreast totalling 20,000. It took 2 ½ hours to fill the arena. The last to take their places were **B-P, Percy Everett, the Prince of Wales** and the **Bishops**. This was all watched by 50,000 seated Scouts and invited guests. As silence fell, **B-P** asked everyone to raise their hand and

pledge allegiance to the Scout Promise and in one voice the multitude cried "I will"!

A real achievement in July 1968 was by **Bruce Eyles**, who was 14 years old, of Third Hatfield (Air Scout) Troop. He made an ascent of the 2000ft Kirkton Glen at Balquidder. It was a special achievement as Bruce suffered from muscular dystrophy and was in a wheelchair. The ascent took place during a stay at Lochearnhead Scout Station. He was assisted by a team of Leaders - **Messrs Fred Walker, J. Noon, Barrie Smith, Ken Seaman OBE** and Bruce's father who were all part of the towing and pushing team.



July 2017 saw the unexpected retirement of Countess Verulam, Lord Lieutenant of the County and Patron of the Hertfordshire Scout Appeal. The Lieutenancy has been a stable and strong supporter of Scouting in the County since 1911 and Lady Verulam has been an outstanding and generous attender to County functions and Scout Groups in the 10 years she has represented the Queen in the role. At a specially conducted Evensong in a packed St Albans Abbey, I was asked to invite a number of Scout representatives to the service. Lady Verulam made a point of speaking to everyone who attended.

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*The County Heritage Team have some little used portable overhead projectors to dispose of. No charge!  
Please ring or e-mail Frank*

