

HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (March 2017)

1st March 2017

The 1st of March is a significant day in the timeline of Hertfordshire Scouts. It was on this day and the occasion of his eleventh birthday that **Alan Emery** became the first boy in Hertfordshire to take the Scout Oath (Promise). The Oath was also made by **Marchant Scrivener, A. King, S. Dixon, D.H. Emery, E Davies** and **C. Burr**. As Alan had purchased a hat badge, he was elected to lead the Patrol and Marchen was elected 'Corporal'. This ensured the formation of the 'The Kangaroo Patrol' Watford. As more boys were recruited, it was later registered as the First South West Herts Scout Troop.

This important date is planned to be remembered and marked by the unveiling of a blue plaque on the front of Alan's house in Watford on 1st March 2019. This date will mark 111 years since these boys made the Oath. **Alan Emery** has always been considered to be the first Scout in Hertfordshire, and his Group the First South West Herts, (now First Watford South Scout Group) celebrated their centenary on 1st March 2008.

Alan Emery married, raised a Scouting family and was appointed District Commissioner of South West Herts District in 1934. He remained in that role for many years until his retirement. As the largest Scout District in Hertfordshire at that time, it was further split into several smaller Districts on 1st January 1972.

This photo of the family was taken on the eve of their attending the 1947 World Jamboree in France. The Jamboree was very well supported by Hertfordshire Scouts. Note the thumbsticks carried by the male Scouters. This was an accepted part of the uniform in those days. Boy Scouts would have carried a Scout staff.



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