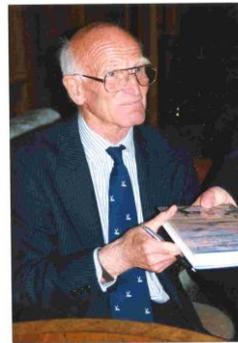


## Heritage Thoughts for the Month (August 2018)

It was a sad day for the County when **Brigadier Freddie de Butts OBE., DL**, had “Gone Home” on 6 August 2005. He had been our sixth County Commissioner, from 1976 -1981. He had known little about Scouting except for his three previous years as County Chairman. He went on a fast learning curve taking his Wood Badge training at Gilwell Park. His charisma endeared him to many people especially to Venture Scouts who loved to be in his company. He was an accomplished skier and hill walker and led several international expeditions with **Len Spikesley** his ACC (Leader Training). Freddie had married into the **Halsey** Family and was buried in the shade of a Magnolia Tree at his family church at Great Gaddesden. His funeral was attended by his many friends, family, acquaintances from Scouting, the Military, and his many other interests. His eulogy was read by **Paul Brenham MBE, DL**. The centre image shows Freddie at the signing of his book *Memories of War and Peace 1939 – 1994*.



In February 2018 a reunion was held when his son David paid a visit to the Heritage Centre at Well End to see for himself how his father had been remembered in Hertfordshire. As the host, I provided a display and invited distinguished guests who had worked with Freddie when he was County Chairman and CC.



On 10 August 1958, a commemorative plaque was unveiled to identify the house where our first County Commissioner **Sir Percy Everett** had lived in Elstree village. It was fixed to the railings outside his former home, Schopwick Place, and was unveiled by the then County Commissioner, **Dr Leslie Pears**, in the presence of many of Sir Percy's devoted admirers and former Scouting colleagues.



In July / August 1948, 70 years ago, the third Olympic Games to be held in the UK took place in London at Wembley Stadium. There were 59 countries competing and it was the first Games to be shown live on British TV. These were known later as the "Austerity Games" as it was soon after the end of WW2. Food rationing was still in place and bomb damage was just being addressed.



*Photo from the "Shire" book The Scouts compiled in 2012 by Susan Cohen*

During the Games, Scouts were used wherever possible and were conspicuous during the opening and closing ceremonies. Senior Scouts were used to march at the front of each competing country carrying identifying boards. During the opening ceremony, Scouts released a flock of 7,000 pigeons from 350 wicker hampers. The most prominent Section were the Sea Scouts, whose activities were separate from other Scouting Units. They were almost entirely responsible for the Olympic water activities at Torquay. A team of 200 Senior Sea Scouts were constantly on duty to maintain all the sailing vessels. Their duties included ferrying competitors and their gear between the shore and their yachts, issuing weather communiques, and providing spectators with a running commentary. Following the games, Scouting was praised for its efficient organisation and capable contribution by officials and competitors alike, describing them as "the oil of the Olympic wheels". On 31 July, the men's 50Km walk took place of which 30km was in Hertfordshire. At each km point, a Hertfordshire Scout stood as a marker and others were used as runners to convey messages.

A Scout from Barbados joined the Hertfordshire contingent to the 11<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Greece (1-11 August 1963). The Hertfordshire contingent consisted of four Patrols who were from all corners of the County. The photo shows six Scouts from the Grenfell Patrol. They are all from Elstree District: L-R **John Sidwick, Geoffrey Vince, Tony Southwood, Tom Todhunter, Colin Smith, Alan Gifford**. Extensive searches were made by the Barbados Scout Association during their centenary year but the attending Scout from that country could not be traced.



In July 2018 I met with the **Honourable Michael Baden-Powell** (Grandson of the Founder) at the Yorkshire home of a member of my Heritage Team, **Colin Walker**. He was visiting there to be present at the dedication of a flag of the Thane Rover Crew (Michael Baden-Powell's Own). He is seen here with a member of the Crew, the **Revd John Fisher** who led the Service of Dedication. There were over 20 members of the Rover Crew present. Some are regular members who attend Gilwell Park to carry out regular maintenance of buildings and structures at Gilwell Park.

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