

Heritage Thoughts for the Month (February 2019)

My apologies..., I have been under the weather and have missed a couple of issues of the 'Thoughts for the month of.....' newsletters.

There have been a number of Old Scouts who have "Gone Home" recently and I list their significant profiles so you can be aware of their contribution to Hertfordshire Scouting.

Ronald Maddox

Ronald was the President of the First Welwyn Scout Group and died on 14 October 2018. As an outstanding King's Scout, he was chosen to represent Hertfordshire Scouting as Troop Leader at the sixth World Scout Jamboree at Moisson, France in 1947 (this had been postponed from 1941 due to WWII). He had been selected by the Contingent Leader Dr Leslie Pears who later became County Commissioner. Following the Jamboree, Ronald was invited to speak about his experiences at the County Scouters Conference in Harpenden on 12 October 1947.

In later years he became a successful water colour painter and designer. He produced and designed many posters and brochures for both Scouting and Commercial purposes including the front cover of the pamphlet 'The Story of Harry Hertford' that was produced to mark the 40th anniversary of Scouting in 1948. He also produced the pamphlet to mark the 100th County AGM in 2013. Ronald's drafts can be seen here.



As the President of the *Council of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour*, he frequently met to give advice to members of the Royal Family, many of whom are painters in water colour. Ronald's Obituary appeared the 'The Times' on Wednesday 23 January 2019.

I met with Ronald frequently to share and record experiences. This was both at his home in Welwyn and at his Scout Group HQ where I was invited to add to the displays for various events including their 100th anniversary in 2008. This was one of many Scout Group centenary events that year. The First Welwyn Scout Group held a church service followed by a lunch and staged displays in the Civic Centre. Ronald was asked to give a talk about his experiences with the Group from the 1940s onwards.

One of these unique stories referred to his long association with F. Haydn Dimmock (FHD), the Editor of 'The Scout' newspaper that was published until 24 September 1966 (almost all the 3016 weekly issues are kept in your County Archive Cabin). Haydn Dimmock (also known as "DIM") was a resident of Welwyn Garden City and an invited member of the County Executive. Both of FHDs sons were also members of the First Welwyn Scout Group and were in Ronald's Patrol.

Alan Luff

I attended the funeral of Alan Luff who had died on 5 February aged 69. He was the first son of Gwen and Frank who died last year (February 2018). Alan had followed his father into the Masons Lodge at Aldenham and had attended as a Senior Scout, with many others, the first working party prior to the opening of Lochearnhead Scout Station. He became a regular visitor over succeeding years. As a Queen's Scout, he attended Hitchin Priory for training courses in a variety of skills. Alan became a talented artist and an expert in DIY and car mechanics. His funeral on 19 February, was well supported by his many friends both in and out of Scouting.

Dr John Waller

John Waller was a former quite efficient and charismatic Cub Scout Leader of the Third St Albans Cub Pack. Professionally, he was Senior Teacher at Queens School, Bushey. As CSL he founded the additional "Burrell Pack" (after George Burrell a former QM of the Group) and interviewed and recruited his own assistant Leaders. His wife Maureen died in 2009 and in later years finding he could not cope on his own, was cared for at Fosse House, St Albans. The family had invited me to his funeral on 25 February as I knew and worked with them over many decades, my wife and I having shared child minding duties during the 1960/70s. In later years John helped with restoration projects for the County Scout Museum. Over 70 people attended his funeral in the South Chapel at West Herts Crematorium.

Beryl Pledger

I was informed of Beryl's sad passing on 10 February. I believe she was a life-long member of the Fifth Hoddesdon Scout Group. I met with her frequently when I was County Training Administrator (1968 – 2003). Beryl and her assistants were keen to be on my extensive list of catering teams and they provided excellent cooked meals for Course members and staff at Well End, and occasionally for end of course dinners. These were programmed to be very grand affairs (but still very much maintaining a training experience) to which several high-profile guests were invited. Each Tutor Group staged some well-rehearsed and appropriate entertainment following dinner and speeches. The dinners often exceeded 100 people as owing to high demand, I may have planned for two courses running at once, so the choice of suitable Caterers was very important, as the theme of the dinner was often based on another country with a menu to suit. Beryl's funeral will be held at Woolensbrook Crematorium, Hoddesdon, EN11 9BS at 13.00hrs on 11 March.

Ian Fulton

Ian was an outstanding Chairman of the District Executive for Harpenden & Wheathampstead from 1977-2014 having served a record of 9 District Commissioners. He died on Founders Day 2019. A Talented man and gifted speaker, I was often present to witness his succinct delivery of subjects at the District AGM and well remember his gift of hospitality in the marquee that was located in his front garden for St George's Day celebrations. A comprehensive Obituary was written by Ray Vassie.

Please remember to keep me informed of any Scouting Personalities who have "Gone Home". No matter how young or old they are! They will all be entered into the County Obit File.

FRANK BRITTAIN

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