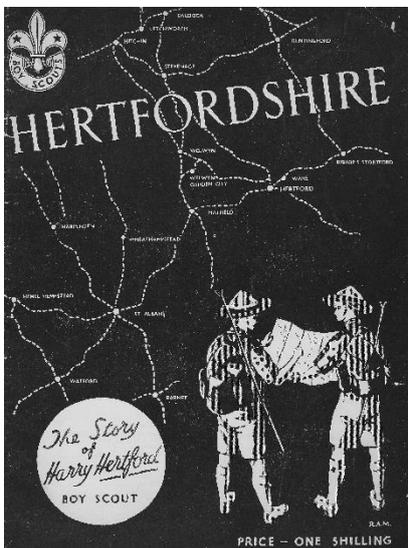


HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH (January 2018)

In January 1948, **F. Haydn Dimmock** (who was also Editor of *The Scout* weekly newspaper) suggested at a County Executive meeting that as this was the 40th year of Scouting, he would offer to write a 30-page fundraising booklet *'The Story of Harry Hertford – Boy Scout'*. It was to be made available at the County Conference as a summary to the *1947 Annual Report* for the price of 1/- (one Shilling is equivalent to 5p today).

'The Story of Harry Hertford' (a fictitious Hertfordshire Boy Scout) described his life in the preceding (1947) year. How Harry had to juggle homework and attend Troop meetings on a Thursday, his relationship with his Scoutmaster **Mr. Loxton** who had joined to Movement as a boy and had just taken his Wood Badge at Well End Training Ground, his preparations for attending the County Rally at Gorhambury in St Albans, how he had gained his King's Scout Badge and attended the Windsor Parade and how he met the **Chief Scout Lord Rowallan** at Gorhambury etc.

The booklet also contained articles on 'Balancing the Budget' by the Deputy County Treasurer; a message from **Graham Wallis**, the County Commissioner; messages of support from the Bishop of St Albans, **Colonel Wilcox** Chief Constable and **Mr J.H. Newcome** the County Education Officer.



There was also an interesting article by **Alan J Emery** (the first Scout in Hertfordshire and then District Commissioner of South West Herts District), who wrote a short but hard-hitting piece 'As others see us'. Much of what he wrote could still apply today.

The booklet also gave a description of the 20 Scout Districts and their Officers. A breakdown of the census showed a Scout population of 8,318 Leaders and boys.

The cover was designed by **Ronald Maddox**, an 18-year-old Senior Scout from the First Welwyn Senior Scout Troop, who in January 2018 is the only living survivor mentioned in the booklet. He is currently the Group President.

B-P wrote in his 'Outlook' in the edition of *'Headquarters Gazette'* for January 1910 "I received many nice presents over Christmas, but the most pleasing of all was from **Percy Everett**, my County Commissioner of Hertfordshire. He has sent a complete map of

his county marked off into sixteen clearly defined sub-Districts, each having its President, Secretary and Executive Committee. These Committees are all now at work selecting their Scoutmasters and setting up Troops for their areas."

The article went on to say - "County Commissioners are urged to organise their Counties following the lead set by Percy Everett of Hertfordshire. Use what this County has done as a model."

For the full text of the article see 'Milestones of 105 Years of Hertfordshire Scouting' (10 January 1910).

The First Kings Langley Scout Troop helped the civil authorities to search for a lady who had gone missing from a nursing home. Troop members visited over 50 farmhouses covering a wide area that was centred on the Home. The confused lady was found and was returned home (January 1914).

In January 1946, **Melville Balsillie**, as yet unknown in Hertfordshire, became the first Assistant County Commissioner for London for the new (Senior Scout) Section. He was appointed by the CC **General Sir John Shea**. Melville had served on a committee of three within the Post War Commission that was looking into how Scouting should be organised when the war finished. A new Section, Senior Scouts aged 15-18, was formed and the first meeting was held at the Rudolph Steiner Hall in London. This was chaired by Melville who was recognised as the founder of the new Section.

Following a spell of employment in Midlothian, Scotland where he stood in as ACC (Rover Scouts) he returned to reside in Barnet in 1950. He became SM (Senior Scout) of the Second Totteridge Senior Scout Troop. After a spell as Chairman of the Well End Management Committee, he was also appointed ACC (Senior Scouts).



Melville aged 45 as SM (Senior Scouts) wearing the B-P hat >>>>

In a perhaps co-incidental and understandable succession, 5 County Commissioners of Hertfordshire started or finished their terms on the 1st of January. **Sir Percy Everett** 1944, 36 years; **Graham Wallis** 1956, 12 years; **Dr Leslie Pears** 1962, 6 years; **Melville Balsillie** 1971, 9 years; and **Tony Burgess** 1971, who served for 5.53 years.



A new Scout HQ that was funded entirely by public subscription was opened in January 1927 by the **CC Percy Everett**. It was the HQ for the Second Elstree Scout Troop in Allum Lane.

The DC for Elstree District **Commander P. W Kent** was present with many supporters. The main benefactor was **Mr G.W. Atkins**, who gave the land.

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