

## Heritage Thoughts for the Month (July 2018)

Over the past 40 + years *The Antiques Roadshow* has had its fair share of Scouting memorabilia examined at stunning locations. Early in 2018, I applied to display a range of our unique world class icons. *The Roadshow* was held last week, at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. The icons examined were all directly connected with the Founder **Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell**. They had either been personally owned, donated or dedicated to him. There was a lot of queuing and chatting with people who were attending with their own collectables, but out of the thousands present I was the only one in Scout uniform. I was met and interviewed by one of the experts who took great interest in the unique Hertfordshire Scout icons. It was an interesting but tiring day with nowhere to sit. Eating and drinking took place on the hoof in queues for hours on end, but it was a thoroughly enjoyable day, meeting and talking to different people with similar interests.

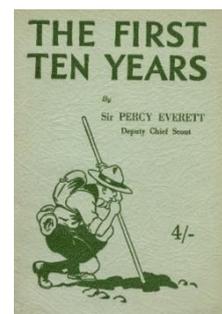


As a prelude to the birth of Scouting, in July 1906, **Sir Arthur Pearson** (the founder of Pearson's the Publishers) held a house-party at his home in Frensham Place, Surrey. He often invited a number of prominent guests who had achieved greatness in their lives and on this occasion, he included the recent national hero of Mafeking, **Major General Robert Baden-Powell (B-P)**. After dinner he invited **B-P** to relate his experiences of the siege of Mafeking to the other guests, and talk about the success of his latest book, *Aids to Scouting* that he had written as a military handbook. It was at this house-party that **B-P** first met with **Percy Everett**. He was Pearson's (the Publisher) Literary Manager. Percy later wrote in his book *The First Ten Years* "I always look back on that little incident (B-Ps visit to Sir Arthur Pearson) as one of the greatest landmarks of Scouting in this country".



<<< Sir Arthur Pearson

Percy Everett (Later Sir Percy) and his book written in 1948 >>>



Following the County AGM in July 1965 at County Hall, Hertford, the film *Lochearnhead Scout Station* was premiered. This had been Produced and Directed by **Fred North ACC** (Public Relations). The film later won an award at the Venice Film Festival. It has been digitised and is kept in the Heritage Resource Facility at Well End.

One of the first awards for gallantry in Hertfordshire in July 1911 was to **Bert Mays** of the First Buntingford Scout Troop. A horse towing a milk float took fright outside Buntingford Station and bolted. Bert, who was passing at the time, sprang forward. Grasping the bridle and being dragged along at speed, he managed to steer the horse into a yard before it reached some children playing in the narrow road. His strength failed him and he was trampled by the horse and then run over by the



*The Silver Cross*



wheels of the cart. He soon recovered from his injuries and was back at troop meeting in a couple of weeks. Bert was awarded the Silver Cross for Gallantry. By 2018 there have been 17 Silver Cross Gallantry Awards in Hertfordshire, the last being awarded in 2009.

<<< The front cover of *The Scout* on 20 June 1908.

**Ralph Reader CBE** was invited to lay the foundation stone of the new Scout Headquarters of the First Abbots Langley Scout Group on 25 July 1965. The Berkhamsted and Boxmoor Silver Band accompanied the event and the Service of Dedication was carried out by the **Revd Hugh Kennedy**. The event also coincided with the publication of the 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the Group Magazine *Woodsmoke*. This magazine is credited as being the longest running Group Magazine in the UK and has now reached its 232<sup>nd</sup>. edition. It is edited by **Pauline Styles**.



In July 1922 the first Wolf Cub Training Course for Leaders to be held *outside* Gilwell Park was held at Heddon Court School, Barnet District, previously in Hertfordshire. Most of the participants are unknown but the lady at the RH end of the rear row is **Maud Coleman**, a Cubmaster (CM) of the Fourth St Albans Pack. She later became Akela Leader for Hertfordshire. The Course Leader (with thumbstick) in the centre row is **David Francis Morgan (ACC Training)** who was also the Legal Secretary at Headquarters. The lady sitting to his right is **Mabel Bulman** a CM from Barnet and on his left is **Pip Powers**. (Note only these three are wearing the new Gilwell Woggle, scarf and Wood Badge Beads). Sitting centre in the front row with the eye patch is **Bill Day** from Hatfield.

At the end of July 2018, I met with the **Honourable Michael Baden-Powell** (Grandson of the Founder) at the Yorkshire home of one of my Team, **Colin Walker**. During his visit, Michael had planned to be present at the dedication of a new 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 (all registered members of the Thane ASU). Some are regular members who attend Gilwell Park to carry out specialised maintenance of buildings or structures at the Centre. (Michael was staying in the UK for 6 weeks before returning to Australia).



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