

Heritage Thoughts for the Month (June 2018)

On a rare joint visit, on 22 June 1968, both the Chief Scout **Sir Charles Maclean** and **Mrs Parker-Bowles** the Commonwealth Chief Guide, visited Hertfordshire to attend the County Scout and Guide Meet at Woodside Stadium, Watford. The event was organised by **Derek Turner** who had just been appointed DC of St Albans. The County Cub Scout Team organised a pageant to recreate Roman Verulamium and the Guides and Brownies put on a display of musical mime, depicting the Pied Piper of Hamelin. The original venue for the "Meet" was the Gosling Stadium in Welwyn Garden City, but in the January their Trustees wrote to say they could not allow the Rally owing to the state of the grassed areas.



In June 1924, the Chief Scout **Sir Robert Baden-Powell** made one of his many visits to Hertfordshire. He came to visit a training course for Headmasters who had set up Cub Packs or Scout Troops in their public schools. The Course was held in the grounds of Heddon Court School, Cockfosters at the invitation of the DC of Barnet District, **Henry F. Stallard** who was also the Headmaster there. There were two courses. The first was for eleven Wolf Cub Officers which extended over three weekends.



The second was a continuous week course for eighteen Scout Officers. **B-P** can be seen here giving a lecture to the potential Scoutmasters who were in camp for the duration.

<<<<<< **B-P** is leaning forward on the right with his thumbstick

In 1928, **Henry Stallard** resigned as DC of Barnet District and was appointed as the National Commissioner for Preparatory

Schools. He remained the Headmaster of Heddon Court School and also SM of the First Cockfosters Scout Troop. He died in 1937. A memorial plaque to his achievements can be seen inside the Church at Cockfosters where he was also Churchwarden. There is a Celtic cross at his grave in the churchyard.

To mark the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of Scouting in June 1948, **Ralph Reader** wrote and produced a musical Pageant "Boy Scout". This was performed at the Royal Albert Hall to packed houses. **Michal Manders** (pictured) of the Second South West Herts (Second Oxhey) Scout Troop took the leading role as "The Boy" and **Roger Croft** from the same Troop also took a leading part.



June 1951 was for many, a time to celebrate the national "Festival of Britain". This was celebrated nationally and in many counties. In Hertfordshire, as with many other Districts, a large event was held in South West Herts Scout District. A model camp was set up in Cassiobury Park, and a full range of activities were listed in the 12-page programme. On the Sunday, a "Scouts Own" was organised by **Dr**



Leslie Pears (ACC Scouts) during which a yarn was given by **F. Haydn Dimmock** (the Editor of *The Scout*). For the benefit of the public, a lengthy description of how Scouting began in the South West Herts District was written by **Alan Emery** (District Commissioner).

One of the welcome visitors to the event was the newly appointed (ACC Senior Scouts) **Melville Balsillie**. He is shown here trying his hand at barbecuing a slab of corned beef and a breast of chicken.

In common with many other Districts, St Albans held a "Scout Week" commencing 15 June 1957. This was to celebrate the 50th year of Scouting and the centenary of the birth of **B-P**, its Founder. The night of 15 June was truly spectacular. One of the largest crowds ever seen in St Albans Town Centre numbering thousands, assembled in Market Place and made their way to Verulamium Park. As the procession neared the lake, the 1000 torches carried by the uniformed Scouts of the District were reflected in the water as they surrounded the enormous floodlit picture of **B-P** on a rostrum at the end of the lake. The event was organised by **Cedric Bickerton**, GSM of the Fourth St Albans Scout Group and the Tableau was written and Produced by **Cyril Swinson**, Chairman of the "Company of Ten and Verulam Players". He was also Producer of the first St Albans Gang Show in 1939.



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