

Heritage Thoughts for the Month (June 2019)

Cubs from First Rickmansworth held their annual camp at Well End over the weekend of 7-9 June, which included a tour of the County Scout Heritage Centre on the Sunday. The tour included telling about how their was Group formed in 1909, how it developed and about their prominent former leaders. Tours with Cubs can be really interesting as there are always a wide variety of questions. They all completed a quiz paper that involved them searching for answers within the Centre. *If you are overnighing at Well End this year (with Cubs or Scouts) and would like a tour of the County Scout Heritage Centre please contact us, with good notice.*

The County AGM was held at Tolmers Activity Centre on 15 June. The County Heritage Team were invited to display an exhibition about **Alan Emery**. The details of this unique event can be found in April's edition of "*Heritage Thoughts for the Month*". If anyone missed the event there will be other opportunities in the next few months to view Alan's eventful life. At the AGM, **Robert Voss CBE**, the Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire (who was present), was invited to become the next County President from 5 June. He is to be the replacement for **Nick Halsey DL** who is already a busy man and has done a remarkable job over many years. The AGM this year was organised by members of our County Team, Tolmers and the County Communications Team and in my opinion, they did a great job. There was a good representation of Mayors and Councillors from the Districts.



On Saturday 29 June, I was invited by **Alan Noake** (DC, Deal, Walmer, Sandwich & District and ACC Community Impact & Global Projects, Kent), to join his event in Maidstone. The event was an illustrated talk given by a member of our Heritage team, **Colin Walker** about the Explorer **Sir Ernest Shackleton CVO**. Colin has previously visited Antarctica, and followed the route taken by **Shackleton** and his Cabin Boy, Scout PL **Andrew Marr**. At the event, there were also presentations by members of the Kent expedition **ReQuest2021**. This will take place in 2021 on the centenary of the original expedition. Prior to making his exploratory trip to Antarctica, **Sir Ernest** had visited Hertfordshire at the invitation of the County Commissioner **Percy Everett**. He is seen above in 1914 at a County Rally in Clarence Park, St Albans, accompanied by **Percy Everett**. They are followed by the Lord Lieutenant **Lord Clarendon** and **Charles Dymoke Green**, DC of St Albans.

Presentations were made by the four young people who are to participate in the 2021/22 expedition. **Lucy Morgan** (Climate Change); **Genevieve Scullion** (Physiological Experiment); **George Stonor** (3D Iceberg Simulation) and **Darcy Holmes** (Photography & Art). The young people were well chosen and obviously at the top of their specialist fields. As a joint team project, they are also proposing to follow in the footsteps of **Scout Marr**. The expedition team will be supported by four experienced adults. The next speaker was **The Honourable**

Alexandra Shackleton, Shackleton's great-granddaughter. Alexandra gave a faultless presentation about his life. These presentations were followed by a most interesting, informative and descriptive talk by **Joe Doherty**. He was the first Scout in the world to ski to the South Pole. The presentation he gave was breath taking with amazing photography from the 90 days of his endurance.

The ReQuest2021 team will leave London on board *Bark Europa* a 100-year-old ship, during the winter of 2021/22. It was announced that Tower Bridge will be opened for an excursion on the Thames before their final departure. Their objectives are – to participate as members of the crew; carry out a research project and present the results; visit Port Lockroy base that was established by **Scout Marr** and hoist a Scout Flag; to unveil an expedition plaque dedicated to **Scouts Mooney & Marr** at Port Lockroy and at Gilwell Park; to include the younger sections in join-in educational fun activities in the form of *Antarctica in An Ice Box*. It was a pleasant surprise to meet with **Peter Makewell** (ACC International - Herts) at the event.



It should be of interest that the campaign to find a Boy Scout to be Cabin Boy by *The Daily Mail* drew applications from 1700. These were requested to apply in the form of an essay. The top 50 won a free trip to London with a night on board Shackleton's ship *Quest*. **Frank Sears**, aged 12 from Third Boxmoor Troop, was Hertfordshire's only to win a place. It was his first trip to London by train and was greeted on arrival by **Captain Wild** who welcomed the Scouts individually. They were shown around the ship, had an afternoon tour of London, followed by a theatre visit. This adventure made a long article in the *Third Boxmoor Scout News* that was produced by **SM Eustace Lidderdale**. The photo shows the two winners of the contest to be Cabin Boys, chosen from a shortlist of 10. **PL Norman Mooney** aged 17 from Orkney and **PL James Marr** 18 from Aberdeen. Shackleton and his team could not agree between the two boys, so they allowed both to be his Cabin Boys. However, PL Norman and the Scribe from IHQ both became so ill crossing the Bay of Biscay they had to be put off at Lisburn in Spain.

Later in the month of June I had the pleasure of meeting **Kathleen Arnold** (daughter of **Maurice Butler**) who lives in Hatfield. Maurice had been a Scout with the Third Hillingdon Scout Group and was selected to attend the 4th World Scout Jamboree in Godollo, Hungary. This was held 1 – 16 August 1933. They had a familiarisation camp on 1/2 July at Bentley Priory, Stanmore and it was noted in the joining instructions (sent by **Scoutmaster M Norman**) that any Scouts from Hertfordshire who were attending their Hatfield Park County Rally would not be expected until the Saturday evening. We have been given a number of personal papers regarding the attendance of **Maurice** at the Jamboree including an A2 sized coloured map of the site showing the facilities which I have had framed for the County Scout Museum.

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