

## Heritage Thoughts for the Month (May 2019)

During May, I was invited to attend Cubjam at Phasels Wood Activity Centre, running from 23 – 31 May, with a full programme of activities for young people. I met with **Janet Sands** (craft skills) and **Liz Jack** (story telling) who were each involved in their quite separate activity bases. They were never alone for long before another group came to their marquees each clutching their question sheet that had to be signed after they had attended and successfully completed each of the 50 skills bases spread all over the site. I met with Cubs and Leaders from all over the UK.

Also, during the month, a plaque was re-fixed, following refurbishment, on the tree at Well End Activity Centre that was planted by **Baden -Powell** during his last visit to Hertfordshire in 1933. Many improvements are being carried out at the site to make life more comfortable for campers.



I sent a copy of this newsletter to **Michael Baden-Powell**, who lives in Australia, and is the Grandson of **B-P**. He is coming to the UK in September for the Gilwell Reunion with his wife. Prior to that they will be in residence at the World Scout Jamboree and I have asked them to meet with the **Hertfordshire Units** if they can.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, I will be conducting my annual tour of Brownsea Island and summarising its links to Scouting since 1907. If you would like to join me (bring some young people if you can) please meet at **B-P's statue** on Poole Harbour Quay, prior to catching the 10.00am ferry. The statue is located on the Quay, across the road from the multi-story car park. MR OS 195 020901. Uniform please! *Be Prepared* as there is a charge for the Ferry and a fee to land on the Island (unless you are a National Trust Member), plus lunch in the excellent restaurant. Also, there is also a charge if you want to explore the half of the Island that belongs to the Dorset Naturalist Trust which is a bird sanctuary. If you would like to discuss in more detail please ring me on 07850 818600 or e-mail [archivist@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:archivist@hertfordshirescouts.org.uk).

The date is significant. It was from 1 - 9th August 1907 that B-P held an experimental camp on the Island for 21 boys from The Boys Brigade and sons of his friends in the Army. This was to test out his ideas prior to writing 'Scouting for Boys'. He put the boys into Patrols and "Mixed them up like plums in a pudding". It is 112 years since this experimental camp took place and Scouting was founded early in 1908. He had chosen Pearson's as his Publisher and one of their Directors', **Percy Everett**, visited the 1907 camp. He was so impressed with **B-P's** aims and objectives that he soon became the first Boy Scout in the World and the first

County Commissioner of Hertfordshire – yes, we were the first Scout County in the World. If you are thinking of staying over and making it an experience break (there are other milestones to visit around the Harbour), I recommend the RNLI College [rnli\\_college@rnli.org.uk](mailto:rnli_college@rnli.org.uk). The College is located about 15 minutes away by foot. There is also a Travelodge and a Premier Inn (Holes Bay) close by, about 30/40 mins walking distance.

**FRANK BRITTAIN**

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