

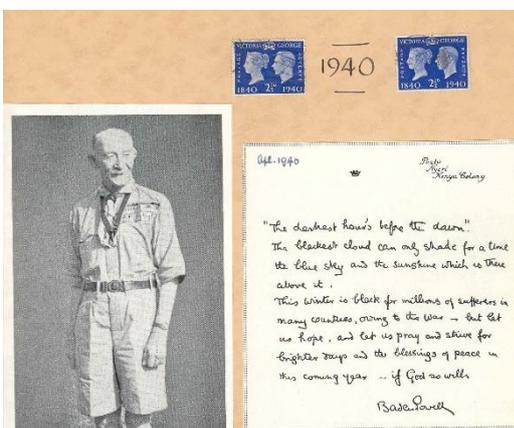
Great news for former St Albans Scout, Geoffrey Golding. He has worked as a bespoke Tailor in St Albans for well over 50 years and was recently created a *Member of the Royal Victorian Order* for his services to several members of the Royal Family. As one of his clients, I called in to offer my



congratulations. Geoffrey moved to St Albans in 1963 at the age of 19 and soon joined the Fourth St Albans Troop under the leadership of **Charles Dymoke Green**. He also worked for a while as a porter in Lyons Corner House in the High Street, before starting his first tailoring business in Albert Street, with his father **Ruben**. He moved to his current larger premises in Hatfield Road and in 1978 was appointed to make officers' uniforms for the Household Cavalry. He and his fifteen staff are now appointed tailors to around 50 regiments and corps and were awarded a Royal Warrant by The Queen in 2001. In Hertfordshire his clients include MPs, Lords, High Sheriffs the Lord Lieutenant and some of his Deputies. This Honour of the Royal Victorian Order was presented by **Prince William** at Buckingham Palace on 26 November. The Order is initiated by **The Queen** to acknowledge those who have served her; or the Monarchy; personally.

Amongst many other lunches attended at this time of year, was the one I hosted for the County Scout Heritage Team. This started as usual in the County Heritage Centre at Well End for a chat, a coffee and to view a small selection of the artefacts and documents which had been acquired recently. These attracted great interest and attention. We then retired to the Mops & Brooms PH at Well End for our non-Christmas meal (which was chosen and paid for individually). Three guests were invited this year. They included **Mike Hoffman**, who is the "Webmaster" for the London Gang Show Scout Fellowship and editor of *TATTS (These are the Times.....)* the London Gang Show Newsletter. The Hertfordshire Scout Museum holds considerable artefacts about the London Gang Show which held its last performance in 1972. (Also for many Provincial Gang Shows). In those days a number of Hertfordshire Scouts were members of the London Gang Show cast. In particular **Jack Cracknell** from South West Herts District who was an assistant to the Producer, **Ralph Reader**, who died in 1982. **Ralph** was also the Producer of the *National Service of Remembrance* at the Albert Hall for many years.

Christmas is also time for remembering old friends. Although I did not meet **BP**, I have met and keep in touch with several of his family descendants around the world. **BP** was born on 22 February 1857 (later named as Founders Day). In December 1940 (a year after the outbreak of



WWII) and at the age of 83, he compiled and had printed several hundred Christmas cards that were sent to the many friends and acquaintances accumulated during his life. As he then lived in Nyeri, Africa, they had to be written and sent in April as most of them would have long sea voyages followed by train journeys before they were delivered. The one shown was sent to his friend and right hand man **Percy Everett (PWE)** who was then CC of Hertfordshire and he held that role until 1943. **PWE** was knighted in 1930. The hand written message describes the suffering caused by the world war he had striven to prevent through Scouting.

B-P had a much longer friendship with **Winston Churchill**. When he was a correspondent with *The Daily Telegraph*, he had interviewed **B-P** in 1880 while on a trek through India.

The text of the 1940 Christmas card – *“The darkest hour is before the dawn. The blackest cloud can only shade for a time the blue sky and the sunshine which is there above it. This winter is black for millions of sufferers in many countries, owing to the war – but let us hope, and let us pray and strive for brighter days and the blessings of peace in the coming year – if God wills.”* **Baden Powell**.

B-P died a short time later on 8 January 1941. The British Nation offered a memorial grave in a prime position on the centre isle of Westminster Abbey between those of the **Unknown Warrior and David Livingstone**. However, **Lady Baden-Powell** preferred his final resting place to be in Nyeri. His funeral was planned in secret some time before and was held with full military honours. A commemorative plaque was placed in Westminster Abbey near the West Door.



Alan King was a strong member of the **Hertfordshire County Team** and also as a Vice President and County Secretary to the County of G.L.N. He died on 2 February 2017 and has a tree



dedicated to his memory in the Memorial Copse and garden at Well End. His widow **Veronica** is a regular visitor there.

During Christmas week, **Veronica** was interviewed on TV as a spokesperson about the work she, and others carry out at the Wickford Care Centre in Essex, looking after the needs of the more elderly people in the village.

The **New Year Honours list** included that **HM The Queen** had awarded a well-deserved OBE to **Matt Hyde**. He was appointed the Chief Executive of the Scout Association on 29 April 2013 and has made significant and progressive steps to develop the Movement. He followed **Derek Twine** who retired and had held this appointment for 16 years. **Matt** is also an Assistant Leader in Hertfordshire. Awards were also granted to many other Scout Leaders throughout the UK. (In a rare co-incidence and unbeknown to each other, **Matt's** father **Richard** was awarded an MBE in the List for his charity work in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire).



FRANK BRITTAIN Archivist & Historian, Hertfordshire Scouts.