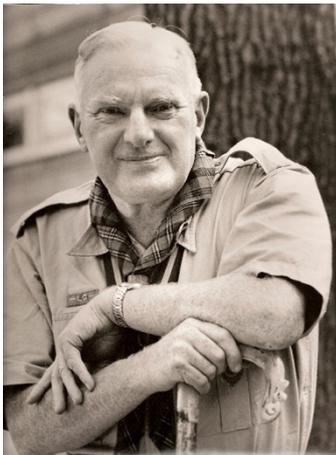


HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH of JUNE 2020

Happy memories were revived when I watched a programme on Channel 116 BBC 4 *The Cairngorms, a Year in the Wild*. It reminded me that in 1954, aged 15 I was the youngest participant on the Hertfordshire County Expedition to the Cairngorm Mountains, "The wildest and most remote part of Britain." This was open to all Senior Scouts of the County and 70 attended. (Senior Scouts 15-18 Rover Scouts 18-24). A few had attended a pilot expedition in 1951 including **Freddy O'Hare** from Cockfosters Scouts. This was when Barnet District was still part of Hertfordshire Scouting. I was part of a Senior Scout Team of 6 that included our Senior Scoutmaster **Don Hellmuth** a former RAF Mountain Rescue Team member.



I think he must have pulled some strings to get me to attend, suggesting to **Melville** that the experience might do me some good. Included in the photo (taken on my Kodak Baby Brownie camera by a lone passing hiker) are L-R **myself, Brian Turberville, Mike Chambers, Peter Wilson, Freddy O'Hare & Don Hellmuth**. Both the 1951 & 1954 expeditions were organised by the new ACC (SS) **Melville Balsillie**, who had extensive experience in running this type of event all over Europe. Our base was in the former Norwegian Army huts that were near Loch Morlick and the heart of Glenmore Forest. The recent TV programme gave an extensive tour of the Cairngorm area, visiting all the main peaks that we had climbed including Cairn Toul, 4241ft., Braeriach 4248ft and Ben Macdhui 4296ft.

Lockdown due to the Covid 19 Virus continues. Good advice on how to continue Scouting in these difficult conditions is being distributed by the County Commissioner, the County Chairman and The Scout Association (updates@scout-news.org.uk).

Good news from a "sure but delicate source" advises that **Chief Scout Bear Grylls** has been invited to remain in post until 2023. I have sent my congratulations.

The Herts Advertiser Newspaper has been a good friend to Hertfordshire Scouting over its **lifetime**. This week it features the First Harpenden Scout Group who marked International Nurses Day on 12 May. They used the theme of COVID-19 to say thank you to all the NHS workers by building a rainbow design from stones they had painted and placed at Luton & Dunstable Hospital. The organiser was the SL, **Andy Wrentmore**.

The Thane Rover Crew held its own zoom meeting during this month. It started at 1845hrs and closed at 20.55hrs and had capacity for 100 participants. The agenda was – Attend in uniform; Introductions; Prayers from the Rover Crew Leader **Ken Beardsley**; Confirmation was given that the name of the Rover Crew had changed from “Michael Baden-Powell’s Own” to “Lord Baden Powell’s Own”; **Colin Walker**, who is a former Headmaster, became interested in Scouting History in 2000. He



is now the Scribe of the Crew and gave an explanation of his personal expertise, having written 12 books on Scouting History. He owns or has copied every letter that **B-P** ever wrote and probably holds the most extensive library of **B.P.s** works in the world. We were privileged to have join us **Paul Moynihan** a former National Scout Archivist. Interspersing **Colin’s** talk, individuals asked questions to clarify unsubstantiated rumours that were circulating in the Press. A number of suggestions were tabled on how to advise the public how the truth should be published.

Colin Walker giving one of his series of talks at “The Chief’s Drum.” This has now been given pride of place next to the Gidney Cabin in time for a recent Gilwell Park Reunion. The Drum had been found, lost and overgrown with brambles. It was restored by members of the Thane Rover Crew, who have for some years done most of the renovations to buildings, gates and other structures etc, at Gilwell Park. The purpose of the drum was to signal to Leaders on the Training Ground that the “The Chief” (B-P) was approaching.

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