

As part of our centenary celebrations, we continue looking back over the years at various noteworthy events and occurrences from our first century of existence. I hope you are enjoying these reminiscences. – Frank Woods

**90 Years Ago** ~ The Eastbourne Boy Scouts' Association *Official Yearbook* shows that in 1923 numbers had increased to 537 (from 505 in 1922). It also states that "A satisfactory sign is the gradual, but steady, increase in the number of Rovers . . . it is hoped before long to form a Rover Troop". Finally, "It was hoped to run a Cub Association Camp, but sufficient staff not being available, Cubs went into Camp with their Troops."

**70 Years Ago** ~ In his DC's Report for 1938, Lt-Col. W. J. Keen reflected: "As usual we have assisted in a small way at many public functions such as the Memorial Service, the Regatta, the British Legion Parade, the Air Display at Wilmington, etc." Also, "We have agreed to take over the up-keep of the 'Long Man' provided he is first of all put in order."

**65 Years Ago** ~ With the Chairman (Lt-Col. T. Sutton) having announced at the 1946 AGM that the Duke of Devonshire, our President, "had offered to make a camping ground available within the Eastbourne area", sadly at the 1947 AGM, under Matters Arising, the DC (Lt-Col. W. J. Keen) reported that "after all, the Duke of Devonshire's Agent had been unable to offer the L.A. [Local Association] any permanent camping ground".

**55 Years Ago** ~ At the 1955 AGM, following the usual presentations of the Bob-a-Job Certificates, His Worship the Mayor, Alderman L. W. Pyle, offered congratulations to everyone on the result and referred to the "sad loss sustained by the Boy Scouts Association in the death of Haydn Dimmock [MBE], the founder of Bob-a-Job, which occurred yesterday, 26th April".

**50 Years Ago** ~ With no fewer than 20 Groups in 1960, DC Rev. Victor Hellaby approved "the division of duties between the A.D.C.s for Cubs": Miss Wood had responsibility for the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 23rd, and Donald Love for the 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 14th, 18th, 25th, 1st A, 1st ED, 1st HP and 1st W.

**45 Years Ago** ~ 1966 was Cub Scout Jubilee Year, and in the *District Yearbook*, ADC(C) Brian Jefford reports on the many events and celebrations that took place, including the County Cub Rally in Brighton that most packs attended and at which they met Lady Baden-Powell and presented an Historical Pageant. "Eastbourne's contribution was scenes from the Stuart period, and was performed by the Hampden Park pack."

**40 Years Ago** ~ The 1970 census shows that we had 18 Groups, of which only seven remain today, and a membership of 686, which was 32 up on the previous year. The District Venture Scout Unit was "in abeyance due to lack of boys eligible". On a national level, Bob-a-Job Week was re-named Scout Job Week, in view of the impending currency decimalisation.

**35 Years Ago** ~ The February 1976 *District Digest* announced that our Cub Scout Jubilee Badges should be available shortly from our Scout Shop (Coy's, Seaside), and that preliminary plans were being made for a Diamond Jubilee Pageant on Seaside Recreation Ground in the summer.

- The main event for 1974 was "Operation Lifeboat" which was a national appeal from the Scout Movement to raise £100,000 to purchase a Scout Lifeboat for the RNLI. ADC John Smith and GSL Ray Eldridge were co-ordinators and the District's main event was a Sponsored Walk in October. The County Presentation to the RNLI took place at the Lifeboat Museum in Eastbourne in November, and at the following year's AGM, CC George Herbert praised our District's "outstanding achievement" in raising £1,350!

**30 Years Ago** ~ In the February 1982 *District Digest* it was announced that "the District has a new trophy for Cub Scouts" in memory of late popular Leader Phil Streeter (11th Eastbourne). It would be known as the "Phil Streeter Trophy", and had been made by him from a Rolls-Royce engine rotor blade (when he worked at R-R) and it "will remain with us as a fitting memory to a grand fellow". It was awarded to the Pack "carrying out the best form of service during a period of six months". (*Where is it now?*)

**25 Years Ago** ~ Ken Suckling's time as Editor of the *District Digest* finally came to an end with the February 1984 issue, after almost 16 years and 151 issues! . . . Ken had always ensured that the *Digest* was available for "duplication" (no photocopiers in those days!) and that 200 copies were sent out every month. His successor was Ruth Rowland who, after a further five issues (No. 156), renamed it *Eastbourne District Scouting News* and, for some unknown reason, started again at No. 1.

**10 Years Ago** ~ In order to capture our "millennium membership" for posterity, it was decided (by someone!) that it would be a good idea to have a District Millennium Photograph taken, and so this duly took place in July 2000 at the Devonshire Park Tennis Centre.