

As part of our centenary celebrations, we continue looking back over the years at various events and occurrences from our first century of existence. This series can also be found on [www.edsc100.org.uk](http://www.edsc100.org.uk). – Frank Woods

**80 Years Ago** ~ The vast area that the District initially covered was somewhat reduced in 1930, “in view of the recent changes in the boundaries of the Districts of the County, sanctioned by the County Executive Committee”; therefore, at our AGM, a motion was carried amending our By-law 3 to read: “The area to be administered by the [Local] Association shall be the County Borough of Eastbourne and the Rural District Area”. At the same AGM it was also decided that “in future the Mayor should each year be invited to be a Vice-President”.

**70 Years Ago** ~ In his DC’s Report at the 1940 AGM, Lt-Col. W. J. Keen, referring to our good work during wartime, reported that “We obtained a suitable depot in a basement in Upperton Road, we organised a house-to-house collection, we installed a baling machine and we have sold nearly £60-worth of paper. We have decided to keep half the proceeds for the Funds of the Troops taking part and to give the other half to charity. Our first gift was a matter of a hundred ruk-sacs [*sic*] to the Scouts of Finland.”

**60 Years Ago** ~ In his DC’s Report at the 1951 AGM, Vincent Allom spoke of the “great loss the Association had sustained through the death of the [10th] Duke of Devonshire who, as President, had always been very helpful to the Association”. However, at the 1952 AGM, the Chairman (Lt-Col. T. Sutton) “referred to a letter from His Grace the [11th] Duke of Devonshire, stating that he would be pleased and honoured to become President of the Association”.

**50 Years Ago** ~ In May 1957, as part of “Eastbourne Scout Week” Jubilee Celebrations, a Grand Rally and Pageant took place in Gildredge Park, starting with a Parade at 2.30p.m. and finishing with a Camp-Fire at 7.30p.m., whilst, at the same time, a Sea Scout Display took place at Princes Park, performed by the 5th and 9th Sea Scout Troops, “to demonstrate the versatility of the Sea Scouts”.

- Addressing our District AGM in May 1959, the County Commissioner, Lt-Col. M. S. Adshead, congratulated us on our 50th year of Scouting, remarking that we were “one of the very earliest in the County”.

**40 Years Ago** ~ In 1968, it was agreed that the Executive Committee “should meet less frequently and that more work should be delegated to Sub-Committees”; the following Sub-Committees were duly formed under their own Chairmen: Warrants (Supt F. Thomas), Scout Shop (C. Fenner), Development (G. Gillett), Finance & Fundraising (D. Wilson), Training (R. Houston) and Bushy Wood (H. Hodges).

**35 Years Ago** ~ It was announced in the May 1975 *District Digest* that the design for our District Badge had been approved by County and Headquarters, and that an order had been sent to the manufacturers; also, “The first badges off the machine will be presented to all those boys who sent in designs and suggestions.”

- Following submission of our new District Badge to Headquarters for record purposes, the May 1976 *District Digest* records that an acknowledgement had been received, along with the comment “Worth waiting for – very good”; thanks were duly expressed to former DC Donald Love and ADC Ronald Backhurst, who were responsible for the final design.

**30 Years Ago** ~ A milestone was reached at the 1982 District AGM, when, for the first time in our history, His Grace the Duke of Devonshire ceased to be our President; for quite some time, many had been expressing their disappointment at the lack of support received from him for many years, and so, earlier that year, I had approached ex-Councillor Ted Dobell about taking over – he was absolutely delighted and said that it would be an honour; he was therefore duly elected as our new President.

**25 Years Ago** ~ The “main event” of 1985 was “The Greatest Challenge”, which took place on Seaside Recreation Ground; running from 11 a.m. to 4p.m., challenges included tug-o-war, custard-pie throwing, straw-bale tossing and welly-flinging; having raised an incredible £2,500 towards the ever-rising cost of the new Ablution Block at Bushy Wood, DC Roger Gibbs reported that it was “a terrific success”. . . . So much so, that the event was repeated in a similar format the following year!

**20 Years Ago** ~ In May 1989, the 18th Eastbourne (Anderida) Group changed their name to 1st Anderida. (The 18th Eastbourne had actually merged with the old 1st Anderida in early 1973.) They retained their scarf colours and remain the second oldest Group in the District.

**15 Years Ago** ~ In April 1994, a new Editor – Roger Gibbs – produced the first edition of our dependable *Eastbourne Scouting News*. Prior to that, from 1988 to 1994, it seems that District Newsletters were very sparse, even non-existent for a while. (Either that, or I’ve got a load missing! . . . The few I possess for that period are in different formats and without any attribution, and certainly don’t contain very much information about events.) Anyway, thankfully, all that changed with Roger’s nimble fingers skimming the keyboard. Now, having completed 16 years as Editor, and producing no less than 164 issues, Roger has surpassed Ken Suckling’s earlier record, thus becoming our longest-serving Editor!