

## All Aboard



On Thursday 18th February, some 30 members, friends and guests at our monthly meeting enjoyed an illustrated and very interesting talk on the work of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust. With an added touch of humour, their representative kept the interest of his audience for over an hour. We are sure that all those who attended did not realise that you could have a trip on a Barge ranging from one day to four days or even charter a Barge.

After the talk refreshments were served by the ladies of the Committee and a selection of items were on sale on behalf of the Trust, and a box for donations seemed well supported. The fee charged for the evening goes direct to the Trust to keep the barges afloat.

For further details of Trust Membership, contact the Membership Secretary, Thames Sailing Barge Trust, 8 Birch Close, Ely. CB7 4TJ

—ooOoo—

## Sick and Wounded

We know of a few members who are under the weather at the moment and we wish them well and a speedy return to full health. Please remember them all in your prayers.

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## Birthday Greetings

We wish those who have a birthday this month very many happy returns - may you have many more of them.

George Flatman; Margaret Polden and Beryl Silk

—ooOoo—

## Fun of the Fair

The 3rd Havering Group will be holding their annual Fair on the Green at 12 pm on Saturday 22nd May 2010, in aid of their Minibus Appeal. Watch for details in the District News nearer the date.

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## Ding Dong Bell

The Ockendon Handbell Ringers will be paying a return visit for our May Meeting. Please note that to accommodate the Ringers the date of the Meeting has been changed to

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With thanks to Scouting Magazine for 'A Canny Crack' and certain articles.



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Thursday May 27th. Make a note in your Diary NOW!

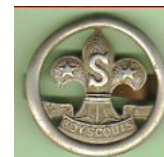
Everyone is invited to this meeting, which is suitable for all ages - please note that we will start at 7.30pm and not at 8pm as usual.

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## Looking Back



Recently we saw a collection of old photographs which brought back memories. Among the photographs we found the Silver Jubilee Celebration Social brochure for the 4th Gidea Park Scout Group. The Group was formed in 1938 and did well. In 1947 the first recruits from the 'Pre-Fabs' arrived and in 1948 the first enrolments from the London County Council Permanent Estate. In 1962 the Group was sponsored by the Heaton Way Congregational Church and in 1963, the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Group - the first Queen's Scout award was presented to a member of the Group - with the award of the Dyer Cup the same year. In 1963 the Group had 6 Two Star Wolf Cubs; 9 One Star Wolf Cubs; 9 Wolf Cubs and 8 Tenderpads. In the Troop were 3 Scout Cords; 1 First Class Scout ;9 Second Class Scouts; 10 Scouts and 14 Tenderfeet. Senior Scouts had 4 Scout Cords and 1 First Class Senior Scout.



If readers are not familiar with the awards and the, then, Training programme - ask one of the golden oldies! One thing is for certain, the youngsters of today would have great difficulty in passing some of the badge work or gaining some of the proficiency badges.

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## Safety

Nice little 'plug' for Scouting during the BBC Breakfast programme on the morning of 2nd February when 'things that could be dangerous to children' were discussed. A chap connected with Scouting (although we know nothing about his appointment in Scouting), showed that correct instruction and guidance could help with safety as carried out by Scout training.



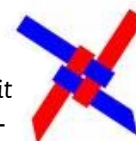
We recall a Scout who, whilst at camp, swatted a gnat that settled on his leg, unfortunately he seems to have forgotten that he was using a hand axe at the time (he had already gained the nickname of 'Bungle' with the Troop) and the Cub who had to be taken to Hospital because others Cubs were trying to work a 'points lever' on a railway system during a visit to an open air museum, trapped the victim's finger in the works. Or the Scout (a PL no less) who hid behind bushes to avoid some job or other and was not aware of the steep drop behind him - he vanished from sight. All these incidents concerned young folk who had been made aware of accidents and the importance of not acting in a way that was careless. In all three incidents the victims were lucky to get away as lightly as they did.

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## The Way That You Woggle

Many old 'stuck in a rut members' deplore the way in which many wear their scarf, looped round their neck with the knot somewhere at waist level. This meant that it became creased where it was tied. To overcome this a few Scouts at Gilwell began experimenting with other ways to hold the two ends together. They had heard that the Americans had come up with the idea of using a ring or 'boon doggle' made from bone, rope or wood. When one of the Scouts made a Turks Head they knew that they were on the right track. They made their 'knot' out of thin sewed leather and the Woggle was born. Whatever the basis for calling it a Woggle it got its first fashion outing in The Scout on 9th June 1923, in an article called Wear A Scarf Woggle and in Scouting For Boys the same year. Hence the Woggle became part of the uniform. Over the years it has taken various forms but those who earned a Gilwell Woggle are proud to wear it.

Perhaps as a young Scout you obtained a piece of bone from a friendly Butcher and boiled it to remove the shreds of meat that clung to the bone. The smell during the boiling was horrible - and then came the job of carving it into some pattern. The result was often not very artistic but it



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was worn proudly. Now we seem to have gone full circle, with many youngsters not using a woggle, but preferring the Friendship Knot instead.

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### **The Chaplain writes:-**

It is sad when someone you know is called to his, or her, reward, but 'passing on' is part of life and nobody is exempt.

When I was a Navy Chaplain, stationed in Hong Kong I was impressed at the way that families were always a close knit group. No such things as an Old Age Pension so aged parents were looked after by the family and much respected by the younger members. There is a story told that granddad was in his usual position seated outside the home in the sunshine. One day the youngest son saw that his father was preparing the wheelbarrow and the boy was told that it was getting near time to take granddad 'over the mountain' where he would sit in the sun forever. The boy thought for a moment, and then reminded his parent to bring the wheelbarrow back "as we will need it for you".



This story showed the strong link between all members of the family and that life and going to 'sit in the sunshine all day' was accepted as part of life. It is a shame that many families we know do not have the same family commitment, or the support and consideration for each other.

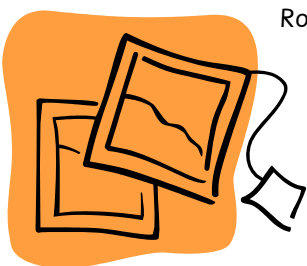
*John (Nelson) Faulkner.*

----D-e-v-o-n-p-o-r-t.---

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### **The Tea Bag Collector**

It has been said that a lot of the fun has gone out of Scouting these days. This may or may not be true, depending on your point of view. There is one story, perfectly true, that caused some to wonder if Scouting really does affect your sanity. It started because it was decided to move a Scout Section competition away from the usual area and into the wilds of Essex. Was the event the old Marathon or the Barton Challenge? Whatever, teams had to complete their hike and finish up at the HQ of the Ingatestone Scout and Guide Groups. The Group were kind enough to arrange First Aiders to treat blisters and other mild problems and to organise some very welcome refreshments - which is where the story begins.



A small Scout was seen going to empty the used tea bags from a large tea pot. Looking into the pot a Romford Scouter, with a very serious face, told the Scout that another Leader collected old tea bags and did not have one of those he could see in the pot). The Scout, being a good lad, approached the so called collector and asked if he had 'one of these?'. This particular Leader was quick on the up-take, played along and inspected the soggy tea bag, announcing that he did not in fact have 'one of those'. By now, the Group Scout Leader of our hosts and the two tea ladies were wondering what was going on so they were told of this strange collector. Spotting the box from where the tea bags came from one of the tea bags was taken from the tea pot and a careful inspection was made of the bag with the little perforations being counted - the ladies being subsequently informed that the bag was in fact a fake as the number of little holes was wrong. By this time our hosts had glazed expressions and must have been certain that Leaders from Romford were absolutely raving bonkers.

We never went back again.....

(After all these years, does our phantom collector have a shed full of soggy tea bags?)

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### **Gilwell Park**

The recorded history of Gilwell can be traced back to 1407 and was owned by a John Crow where the

land is listed under the name Glydiefords. Sometime between 1407 and 1442 the land was sold to Richard Rolfe and the area became known as Gillrolfes, Gill being the old name for 'glen' and 'Rolfe', the surname of the owner. Following Rolfe's death the different parts of the property came to be known as Great Gilwell and Little Gilwell..... 'wella' being a spring.

Around 1422 a further 14 acres were acquired in the area by Richard Osbourne who then built a large dwelling on the site called Osbourne Hall, which stood for 300 years. Legend has it that in the early 1500s, King Henry VIII built a hunting lodge for his son Edward but there is no proof of this. In 1736 it was said that Dick Turpin started to use the forest to hide in and ambush travellers on their way to London. William Skrimshire purchased Great Gilwell, Little Gilwell and half of the estate including Osbourne hall, and built a new residence which is now called The White House.



In 1824 Gilwell was acquired by Thomas Usbourne who, when the original London Bridge was being demolished in 1826, erected pieces of it on what is now the Buffalo Lawn. William Gibbs a poet and, inventor bought the estate in 1858 before William F de Bois McLaren purchased it for the Scouts in 1919 for £7,000.

The official opening of the Training and Camp Centre was held on 26th July 1919. Despite rumours, Baden Powell never lived there but did take it as his territorial designation in his peerage title of Baron Baden Powell of Gilwell in 1929.

**With grateful thanks to the source of information.**

—ooOoo—

## Scouting History

- 1907 In August, the Experimental Camp on Brownsea Island
- 1908 Part One of Scout for Boys is published in January
- 1909 July saw the publication of the first edition of the Headquarters Gazette.  
In August a camp on the Training Ship Mercury leads to the formation of Sea Scouts
- 1910 Girl Guides is inaugurated in January  
In March a Silver Wolf badge is added for any Kings Scout who gets 24 Proficiency Badges  
The first census in September showed 100,298 Scouts and 7,688 Scouters.

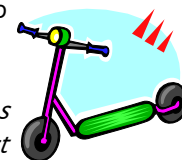
**To be continued.....**

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## Scooter Rally

To answer the question re Scooter Rally. I did query this information last year as I had thought it was celebrating 40 years and was possibly in need of a new trophy that I am happy to provide. Bunny Warren was able to confirm... Quote....

*"The first Cub Scooter Rally was in 1970 when it was won by the 1st Havering 'B' It has been held in all subsequent years except 1985 when it was cancelled due to bad weather. Most Packs in the District have won at least once. The correspondence re Scooter Rally 1997-1994 is in my (Bunny's) possession deposited by Sue Harris in 2000 before she ceased to be ADC CS."*



The idea came from a colleague on the then National Cub Scout Advisory Board and the Romford Cub Sub Committee thought it a good idea .... they were obviously right.

*Joan Walker*