



SCOUTING IN BEXLEY

CELEBRATING THE FIRST 100 YEARS



Lord Robert Baden-Powell
Founder of the World Scout Movement
Chief Scout of the World
with his son Peter, at Fooks Cray Place, 1924

" The sport in Scouting is to find the good in every boy and develop it. "

.

" The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light. "

.

" Leave this world a little better than you found it. "



8th January 1941 - Nyeri, Kenya.



Scouting in the borough of Bexley - the Districts of **Bexleyheath**, **East Wickham & Welling**, **Erith & Crayford** and **Sidcup** - dates back to the earliest days of the Movement, evolving through a century until the present day.



In this Scouting Centenary year the four Districts are coming together for a celebration event called ScoutFest100 at Welling United Football Ground on May 20th and an exhibition of Scouting Memorabilia in the Austen Gallery, at Hall Place, Bexley.

This brochure commemorates this special year by looking back at the histories of the Districts and to the future of Scouting. The information contained in it is believed to be generally correct, it has been collated from various sources and by various authors, to whom we are grateful, however some inconsistencies may occur.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I am sure that although Baden-Powell had high hopes for our Movement when he started it in 1907, he could never dreamed it would be as big and successful and wide-reaching as it is today.

One hundred years ago, his response to providing activities for young people, who were hitherto not considered as important, was innovative and unique. His vision for our Movement was spectacular and life changing for young people and adults alike.

Scouting offers challenge and adventure to 400,000 young people aged 6-25 years in the UK. We believe in helping our Members fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We're working to make Scouting available to all and we're passionate about what we do.

Through the adventure of Scouting, young people get to take risks in a safe environment, and have their first taste of responsibility. We aim to give young people experiences they'll never forget. The sort of adventure Scouting offers is the chance to experience something different and the opportunity to challenge yourself. When a Beaver Scout wakes up the morning after a sleepover, or Cub Scout has just got over her fear of heights by completing her first abseil - that's adventure.

In Scouting, we provide over 200 activities from abseiling to zorbing (that's falling out of the sky in a foam ball in case you were wondering). If we don't have an instructor who can help we can normally find someone who can. But Scouting isn't just about activities for their own sake. We encourage our young people to feel the buzz of the challenge and then reflect on what that means. Did they have fun? Do they feel more confident? Would they do it again?

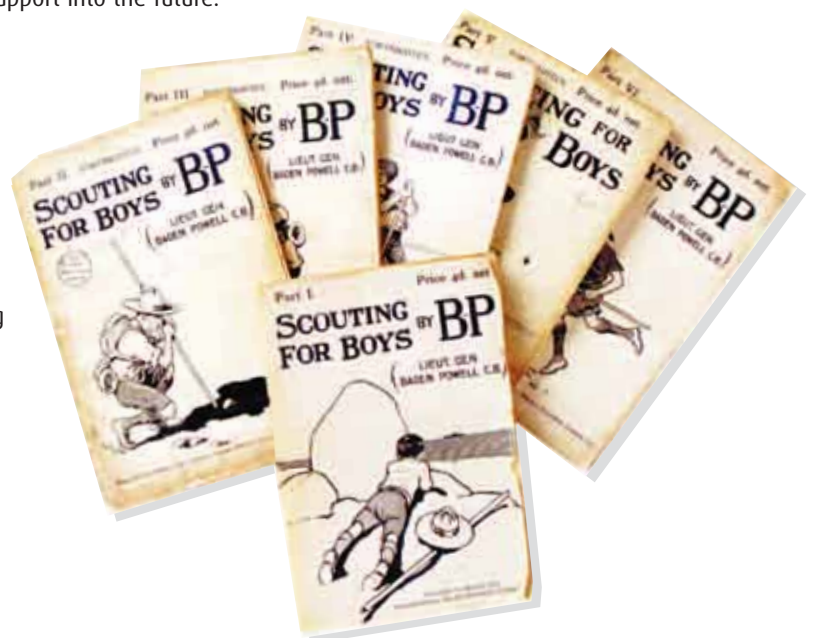
All this is made possible by the efforts of 100,000 voluntary adult leaders. With award-winning training and one-to-one support, we make sure that each one of our volunteers gets to make best use of their skills and talents. It's something different from the norm, and that's why a lot of people like it. In fact, it's what's made us the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country.

I hope you will enjoy this special year and continue to support into the future.

Diane Robertson

County Commissioner, Greater London South East

If you are not already a member of the Scout Movement and want to find out more about getting involved in Scouting in Bexley go to www.glsescouts.org.uk



GREATER LONDON SOUTH EAST



The Scout County of **Greater London South East** was formed at the time of the reorganisation of London government in the mid-1960s comprising the Scout Districts that fell within the new London boroughs of Bexley and Bromley.

Greater London South East today comprises of the Scout Districts of Beckenham, Bexleyheath, Bromley, Chislehurst, East Wickham & Welling, Erith & Crayford, Orpington and Sidcup.

The County badge depicts Tower Bridge, surely one of the most recognisable landmarks in London, the same design features on the badges all six Greater London Scout Counties.

Tower Bridge is probably the world's most famous drawbridge. Its construction employed 432 people, using over 11,000 tons of steel, to provide the frame work

which is clad in Cornish granite and Portland stone. After eight years of construction it was opened in 1894 and was the gateway bridge to London for nearly a hundred years, until the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge further downstream at Dartford was opened in 1991.

In 1910 the high-level walkways were closed due to lack of use and in 1912 aviator Frank McClean had to fly his Short bi-plane between the walkways and the bascules to avoid an accident.

However the most famous story of all was in 1952 when a number 78 double deck bus had to leap from one bascule to the other as the bridge began to rise.

In 1982 the high-level walkways reopened to the public after 72 years as part of the Tower Bridge Experience.



Scouts rally in Danson Park for Empire Day - 1952

DYB, DYB, DYB ... DOB, DOB, DOB

Mention Scouting to many people outside and you are bound to get the mocking retort 'dyb, dyb, dyb, dob, dob, dob' and you think '... yeah, alright' whatever makes you happy! The fact is that this refrain has not been used by anyone in Scouting since the demise of Wolf Cubs in the mid-sixties, except on the Russ Abbott Show, and never by Scouts anyway. In the Grand Howl the Akela would gather the Pack in a circle and the duty Sixer would call "Cubs, DYB, DYB, DYB" and the rest of the Pack (and it was only boys then) would respond "We'll DOB, DOB, DOB". It only dawned to me the other day as to what it actually meant - its 'Do Your Best' and we'll 'Do Our Best', abbreviated.

Scouting seems to like abbreviations, right from the very beginning everyone called the founder of Scouting ... **B-P**. It maybe due to its military background, but abbreviations abounded - the **PL** led the Patrol and answered to the **SM** (Scout-master), etc.

In our modern world our young people are very good at using abbreviations in the form of mobile text messaging, in a code that most adults would struggle with. Scouting also seems to have its own language - so many people talk in abbreviations that 'The Two Ronnies' could easily have written a sketch on it.

This page might give the uninitiated, a fair chance.

The **Scout Group** which is led by a **GSL** (Group Scout Leader), comprises of three sections, all of which are open to both boys and girls:



Beaver Scouts meet as a **Colony**, that is divided into small groups called **Lodges**. Beavers are aged 6 - 8 yrs. They are led by **BSL** (Beaver Scout Leader) and **ABSL** (Assistant Beaver Scout Leader/s).



Cub Scouts meet as a **Pack**, divided into smaller groups called **Sixes**, each led by a **Sixer**. Cubs are aged 8 - 10.5 yrs. They are led by **CSL** (Cub Scout Leader) and **ACSL** (Assistant Cub Scout Leader/s). To be further confusing, leaders in the Cub Scout Pack still use names drawn from Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book. The CSL is called '**Akela**' and the Assistant Leaders use the names of other characters: **Bageehra**, **Baloo**, **Hathi**, **Kaa**, **Rikki**, **Ratcha** and so on.



Scouts are members of a **Troop**, which will be made up of a number of **Patrols** each lead by a **PL** (Patrol Leader). Scouts are aged 10.5 - 14 yrs. They are led by **SL** (Scout Leader) and **ASL** (Assistant Scout Leader/s). In many Troops it is traditional that the Scout Leader is called '**Skip**'.

Besides the Leaders, the **Group** will have a team of other adults who provide support chiefly with administration and fund raising. These will be led by a **Group Chairperson**, who is strictly speaking the Chairperson of the **Group Scout Council**. This meets annually as the Groups **AGM** (Annual General Meeting) and includes all those, especially parents, who are connected to the Group. The more routine management of the Group's affairs is conducted by the **Group Executive Committee** often called 'the Executive'.



On leaving the Scout Troop, the young people become **Explorer Scouts** and meet as an **Explorer Scout Unit**, which has its own identity, but is managed by the local Scout District. Members are aged 14 - 18 yrs and they are led by **ESL** (Explorer Scout Leader) and **AESLs** (Assistant Explorer Scout Leader/s). At District level there is the

DESC (District Explorer Scout Commissioner) and the **DESA** (District Explorer Scout Administrator).



The **Scout Network** is a County co-ordinated section for all members aged 18 - 25 yrs, some of whom may or may not already be Leaders of other sections.

The terms **Leader** and **Scouter** are both used to describe those adults who hold a **Warrant**. The warrant is the appointment card that is given to those who accept the appointment as a uniformed Leader. Such appointments are made by the **Scout District**. Other adults may be **Helpers** or **Skills Instructors**. Helpers usually provide general help to a section on a regular basis whilst Skills Instructors provide more specialised support. Both are issued with Certificates of Appointment.

Your **Scout Group** is part of a **Scout District**, which exists to provide support to and promote co-operation between Groups. The District will be led by a **DC** (District Commissioner). The DC is supported by a team of **ADCs** (Assistant District Commissioners). These will each have specific responsibilities and thus hold appointments such as **ADC(CS)** (Assistant District Commissioner Cub Scouts).



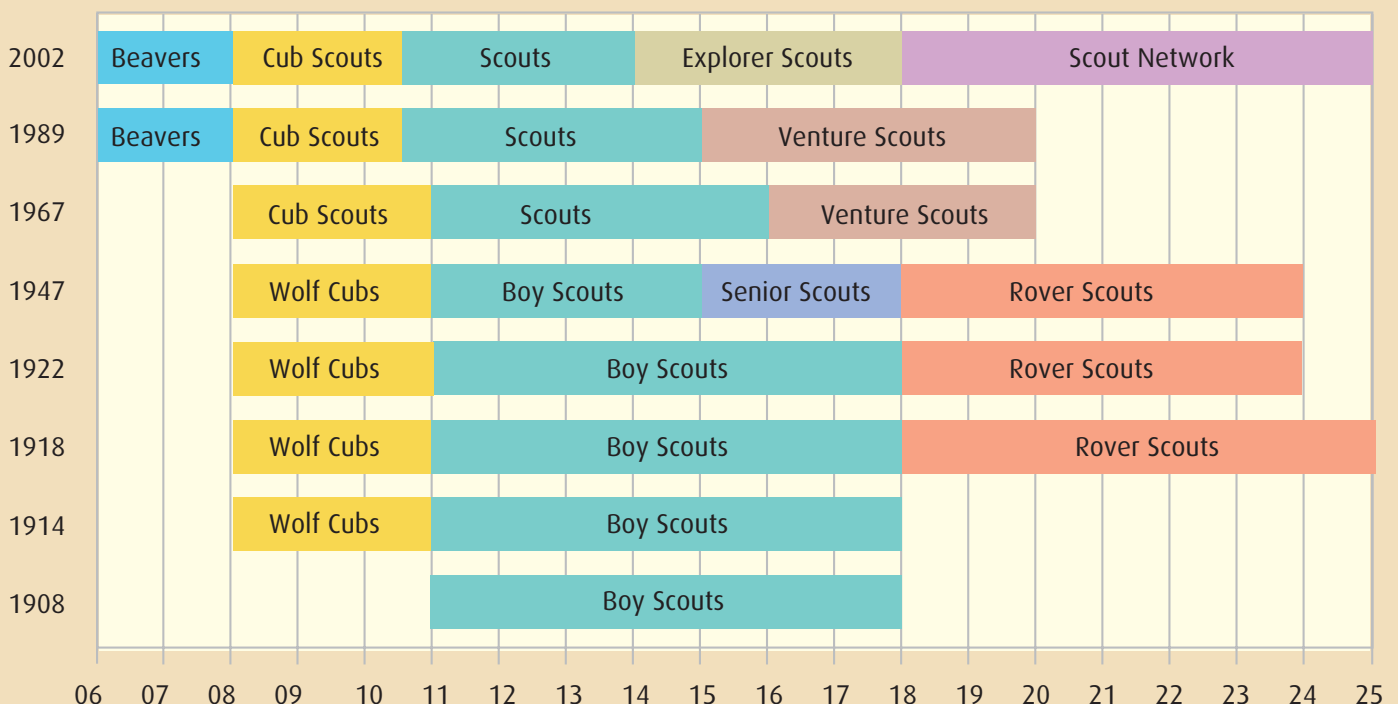
The District may also have a **District Fellowship**, whose adult members are not attached to Groups, but still wish to provide help and support to both Groups and the District.

Districts look for their support to a **Scout County**, which will be led by a **CC** (County Commissioner). Similarly to the District there will be a team of **ACCs** (Assistant County Commissioners).

Richard Crowe
SL & GSL, 1EW, EW&W, GLSE (work it out!)

SCOUTING TIMELINE

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1907 First experimental camp on Brownsea Island. | 1939 3rd World Rover Moot, Scotland. | 1975 14th World Jamboree, Norway. |
| 1908 Publication of 'Scouting for Boys' in six fortnightly parts. | 1941 B-P dies and is buried in Kenya. Lord Somers becomes Chief Scout. Air Scouts started. | 1976 Girls officially allowed to join Venture Scouts. |
| 1910 Girl Guides founded. | 1945 Lord Rowallan becomes Chief Scout. | 1981 Major General Michael Walsh becomes Chief Scout. |
| 1911 King George V at the Windsor Rally. | 1946 Senior Scouts started. | 1983 15th World Jamboree, Calgary, Canada. |
| 1912 Royal Charter granted. | 1947 6th World Jamboree, France. | 1985 New Scout Training Programme launched. |
| 1916 Wolf Cubs started. | 1949 4th World Rover Moot, Norway. First Bob-a-Job Week. | 1986 Beavers Scout section becomes officially part of the Scout Association. |
| 1918 Rover Scouts started. | 1951 7th World Jamboree, Austria. | 1987 16th World Jamboree in Australia. |
| 1919 Gilwell Park opened. | 1953 5th World Rover Moot, Kandersteg. | 1988 Garth Morrison becomes Chief Scout. |
| 1920 1st World Jamboree at Olympia, London. B-P acclaimed Chief Scout of the World. | 1955 8th World Jamboree, Canada. | 1990 Scouts Go For A Million Campaign launched which eventually raised £141,998 for Barnardo's. |
| 1922 The Great Alexandra Palace rally. | 1956 Wolf Cubs celebrate 40 years. | 1991 17th World Jamboree, South Korea. Girls join all sections. |
| 1923 International Chalet opened at Kandersteg, Switzerland. | 1957 Jubilee Jamboree, Sutton Coldfield. | 1995 18th World Jamboree, Holland. |
| 1924 2nd World Jamboree, Copenhagen. | 1959 10th World Jamboree, Philippines. Sir Charles Maclean becomes Chief Scout. | 1996 George Purdy becomes Chief Scout. |
| 1925 Handicapped Scouts section started. | 1961 HM The Queen opens Baden-Powell House in London. | 1999 19th World Jamboree, Chile. |
| 1928 Group system introduced. | 1963 11th World Jamboree, Greece. | 2000 Chief Scout visits Campdowne. |
| 1929 3rd World Jamboree, Arrowe Park, Birkenhead. B-P created Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. | 1965 Greater London South East County created. | 2002 Sections reorganised. Explorer Scouts and Scout Network created. |
| 1932 The first Gang Show (to raise funds for the Swimming Pool at Downe). | 1967 12th World Jamboree, Idaho, USA. Sections reorganised into Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts. New uniforms. | 2003 20th World Jamboree, Thailand. |
| 1933 4th World Jamboree, Hungary. Downe Scout Camp opens. | 1971 New World Membership badge introduced. | 2004 Chief Scout George Purdy and Chief Scout Designate Peter Duncan visit Campdowne at Downe. |
| 1935 2nd Rover Moot, Sweden. | 1972 Sir William Gladstone becomes Chief Scout. | |
| 1937 5th World Jamboree, Holland. | | |



BEXLEYHEATH SCOUT DISTRICT



1st Bexley - Jamboree, Mount Mascal - Whitsun 1934.



1st Bexleyheath - Sports Team - 1932.



8th Bexleyheath - Troop Flag Completion - 1942.



2nd Bexley Wolf Cubs - 1960s.

In conjunction with the formation of the early Scout Troops in 1908, local committees (later called Local Associations) formed for the purposes of encouraging the new movement. It is recorded that the **1st Bexleyheath Troop** (known in 1908 as the 3rd North-West Kent) belonged to such an Association which held its meetings at Blackheath and later at Woolwich.

In March, 1910, the formation of a local Association at Sidcup was recorded, and in June 1911 the Mid-Kent District was formed. In April the following year the 3rd North West Kent Troop was transferred to this new District as a member of Sidcup, Chislehurst, Bexley, Bexleyheath, Crayford, East Wickham, Welling, Fools Cray and North Cray.

By 1923 the Sidcup Association had become too large for administration and the Bexleyheath and District Local Association was formed to cater for the Troops whose headquarters were "easily accessible from the tramway car lines."

The new Association included all Troops at Bexleyheath, East Wickham, Welling and Crayford, but did not originally take in Bexley. The Association was re-registered in 1932, and the 1st Bexley Group added. The next change came in June 1946, when it lost the 1st and 3rd Crayford Groups to Erith, but gained 1st Brigden on its transfer from Sidcup.

The earliest days of local Scouting

In early 1908, following the publication of "Scouting For Boys", a number of boys in the area were anxious to form Scout Patrols. The then Vicar of Christchurch, Rev Fry, handed a copy of the book to a Mr Wintersgill, who became interested, and advised that 'as there was already a Boy's Brigade Company attached to Christchurch, the Scout Troop, if formed should be an "open" one so that boys of all denominations might join.'

The first Patrol meeting was held on 8th September 1908 and was attended by seven boys. It was duly registered in April 1909 as the 3rd North West Kent Troop. In 1919, after several changes of headquarters, they finally settled in the Scout Hall in Mayplace Road, which had been purchased by friends of the Troop.

During the next few years other Troops appeared. The 1st East Wickham in March 1911, then 1st Crayford in November and also 1st Welling, although they were not registered until 1913. A Troop known as the 1st Bexley, for boys living at the Crayford end of Bexley was formed, unfortunately this closed down in 1915.

1912 saw the production by the **1st Bexleyheath Troop** of the first Patrol magazine in the whole movement. In February the **1st Bexley Troop** (then known as 2nd Bexley was registered).

In 1909 the 1st Bexley held their first camp in Bexley Woods, with the permission of the Curator of Oxford University, the then owners, with cooking, fire lighting, signalling, and scouting games continued for many years in these woods. Summer camp was held in Danson Park in 1909,

When war was declared in August 1914, many Scouts were at camp, but they quickly responded to calls for their help. The 1st Bexley were camping at Chislehurst, under the orders of Scoutmaster Cockerill, it arranged guards for nearby railway bridges, similar duties were undertaken at Fools Cray and the Scouts guarded some main telephone and telegraph wires leading to the coast.

Other Scout Troops carried out similar duties within the local area. One Troop at camp in Epping Forest were recalled to guard telephone and telegraph wires in the vicinity of Crayford. Forty Scouts from 1st Bexleyheath assisted in guarding the London to Dover road. The Scouts in the area carried out many similar duties, by now their leaders were being called up to the services so a lot of Troops were continuing their scouting with a Patrol Leader taking the lead. Of the 6 Troops that existed in the area at the outbreak of war, only one (the original 1st Bexley) closed down. By the end of the 1915 over 70 former Scouts and officers from the District were serving in the forces.

After the First World War.

With the end of the war, the movement made still greater progress, by 1938 the number of Scout Troops/Groups had grown: **1st Bexleyheath** - 1908 (now closed), **2nd Bexleyheath** - 1918-1985, **1st East Wickham** - 1911, **1st Welling** - 1911, **2nd East Wickham Hutment** - 1917 (now closed), **1st Crayford** - 1911, **3rd Crayford** - pre-1920, were existing before 1923, then from 1925 more Groups were formed.

St George's Day Parade - Early 1960s

Led by Don Beven (now District Chairman of East Wickham & Welling). Flagbearer with glasses is Richard Willgoss (Later to be District Commissioner of East Wickham & Welling). Location is just past Lion Road, Bexleyheath.



1st Bexley Scouts and Wolf Cubs - 1932



Twegen Venture Unit - Raft Race on Danson Park Lake - 1986

3rd Bexleyheath (Trinity Baptist) - 1925
2nd Welling (Danson's Own) - 1927
3rd Welling (St Stephen's Own) - 1929
4th Welling (Methodist) - 1929
1st Baldwyns Park - c1929
4th Bexleyheath (Congregational) - 1930
5th Bexleyheath (St Peters) - 1930
6th Bexleyheath - 1931-1946
7th Bexleyheath (Methodist) - 1931
1st Bexley - 1912 (from Sidcup)*
1st Bridgen - 1932 (from Sidcup)
5th Welling (Congregational) - 1933
1st Barnehurst - 1933-1938
6th Welling - 1934-1937
8th Bexleyheath (Brampton) - 1935
9th Bexleyheath - 1936
10th Bexleyheath (Salvation Army)
2nd Bexley (Congregational) - 1936*
2nd East Wickham (St Mary's) - 1935
2nd Barnehurst - 1936-1939
3rd Barnehurst (Methodist) - 1936
7th Welling (Falconwood) - 1937
8th Welling - 1938-1949

4th Barnehurst (St Martin's) - 1938
1st Blendon (Methodist) - 1942
3rd Bexley - 1943
4th Bexley - 1944-1945
5th Bexley - 1945 (Closed)
 *1st & 2nd Bexley now joined as **Bexley Scouts**

During the Second World War the Groups in the District were actively involved, as were Scouts nationwide, such as farm work, cultivation, forestry work, firewatching, distribution of leaflets, assistance with the Home Guard (as cooks, and casualties etc). Following the end of the War, Scouting returned to more "normal" activities.

The present Bexleyheath District

In 1965 the Groups in East Wickham & Welling split from Bexleyheath to form their own District. Bexleyheath took as their District Badge the "Black Prince" on a cream background.

Since forming the Bexleyheath District, some of the above Groups have closed, a few others have merged.

The last major event that has happened was in 1982 when the Beaver Scouts were started for those between 6 and 8 years old, this took off well with every Group having a Colony.

The total number of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Network Scouts and Leaders at the last count (2007 census) - 777 plus a Fellowship of 26.

Pat Barker, Bexleyheath District.



After being without a District badge for a while, following the split from East Wickham & Welling in 1965, Jack Gillette, the then DC designed the present badge using THE BLACK

PRINCE. The Black Prince was Edward of Woodstock, Prince of Wales and lived from 15th June 1330 to 8th June 1376. He was the eldest son of King Edward III and father of Richard II. It is rumoured he courted Joan, Countess of Kent (known as The Fair Maid of Kent) by the banks of the River Cray at Hall Place.

The name, The Black Prince, was given some 200 years after his death and there are many conflicting reasons for this name, the most probable being black was the main colour of his armour. There are tales his ghost haunts Hall Place.

Originally the badge was designed to have a white background, but this was rejected because it would get dirty, so a light cream was used instead. Today a locomotive (number 11) on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway in Kent carries the name, The Black Prince.



ERITH & CRAYFORD SCOUT DISTRICT



8th Erith - 1919

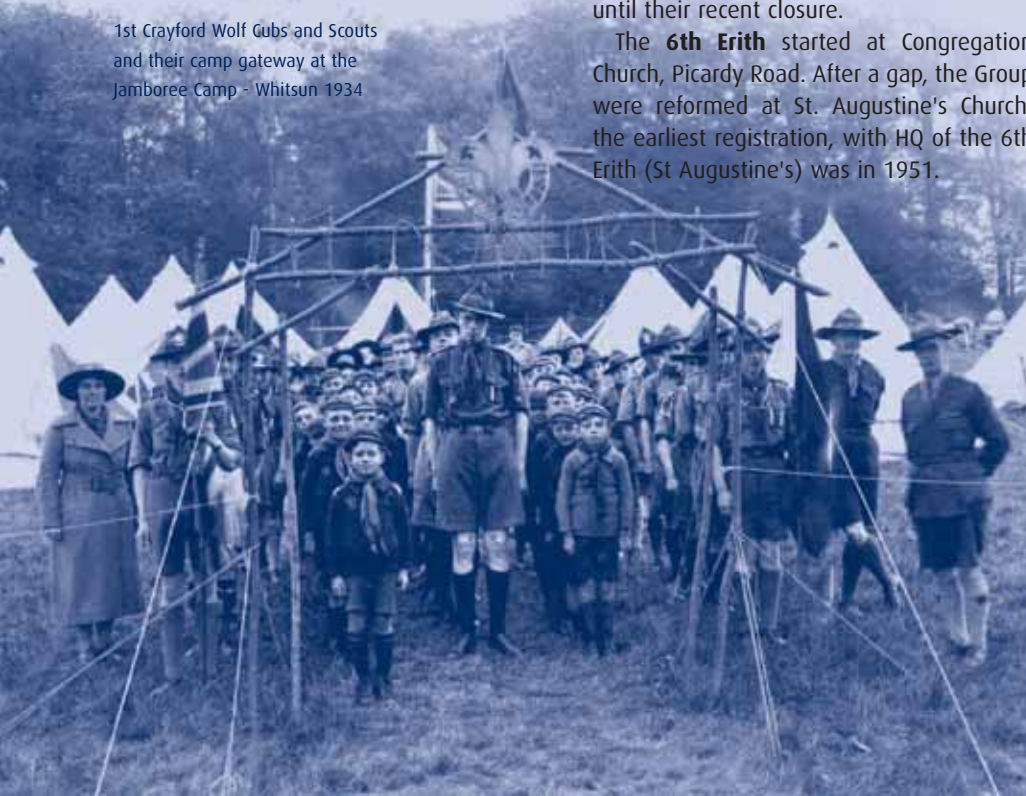


4th Erith (Vickers' Works) - At Farningham Garage on the March from Erith to Eynsford with Vickers 303 Gun under the supervision of Gunner Budge of Vickers, Erith - c.1910.



3rd Erith Sea Scouts - The 'Jim Coles' Barge, their headquarters at Pier Road - c1992.

1st Crayford Wolf Cubs and Scouts and their camp gateway at the Jamboree Camp - Whitsun 1934



Although the first activities that led to Scouting being formed where held in 1907, it is understood that it took a while for the structure to be set up and it was not until about 1908 that the first Troop in the form of the **1st Erith** was formed. The meeting venue for this Group was Erith Grammar School, which was located at the junction Upper Holly Hill Road and Erith Road, Belvedere.

The District's oldest continuous Group, **2nd Erith**, originally met at the top of Colyers Lane, moving later to St. Paul's Church, Mill Road, Northumberland Heath.

The **3rd Erith** started as land Scouts, it is understood that they then transferred to be Sea Scouts in 1910. Since their formation they have had three barges on the River Thames. The "Jim Coles" name for the barges was named after their first Group Scoutmaster.

Around 1914 it is understood that there was a Troop meeting in Maxim Road, Erith. This is understood to be the origins of the **4th Erith**. The records of the 4th Erith Scout Group (All Saints Belvedere) with the Scout information centre are that the Group was registered in June 1932. The Group moved locations from the Church to their current location in Hoddesdon Road, Belvedere and are currently rebuilding their HQ.

The first records of the **5th Erith** is a registration document dated October 1919. The building in where the **5th Erith** met was called the Christian Grey hall, this was named after the first president of the Erith District. The Group has met continuously until their recent closure.

The **6th Erith** started at Congregation Church, Picardy Road. After a gap, the Group were reformed at St. Augustine's Church, the earliest registration, with HQ of the 6th Erith (St Augustine's) was in 1951.

It is understood that the **7th Erith** started at the Baptist Church, Queen Street, Erith. Although there are no records, it is thought that the Troop/Group amalgamated with the Sea Scouts.

The **8th Erith** was first formed in 1914, it closed and then was reformed in 1918. In 1922 the Group was restarted at Bedonwell House, Belmont Road, moved to Brook Street School, and then on to The Dell in Carlton Road and then to their last location on to the ground to the rear of Cheviot Close. The current building, now used as the Erith & Crayford District HQ was built in 1967/68.

St John's Church, West Street, Erith was the original home of the **9th Erith** again like the 3rd Erith these started life as land Scouts. The first registration with HQ for the Group was in 1919. It is understood that due a dispute with the church they moved to St Augustine's Church. Then later moved to their current location, and then proceed to build their current headquarters. They are still operational today as Air Scouts

10th Erith (St Thomas More) was first registered with national Headquarters in 1967. It is understood that the Group originally met in the Abbey Wood area.

There is nothing known about the **11th Erith**. From what has been found out the **12th Erith** has had a continuous presence in Erith since it was registered in 1948. Formed at Our Ladies of Angels Church, and have recently moved back into their HQ (the church hall) after it was rebuilt.

The **13th Erith (Christ Church)** was first registered in 1950 with headquarters. The Group is still active today.

It is understood that the **14th Erith** was located in the grounds of Bedonwell School. Other than that there is not much more known about the the Group.

The Salvation Army hall in Erith Road was the home of the **15th Erith**, although the Group is no longer in existence.

The **16th Erith** started meeting in the Pantiles Methodist Church hall, then in 1955/56 moved from the church hall into the building that they are still using to date.

Starting in 1956 the **17th Erith** was originally based in the Church hall of St John's, West Street in Erith. Later built their own hall. During their history the Group has suffered with two fires to their meeting hall.

1961 saw the **18th Erith (St Andrew's)** being started. The Group, still operating today has always met at the church hall of St Andrew's, Brampton Road.

There once was a Group known as the



Erith Wolf Cubs and Scouts - Going to camp - pre 1920

19th Erith, this was later renamed **1st Thamesmead**. There is a 2nd Thamesmead Group, however it is attached to Woolwich District.

During the First World War it is understood that there was a Group calling themselves the 1st Slade Green. However the present **1st Slade Green** was started c1958 by Frank Keller. Formed around 1966 the **2nd Slade Green** originally met in St Augustine's Church hall. It is thought that a Group was started "unofficially" during World War II and offered an English Restaurant (soup kitchen). The 1st & 2nd Slade Green later joined together to form the **1st Erith (Slade Green)** which was registered with headquarters in 1973.

The original 1st Crayford was registered in November 1911. The first records of the **1st Crayford (St Paulinus)** with headquarters date back to December 1927, after a years break. The **2nd Crayford** was located in the Catholic Church but it is understood that they only ever had one Cub Pack. **3rd Crayford** was existing pre-1920 and moved to Erith District, with 1st Crayford, in 1946.

The **4th Crayford** was formed in the Crayford Methodist Church.

Over the years the District has held social events such as Dinner Dances. These have

been at venues such as the Running Horse public house and Crayford Town Hall. Guest at these events have included the Mayor and other local dignitaries.

The Scouts helped at many events in the local area and when the great flood happened in 1953, the then DC (Eric Payne) reported at the AGM of that year, "All Groups did excellent work in a variety of ways, some members being early to the scene and taking part in rescue work and in helping to plug the breaches in the river bank. Some Groups suffered loss in the flood, but despite difficulties all carried on."

Erith and Crayford District was originally part of the County of Kent. At this time the members of the District wore a Red Invicta badge and it was following reorganisation in 1965 that they became part of GLSE.

Over the years in the District there have been many Scout Shows. Some have been more successful than others, but the latest run of Scout Shows, known as '**Capers**' are the first time Erith and Crayford have been officially recognised as a 'Gang Show'.

The DC's of Erith / Erith & Crayford District have been Frank Clark, Rev'd Huffum (St Paulinus Church), Eric Norman Payne (Gaffer), Frank Perry (50's), Les Irwin, Bernard Tull, John Terry, Alec Nunn, Geoff



Erith & Crayford's badge depicts the ship "THE HENRY GRACE DE DIEU" or THE GREAT HARRY which was the name given by the sailors to the greatest ship of her time. It was built at Woolwich and "Hallowed" (blessed) at Erith.

Construction commenced on 4th December 1512, and the ship was required to replace the Regent ("a great frigate of 1000 tons") destroyed by the French on 10th August 1512. The main mast was given by the Abbot of Saint Osyes, (near Clacton-on-sea). Most of timber came from Essex. The Greatest single item on the detailed cost list was nearly £1000 for Cabylles, Cabilettes, Halsers, Ropes, Ratelyn, Marlin, Calkinge, Hempe and Okeham.

After launching she seems to have usually moored at Erith. According to Henry Machyn, a diarist of the day, THE GREAT HARRY was destroyed by fire on 25th August 1553 at Woolwich, by negligence of the crew. The Calais Chronicle describes the ship thus: THE HENRY GRACE DE DIEU, 1000 tons, Souldurs 349; Marryners 301; Gunners 50; (a compliment totalling 700!). She carried 102 iron guns (cannons) and 19 brass (bronze) pieces. The confusion over her resting place may be due to there being more than one ship with the same name.

Anderson states that the pictures of THE GREAT HARRY that survive show her after a complete rebuild in 1536-39. Another inventory shows that she had 384 guns. After her rebuild she was listed as having 21 heavy brass guns, 130 iron guns and 100 hand-guns, giving a total of 251 guns.

Amass and the current incumbent is Lesley Butler.

Over the history of the Erith and Crayford there of course have been many members. The information here is generally based around news articles and personal memories of events, if you have more evidence to build up a better history, why not let me know.

Neil Churcher, Erith & Crayford District Scouts

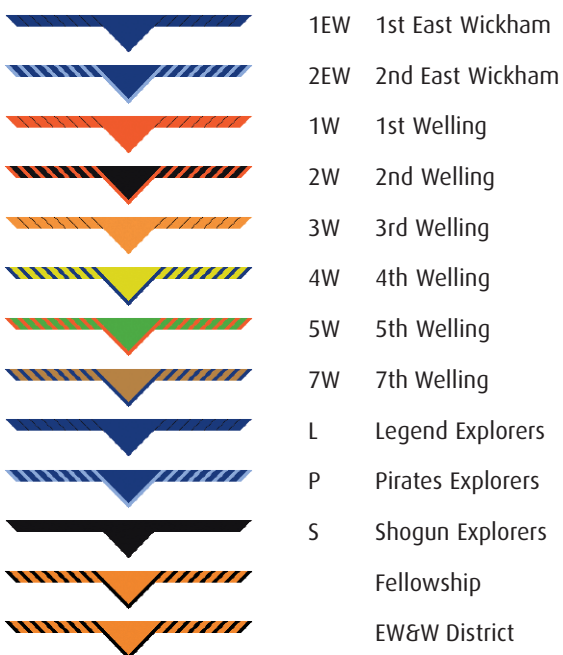


Silver Acorn recipients from Erith & Crayford who attended the St George's Day parade at Windsor Castle - 2007 They are, from L-R: Jean Treveil (District Badge Secretary), Sharon Amass (ADC Cubs), Pam Baker (GSL 12th Erith), Fred Vidler (District Chair), & Dave Reynolds (District Secretary).

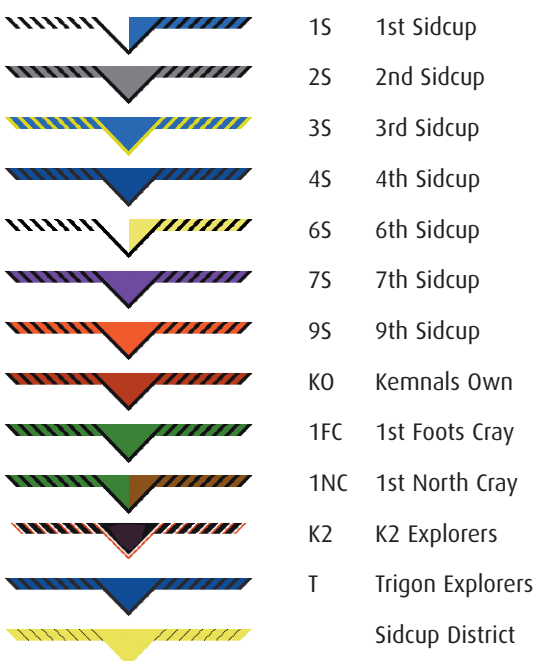


Den Turrell meets the Chief Scout, Peter Duncan - 2005

EAST WICKHAM & WELLING

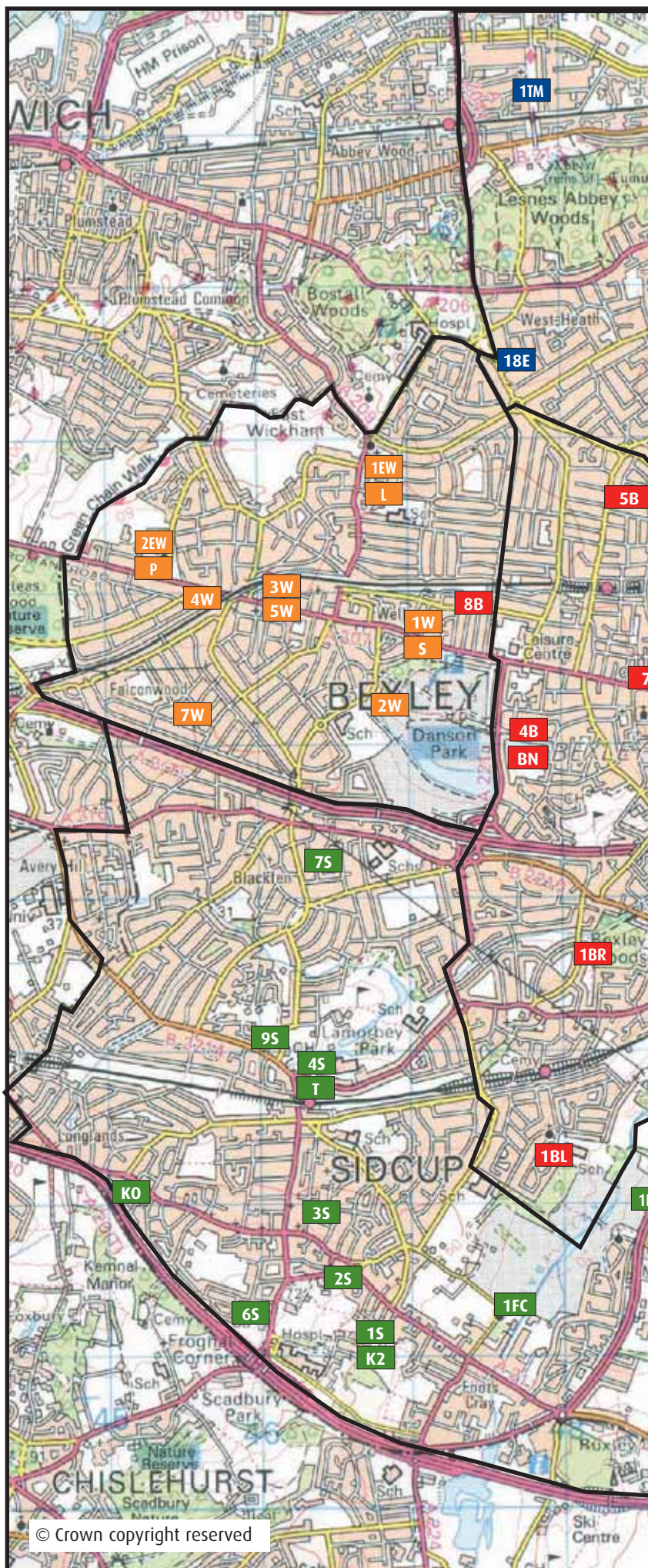


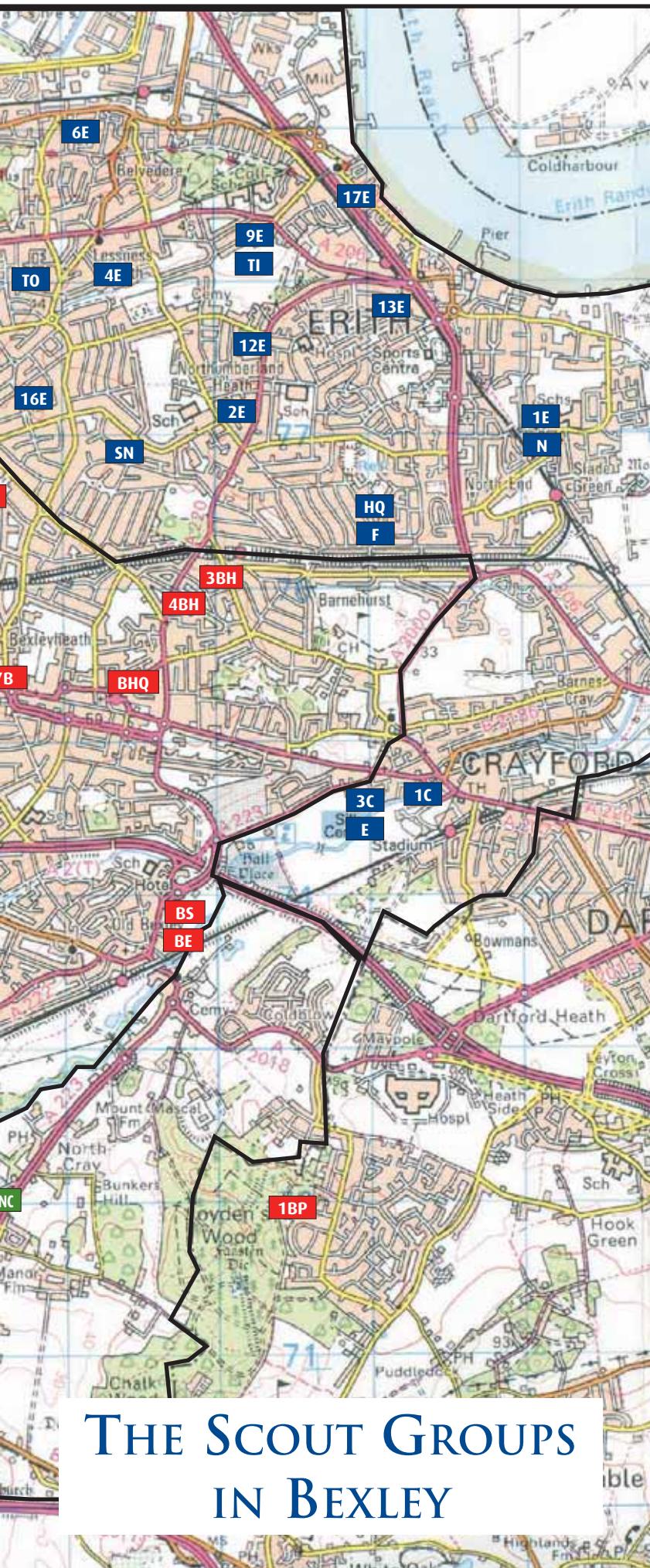
SIDCUP



Each Scout Group has its own Scarf (or Necker). The colour(s) are usually the Group colours which may have a particular historical significance to the Group or to the local community. The Scarf is usually fastened at the front with a Woggle.

Many Group scarves feature a Group Badge on the back, however has not been possible to show these here.





ERITH & CRAYFORD

1E	1st Erith	
2E	2nd Erith	
4E	4th Erith	
6E	6th Erith	
9E	9th Erith (Air)	
12E	12th Erith	
13E	13th Erith	
16E	16th Erith	
17E	17th Erith	
18E	18th Erith	
1C	1st Crayford	
3C	3rd Crayford	
1TM	1st Thamesmead	
N	Nemesis ESU	
E	Erhede ESU	
TI	Titans Air ESU	
T0	Tomahawks ESU	
SN	Adrenaline Scout Network	
F	Fellowship	
	Capers Gangshow	

BEXLEYHEATH

BHQ	Headquarters	
BS	Bexley Scouts	
3BH	3rd Barnehurst	
4BH	4th Barnehurst	
4B	4th Bexleyheath	
5B	5th/7th Bexleyheath*	
7B	5th/7th Bexleyheath*	
8B	8th Bexleyheath	
1BL	1st Blendon	
1BR	1st Bridgen	
1BP	1st Baldwyns Park	
BE	Bexley Explorers	
BN	Bexley Network	

* 5th & 7th Bexleyheath are joined as one Group

THE SCOUT GROUPS IN BEXLEY

SIDCUP SCOUT DISTRICT



2nd Sidcup Scouts at Foots Cray Place c.1919.



4th Lamorbey / 4th Sidcup - At Holy Trinity Church



1st Crayford - 1958.



1st Sidcup Beavers - At their first meeting and before uniforms had been issued - 1985.

Sidcup Scouts meal time at camp, possibly at Foots Cray.

The origins of Scouting is complex and not well recorded. Originally some Troops were affiliated to churches, schools, or large employers, such as Dunlop, Brooke Bond, and, locally, 2nd Crayford (Vickers' Works), whilst others had no affiliations and were based on local neighbourhoods.

In January 1910, local Scout Troops decided to get together to form a Scout District called 'The Sidcup and District Boy Scouts Local Association'. Its area covered the neighbourhoods of Abbey Wood, Bexley, Bexleyheath, Chislehurst, Crayford, East Wickham, Foots Cray, North Cray, Lamorbey, Sidcup, St. Mary's Cray and Welling.

By April 1918, Abbey Wood had left, with the rest of the Association having seventeen Scout Troops and nine Wolf Cub Packs. Until this time, all Troops and Packs were registered with the local Scout Association, however, from 1919 onwards, they had to register with Scout Headquarters, then located in Buckingham Palace Road.

In 1923, seven Troops and six Packs left to form a new District, called Bexleyheath. This new District was to cater for Scouts whose headquarters were "easily accessible from the tramway car lines", they included East Wickham and Welling and Crayford. This left the Sidcup Association with eleven Scout Troops and five Wolf Cub Packs.

Until now Scout Troops and Wolf Cub Packs were registered as separate units. In 1928, all Troops and Packs had to re-register together under the present Cub and Troop Group System. The Sidcup, Chislehurst and The Crays Local Scout Association was formed in August 1946 and contained eighteen Groups.

In 1965, the map of local government was redrawn, with Chislehurst and The Crays leaving to join the newly formed Scout Districts in Bromley. At the same time, Sidcup left the Scout County of Kent and together with Bromley created the new Scout County of Greater London South East.

Today, the Sidcup District Scout Association covers Blackfen, Foots Cray, North Cray and Sidcup and contains ten Groups.

1st Sidcup were registered in October 1910. The founding Scoutmaster was W. Reed who had two assistant Scoutmasters, J. E. Read and Harry J. Rodgers. Their hut in Nelson Road opened in January 1914 next to Harry Rodgers Engineering Works. Harry, later to become a Scoutmaster, would often 'poach' Scouts into becoming apprentices at his company.

In 1955, 1st Sidcup moved to the site of Greens Nursery (now Etfield Grove) on Sidcup Hill and in September 1975 opened their present hut behind Oxford Road. They originally had a green scarf until the 1970s and when Harry Rodger's, who also served as an army signaller, died, and a blue and white semaphore square was sewn onto the bottom of the scarf in his memory. Later, the scarf was changed to blue and white. This is one of the few Scout Groups formed that were not associated with a church or large employer. In 1986, Alan Godfrey started Sidcup's first Beaver Colony.

2nd Sidcup (St John's) were registered in October 1909 by Harry Hale. They originally met at The Stables in Elm Road, then either in a room over The Black Horse Pub or its stables. They moved to Grassington Road in 1920 and their hut was officially opened in 1921. Due to wind and weather damage the hut was destroyed and replaced with the present one in the 1930s. The land was given to them by Roy Shapley, a church member and Scout Leader. 2nd Sidcup were one of the few Scout Groups who continued to meet during both world wars. Their scarf is grey with a badge at the apex containing the eagle of St. John the Evangelist.

3rd Sidcup were registered in March 1915, and then reformed in February 1935 by the Congregational Church in Station Road. In the 1950s, the Congregational Church joined with other churches to create the United Reformed Church. The church in Station Road was sold in the 1980s and the Scout Group moved, a section at a time, to its present home at Emmanuel Church in Hadlow Road. 3rd Sidcup retain a connection with the Congregational Church through their scarf colours of blue with gold





2nd Sidcup Scouts on bikes outside their hut in 1920s.

edging, which were the colours of the Congregational Church.

4th Sidcup (Holy Trinity) were registered as 4th Lamorbey in 1941 by Cannon Groom of Holy Trinity Church. However, records show there was a 4th Sidcup registered in July 1914 and were based at The Parish Hall, Longlands. In February 1933, 4th Sidcup (County School) were registered and based at The County School for Boys (now The Bexley Music Centre) in Station Road. Little is known of these Groups. 4th Lamorbey changed to its present name in February 1946. Their original Troop Flag is still hung in the Church. From 1941 to 1950 their scarf was gold. Since then it has been dark blue with the Trinity Rings embroidered at the apex.

5th Sidcup were registered as a Cub Pack originally in July 1932 for The Sidcup Preparatory School and Kindergarten at 115 Main Road and subsequently closed in November 1936. In August 1939 it reformed and was based at Sidcup Baptist Church in Main Road. Their scarf was old gold and they closed finally in 1969.

6th Sidcup (St. Lawrence) were registered in August 1943 at St. Mary's College (now St Luke's Sixth Form Catholic College) in Chislehurst Road. During in the 1950s, they met in what are now the grounds of Queen Mary's Hospital. Formed by Fr. Wilf Duffy, a Marist Priest, they have continued their association with the Roman Catholic community, however, they are an open Group and accept young people of any denomination. Their scarf is the Papal colours of yellow and white.

7th Sidcup were registered as a Cub Pack in January 1946 by The Lamorbey Residents Association. They met at various locations including Burnt Oak Lane School, Days Lane School and The Pavilion in Burnt Oak Lane. A yard in Wellington Avenue, which stored timber from bomb damaged buildings, became available and George Lewis (the current president of 7th Sidcup) bought the land. An army hut from an anti-aircraft gun site in St. Paul's Cray was bought and transported to the present site in circa 1953. The hut has since been replaced, although some remains are still there. The scarf was originally green and yellow, however it was found that the colours ran when washed, so it was replaced with the present purple.

8th Sidcup (Proud Endeavour) were registered in April 1954 exclusively for the disabled, including many wheelchair bound,

deaf and blind. They were originally based at Kemnal's Own in Main Road, and later moved to the Congregational Church in Station Road. Run by Fred Gage, it ceased in 1967. Their flags are kept with 3rd Sidcup's at Emmanuel Church, Hadlow Road.

9th Sidcup were formed in February 1932 originally as 3rd Lamorbey based in Days Lane and from 1939 to 1951 behind Pinewood Avenue. They registered in August 1946 as 9th Sidcup (Old Farm) and were open "to boys living between Halfway Street and The Southern Railway". They were based at Burnt Oak Lane School before moving to its present site. They dropped (Old Farm) from their name in 1969.

10th Sidcup were originally 2nd Lamorbey and registered in June 1917, although in April 1947 were registered as 10th Sidcup. They were formed to serve The L.C.C. Residential School, later known as The Lamorbey Residential School, and then The Hollies Children's Home. As 10th Sidcup, it only had a Cub Pack, with older boys joining nearby Scout Troops. Their scarf was brown and white and later green and maroon and was run by Ron and Carol Church. They ceased in June 1965.

1st Lamorbey held their first meeting in July 1913 at the School Room in Hurst Road. In January 1914 they moved to a room over The Stables in Penhill and then to a building at the corner on Main and Woodside Roads. They registered March 1917, and were based at The Mission Room in Days Lane, but during The First World War they joined 2nd Lamorbey at The Lamorbey Residential School. It is not known what happened to 1st Lamorbey.

1st Blackfen first registered in November 1935 and were based at 217 Blackfen Road. Although they closed in 1945, they reformed in February 1966 and were based in Days Lane, later moving to The Church of The Good Shepherd in Blackfen Road. Their scarf was orange and in 2004, they merged with 7th Sidcup. For many years Ron Narborough was their Group Scout Leader.

1st Foots Cray was registered in October 1912, and its Wolf Cub Pack in October 1917, at The Rectory, Footh Cray. This was Sidcup's first Cub Pack. It closed in 1950 but re-registered in 1951 as 1st Footh Cray (All Saints) and met at The Memorial Hall in Rectory Lane. In March 1958 it changed to its present name of 1st Footh Cray. At one time, so many boys attended, they had two Cub Packs and Scout Troops (A and B).



Sidcup District badge depicts AN ANVIL representing the forge that used to be in Cross Road (between Rectory Lane and Sidcup Hill). It served the local Coaching Inns such as the Black Horse (1705) on the historic London to Maidstone road. The forge is remembered by Old Forge Way – a 1936 development designed by Kenneth Dalglish in the style of Kent and Sussex Weald 17th and 18th century cottages. Today it is a conservation area. The green background reflects Sidcup's rural background and the chain the link between Sidcup and Scouting.

1st North Cray were registered in October 1911, and in April 1925 as a Cub Pack, at North Cray Place Stables. In 1927, the Scout Troop was registered at The Orchard, North Cray. Between 1938 and 1984 it was sponsored by St. James Church. Their hut, Geoffrey Hall is named after Geoffrey Vasey Holt, an Assistant Scoutmaster who died in the First World War. They moved to their present site when North Cray Road was realigned.

Kemnal's Own were registered as 1st Longlands in March 1925. They originally planned to be 4th Sidcup, but the District Association said they would have to be 5th Sidcup. However, given their location, the title 1st Longlands was registered. Their first temporary home was The Parish Hall in Woodside Road, although later Sir James Kemnal was approached, and a piece of the Kemnal Manor Estate was found as a permanent home. Because of the support from Sir James and Lady Kemnal, their title became 1st Longlands (Kemnal's Own), and in 1932 they dropped the 1st Longlands to become the present Kemnal's Own. They are one of the few Scout Groups to have a name and not a number and since 1936, have worn their own badge based on the Kemnal crest with the inscription 'Animo et Fide', meaning 'by Courage and Faith'.

K2 Explorer Scout Unit was formed in 2001, taking its name from the world's second highest mountain. They are based at 1st Sidcup, but draw Explorers from all of Sidcup's Groups. Its scarf colours of black, red and white come from their distinctive badge.

Trigon Explorer Unit evolved from Trigon Venture Scout Unit. Trigon means "by earth, wind and fire", and they are based at 4th Sidcup.

If you would like to find out more about Scouting in Sidcup visit our website at www.sidcupscoutnet.org.uk or phone us on 0845 094 4017.

Tim Harlow, Sidcup Scouts

EAST WICKHAM & WELLING SCOUT DISTRICT



1st East Wickham Scouts at International Jamboree at Foots Cray Place in August 1929.



7th Welling Summer Camp at Kemsing - 1947. The two tallest at the back are Dick and Sam Tozer.



St George's Day Parade outside Danson Mansion - The Groups in the picture are (from right to left); 7th Welling, 3rd East Wickham, 1st East Wickham and 2nd Welling - April 1958.



3rd East Wickham Wolf Cubs during Job Week - 1965



Drum Major Andy Blackburn leads the District Band at St George's Day - 1978.

East Wickham & Welling connection with Scouting goes back even before the founding of the Movement, Baden Powell's father was Vicar of St Michael's, East Wickham in the mid 1800's.

Following the publication of "Scouting for Boys" by Baden-Powell in 1908, Patrols and Troops of Scouts began to form up and down the country.

In April 1912 the **1st East Wickham (St Michael's)** Troop (formerly 9th North West Kent Troop formed in March 1911) and **1st Welling** (formed 6 months later) were transferred to the new Sidcup District Local Association which covered the parishes of Sidcup, Chislehurst, Bexley, Bexleyheath, Crayford, East Wickham, Welling, Foots Cray and North Cray.

In 1917, a Group was formed composed of boys from the Government Hutments (built to house the workers from the Woolwich Arsenal) at the top of Lodge Hill, this Group was known as **2nd East Wickham (Hutment)**, although it was not the same Group as the present 2nd East Wickham which was formed later.

By 1923 the Sidcup Association had become too large for administrative purposes and the Bexleyheath and District Local Association was formed to cater for the Troops whose headquarters were "easily accessible from the tramway car lines". This included all Troops in Bexleyheath, East Wickham, Welling and Crayford. The 1st Bexley was added in 1932.

During the First World War [1914-18] local Scouts, as elsewhere, were involved in various forms of service, giving bugle "alarms" of air raids and the "all clear", guarding main roads, railway bridges, telephone and telegraph lines, acting as hospital orderlies, patients for Red Cross trainees, distributing handbills in connection with appeals for National Relief Funds and National Savings. The Home Defence Corps of the 1st Bexleyheath Troop, was the first corps registered in Mid-Kent. The 1st East Wickham Troop gave hospitality to Belgium boy refugees and a Belgium Patrol was formed in the Troop.

Most of the Scoutmasters and their Assistants joined the forces during the first half of the war including Ray T Storer, founder of the 1st Welling Troop, who was killed at Ypres in 1915 aged 21. The responsibility of carrying on Scouting rested mainly on the Patrol Leaders. Patrol Leader A Hudson of the 1st East Wickham was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1916 for "Good work done on behalf of the Boy Scout Movement".

During the war Scouting continued to develop and younger boys were clamoring to join, and although the Wolf Cub Section

was not officially recognised until 1916, there were "Cubs" in 1915 attached to the 1st Bexleyheath and 1st East Wickham Troops.

From 1924 to 1939 the borough of Bexley changed in character from a comparatively rural one to a suburb of London. The population of Bexley alone quadrupled between the years of 1921 and 1939.

During the twelve years prior to the Second World War, the following Groups were formed in Welling.

2nd Welling (Danson's Own) 1927

3rd Welling (St Stephen's) 1929

4th Welling (Methodist) 1929

5th Welling (Congregational) 1933

6th Welling 1934 - 1939

2nd East Wickham (St Mary's) 1935

7th Welling (Falconwood) 1937

8th Welling 1938 - 1949

3rd East Wickham 1949 - 1984

Following the September 1938 international crisis there was a year of uneasy peace during which time Scouters and Scouts were involved in various forms of public service: digging shelter trenches, distributing and fitting gas masks, ARP duties and training - ARP control centres, depots, first aid posts and warden's posts were supplied with Scout Cyclist Messengers. Even when things became "organised" the Civil Defence Messenger Service was substantially a Scout affair, and remained so throughout the war. The Senior Messenger and Deputy at Civil Defence HQ Bellegrove Road were both active Scouts.

Many jobs of service were carried out during the war. Scouts and Cubs were involved in salvage collections, waste paper, bottles, jam jars, rubber, razor blades etc. The erection of hundreds of Morrison indoor shelters, farm work, cultivation of allotments and forestry work. "Fire watching" during air raids, distribution of leaflets for the civil authority and assistance with various "weeks" in the borough. Helping the "Home Guard" [Dad's Army] with their mapping and field training, and as cooks, and "casualties", "first aid", repairs to bomb-damaged houses.

The Scout National Service Badge was introduced for a given period of service together with the Scout Civil Defence proficiency badge. National Service pennants were awarded to Troops of which 50 per cent of the Scouts held both badges. The 7th Welling Troop were awarded pennants in 1940, 1941 and 1942.

Many members displayed heroism and showed disregard of their own safety in the interests of others. Scout David Cotgrave of the 2nd East Wickham Troop was presented with a Certificate of Gallantry in December 1940 following his courage and common-sense when showers of incendiary bombs



1st Welling Scouts - Jamboree Mount Mascal (Mount Misery) - 1965. Leaders were: Stan Willgoss (Chairman East Wickham & Welling), Dick Tozer (ADC Scouts East Wickham & Welling), Ken Owen (DSL), George Kent (ADC Scouts Bexleyheath). Owen Simmons (Deputy County Commissioner) inspects what's cooking.

fell near his home.

During the post war years Scouting continued to develop, locally, nationally and internationally. Gilwell Park - Adult Training Centre was returned to the Movement and more training facilities were made available within the County of Kent, for Leaders, many of whom were returning from the Services.

The "Scout Soap Box Derby" was restarted. Scouts were involved at the Queen's Coronation selling programmes etc, and at many other Royal events. Many Troops had camps abroad and we were represented at most of the six post war World Jamborees starting with the 6th at Moisson in France under very difficult conditions in 1947, to the 11th at Marathon in Greece in 1963.

During Scouting's Jubilee Year in 1957, for the National Scout Week, it was decided to split Bexleyheath District into three areas just for that week. The areas were: Bexleyheath, Bexley and Welling including East Wickham, each having its own programme of Group and collective activities led by a District Scouter. All were a great success and no doubt gave some indication to those, who a few years later, planned the splitting of the District. The culmination of the week's events in the Welling area was a barbecue, a whole sheep was cooked on a spit on open ground on the corner of Bellegrave Road and Westwood Lane [now a car park], the guest of honour was B-P's son, Lord Peter Baden-Powell. During the week there was a grand display of Scouting in the foyer of the Granada Cinema in Bellegrave Road.

In 1964 Bexleyheath District with its 34 Cub Packs, 27 Scout Troops plus several Senior Scout Troops was proving difficult to manage. East Wickham and Welling District [East Wickham is first because the 1st East Wickham is a few months older than the 1st

Welling] became independent on the 1st April 1965. This coincided with the Scout County changes made necessary by the formation of the new Greater London boroughs.

The two "new" Districts celebrated together that year with a "Jamborette" at Mount Mascal. This was a tremendous event setting both Districts off on a high note.

East Wickham & Welling started with 10 Groups in an area including Danson Park and bounded by Brampton Road, East Rochester Way and the old London/Kent boundary at the foot of Shooters Hill. It later adopted the "Bow and Arrow" as a District badge.

With the introduction of Venture Scouts in 1967 for the 15 to 20 year olds it was decided to form a District unit of members from all Groups in the District. This became known as the "Skogen" Venture Scout Unit and in 1971 started training as an "Emergency Aid Team". The following year they turned out to assist at the Eltham Rail crash. In October 1971 the first "News and Views" was published as a two page District News Sheet, a smaller folded multi page format was adopted in 1977 and has continued every since but with a change of name to "The Arrow" in the year 2000 and produced to a much higher standard using new technology.

The District Scout Band was started in 1975 and the following year entered a band competition, winning the Novices' Trophy. In 1976 the District Scout Fellowship "our adult support group" was one of the first to be formed in the Scout County of Greater London - South East based on our already existing "District Service Team". Since then it has provided support to local Guiding and Scouting, both at District and unit level. In addition it is often involved with County events.

An annual competition which assesses the achievements of each Group, it is

called "The E S Willgoss Memorial Trophy Competition" because the shield commemorates Stan Willgoss who was very much a "Group" man, and the first Chairman of East Wickham & Welling District when it was formed in 1965.

During the 1970s the 2nd Welling and the 3rd Welling each built their own headquarters. In 1986 our youngest existing Group, the 7th Welling opened their own home, just a year before their 50th anniversary.

The first of our Scout Groups to have a "Beaver Colony" attached, for the 6 and 7 year olds, were the 2nd East Wickham and the 3rd Welling in 1986 and by 1990 seven out of the eight Groups had Beaver Scouts.

Since East Wickham & Welling District was formed, we have been represented by at least one member at all the World Scout Jamborees, commencing with the 12th in America in 1967. The 18th in the Netherlands in 1995 we provided seven as service team staff, including the Contingent Leader. The 21st World Scout Jamboree in Hylands Park, Chelmsford in Summer 2007 is to celebrate Scouting's Centenary, a camp of 40,000, our District has ten members plus a Contingent Leader and an Assistant Leader one of the County's two contingents.

Over the years several Groups, with the aid of local radio enthusiasts, have set up radio stations during "Jamboree on the Air", Members of the District have risen to the occasion when support for other charities was called for. From the simple but worthwhile distribution of leaflets for Help the Aged and similar organisations, or raising money as the Cub Scouts did in 1977 to name a Guide Dog for the Blind. The Scouts raised £446 in the 1974 "Operation Lifeboat" - the second largest amount any District in our County achieved. The total



The East Wickham and Welling badge depicts a BOW AND ARROW. From at least the 14th century and up to the 19th century the area on each side of Watling Street (now Shooters Hill) was notorious for highwaymen. Henry IV

had the woods along the road cleared as protection for travellers and it was later used for archery practice in Henry VIII's reign. This might be the origin of the name Shooters Hill or it may be derived from two Old English words 'shaw' meaning a wood and 'tot' meaning a hill. Also The Bow and Arrow were adopted because in 1965, one of the few archery clubs in Southern England was based at Crook Log.

East Wickham as a postal area is not used these days but the origins of the area date back to the ancient manor of East Wickham, which was centred on St Michael's Church which dates from the 13th century. Welling was originally called WELLYNGS, probably from the Old English word WELLA meaning spring or well.

produced nationwide for this project was £103,000. The boat was built, and on the 14th July 1977 two of our Scouts attended the ceremony at Hartlepool when HM The Queen named it "The Scout".

In 1982 older Scouts and Venture Scouts throughout the borough assisted with a survey, undertaken by the Bexley Access Group, to determine the accessibility of buildings to the disabled. During the International Youth Year 1985, together with the rest of the Scout County, money was raised for Crohns Disease Research, the 1st East Wickham managed £500.

Our greatest charity achievement in this field was in 1988, when, for the "Wishing Well Appeal", the District in conjunction with the local Guides raised £11,782, mainly by a Walk from Welling to Great Ormond Street Hospital. The District also responded to the more recent Scout Association Tsunami appeal with another Sponsored walk, raising over £4000.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Bexley attended the "Scouts' Own" service on the Sunday of the "Jamboree" (Jubilee Jamboree) weekend held in July 1990 at Hillview Field, Welling, just below Shooters Hill. There was a full programme of activities for campers and visitors to celebrate the 25 years.

The District held a Millennium camp on the Woodlands Farm at the foot of Shooters Hill. Unfortunately heavy rain made the camp field very muddy, hence the burying of the "Time Capsule" on the farm was postponed until the autumn.

The two years 2001-2002 involved adopting the Scout Association's new structure and programme. In that same year Sue Hall became our first lady DC. In 2004 a District scarf was introduced, coloured orange with a black border and the "bow and arrow" emblem.

Also in 2004, the longest monkey bridge (as far as we know) was built by Don Beven and his pioneering team at Downe campsite, swung at an angle across the valley, a single foot rope and two hand ropes supported by only two sets of shear-legs, the length was an incredible 231ft 4 ins (70.5 metres).

2005 being East Wickham & Welling's 40th Anniversary, a day of activities was held at Downe in September for all sections, involving all age groups, culminating with a birthday party including cakes and finishing off with a camp fire.

Fifty five of our Beaver Scouts took part in activities to celebrate the 20 years of Beaver Scouting in 2006. The District is adjusting to the new structure and most Groups are making good progress in their Beaver Scout Colonies, Cub Scout Packs and Scout Troops despite some adult leader shortages. The three Explorer Scout Units - Legend, Pirates and Shogun - are developing well co-ordinated at District level.

Dick Tozer, EW&W District President



St George's Day Dinner 2007 - Presentations for Long Service Awards - Don Beven (District Chairman) 60 years, Dick Tozer (Ex-DC & President) 60 years and Richard Willgoss (Ex-DC & Vice President) 40 years.



The longest Monkey Bridge - 231 feet 4 inches [70.5 metres] - across the valley at Downe - 2004



Contingent Leader

Darren Vidler Legend ESU/1st EW

Assistant Leaders

Mandy Fenton 1st East Wickham
Carol Jackson Chislehurst District
Danny Southby Chislehurst

Members

Robert Allen	Lewisham Manor
Lewis Baird	16th Erith
Alex Ball	1st Foots Cray
Katrina Baxter	Chislehurst
Peter Brooks	1st Erith/Titan Air ESU
Kristian Buckstone	15th Bromley
Robyn Burge	5th Beckenham South
Kate Fuller	Chislehurst
Oliver Colville	6th Beckenham South
Chris Cowan	25th Bromley
Molly Cox	4th Beckenham South
Gary Ditcher	1st EW/Legend ESU
Ellie Edmondson	5th Bromley
David Goodwin	23rd Bromley
William Holliss	Bexleyheath
Stephen Lawler	1st Foots Cray
Jack Manley	9th Erith/Titan Air ESU
Chloe Marriott	2nd East Wickham
Tom Martins	Legend ESU
Tom Mehmet	23rd Bromley
Jemma Payn	GLS Scouts
Luke Fox	Shogun ESU
Tom Saunders	Bexleyheath
John Scott	Chislehurst
Rebecca Sturgeon-Lewis	Titan Air ESU/E&C
Sophie Sweeney	GLS Scouts
Aidan Thomas	1st Foots Cray
Jamie Thomson	Bexleyheath
Oliver Thomson	Bexleyheath
Luke Tovey	Orpington
Chloe Whittaker	1st EW/Legend ESU
Sarah Williamson	4th Erith
Rebecca Wray	Chislehurst
David Wybourn	Titan Air ESU/E&C
Lynsey Yeomans	1st Welling/Shogun ESU
Bryn Youens	2nd EW/Pirates ESU

THE 2007 WORLD JAMBOREE COUNTY CONTINGENTS



Scouting rapidly spread around the world after the first experimental camp in 1907 on Brownsea Island. Scouting's founder, Robert Baden-Powell planned to hold a special event to bring together Scouts of all nationalities and to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the camp on Brownsea Island.

Due to the First World War, where many Scouts were killed, the first international gathering of Scouts was not held until 1920 at London's Olympia for 8,000 Scouts from 34 Countries.

Baden-Powell chose 'Jamboree' as the name for this event, based on the common Swahili greeting 'Jambo' meaning 'Hello'. Jamboree is now an international term used to describe a large gathering of Scouts. Since 1920, World Scout Jamborees have been held almost every four years, except during the Second World War, and hosted all over the world.

The 21st World Scout Jamboree will be held at Hylands Park in Chelmsford from 27th July to 8th August 2007. It will help mark the Centenary of Scouting with over 40,000 Scouts attending from 200 countries in the world.

Eighty young people and leaders will be attending the Jamboree from Greater

London South East Scouts and Greater London Kent Guides.

Since June last year, they have trained and worked together in preparation for this unique event and would like to thank local people and businesses for their support in their fund-raising activities. If you would like to offer any help, services or sponsorship to those attending, contact: funds.glse.jamboree@hotmail.co.uk

To visualise the size of this event, the total population of Bexley's primary and secondary schools in January 2003 was 39,826, Hylands Park is 574 acres (Foots Cray Meadows is 480 acres) and this Jamboree will make Hylands Park the 5th largest village in Essex – for two weeks!

With over 40,000 people attending the Jamboree over the 14 day period, over 1.2 million meals will be consumed! This is part of the shopping list,
60 tons of apples,
133,334 heads of lettuce,
567,812 litres of milk/liquids,
33,333 loaves of bread,
800,000 eggs,
100,000 pounds of chicken,
12,500 pounds of cheese,
16,000 bottles of ketchup,
800,000 carrots,
26,667 bunches of bananas.

What is not known are the number of supermarket trolleys required for this big shop! And who gets the club card points?



Contingent Leader

Lee Curtis

GLSE

Assistant Leaders

Gemma Baker

Chislehurst

Mark Knill

Beckenham

Sarah Childs

GLK Guides

Members

Jamie Alloway	1st Crayford/Titan Air ESU
Joe Armstrong	5th Beckenham
Richard Atkins	23rd Bromley
Alex Bees	25th Bromley
Tom Bentley	Chislehurst
Siobhan Brown	Royal Eltham
Matthew Brown	Orpington
Natalie Buist-Kernan	Chislehurst
Sarah Bunting	GLK Guides
Matthew Burton	Titan Air ESU
Emily Carlton	GLK Guides
Samantha Curtis	GLK Guides
Michaela Deane	Lewisham Manor
Caroline Dommatt	GLK Guides
Alex Doney	Titan Air ESU
Iain Forward	Bexleyheath
Nicholas Hall	2nd East Wickham
Chris Halstead	Chislehurst
Alex Hicks	Bexleyheath
Jake Holmes	Bexleyheath
Alys Hudson	GLK Guides/Titan Air ESU
Harry Kent	Bromley
Roy Killick	Woolwich
Fred King	1st East Wickham/Legend ESU
Cornelius Mendez	7th Beckenham
Robert Mogg	Erith and Crayford
Rebecca Newman	GLK Guides
Steph Peek	1st East Wickham/Legend ESU
Dean Peppiatt	Orpington
Jane Sell	GLK Guides
Dominic Shipp	Bromley
Bart Smith	Chislehurst
Georgina Stroud	GLK Guides
Adam Thomas	Titan Air ESU
Kirsty Wood	Woolwich
Eleanor Woolway	Titan Air ESU





THEN ... AND NOW



'It is a Movement, because it moves forward. As soon as it stops moving, it becomes an Organisation, and is no longer Scouting'.

This is one of B-P's famous quotes and 2007 is a good time to see if we are still moving forward.

Ninety years ago in November 1917, The Sidcup and District Local Boy Scout Association published its Third Annual Budget. Up until 1923, the Sidcup District covered what is now the borough of Bexley (but not Erith) and Chislehurst.

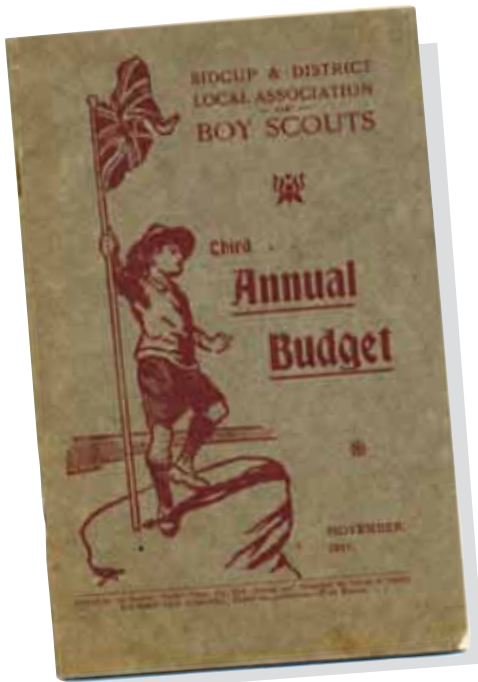
Given the background was the First World War, it makes interesting reading as it gives a snapshot in time. In particular on Page 2 is a list of Troops and Wolf Cub Packs and their numbers show below.

Note that Bexley Heath was two words, there were two Troops called Lamorbey and

the war was having an impact on Scouting. 1st Chislehurst, although registered in 1911 was disbanded during the war, but on the other hand two Troops were formed in 1917 as a consequence; 2nd East Wickham (Hutments) and 2nd Crayford (Vickers' Works). The 'hutments' was a village of temporary homes built to house the additional workers at Woolwich Arsenal at the top of Lodge Hill, and 2nd Crayford a result of workmates getting together to form a Troop.

What is interesting from these figures is the growth of Scouting during the war with four Troops and three Packs being formed.

Below is the result of the 1917 Census and is printed in date of registration order.



LIST OF TROOPS AND WOLF PACKS.

SCOUTS.

Troop's Name.	Troops Headquarters.	Scoutmaster's Name and Address.	Date of Registration.	Troop's Strength
1st Bexley Heath	Parish Room, Bex. Heath	F. Wintersgill, 14, Oaklands Rd., Bexley Heath (on service)	April, 1909	42
2nd Sidcup	Elm Road, Sidcup	P. H. Gregory, Black Horse Road, Sidcup	Oct. 1909	31
1st Sidcup	Nelson Road, Sidcup	W. J. Read, 45, Station Rd., Sidcup (on ser.)	Oct. 1910	25
1st Chislehurst	Boys' Club, Chislehurst	Disbanded during war.	Jan. 1911	—
1st North Cray	Rectory Stable, North Cray	H. E. Spencer, Ferndale, Elm Road, Sidcup	Oct. 1911	18
1st Crayford	Parish Room, Crayford	W. G. Darker, School House, Crayford	Nov. 1911	71
2nd Bexley	High Street, Bexley	Patrol Leaders, Bexley Heath Troop	Feb. 1912	32
1st East Wickham	Parish Room E. Wickham	W. J. Wrighton, 5, Bournemouth Villas, Welling	April, 1912	35
1st Fooks Cray	Rectory, Fooks Cray	R. G. Shapley, 73 Station Rd., Sidcup (on ser.)	Oct. 1912	48
1st Welling	National Schools, Welling	R. G. Storer, Belle Grove, Welling	May, 1913	40
4th Sidcup	Parish Hall, Longlands	Mrs. Clifford, Main Road, Sidcup	July, 1914	25
3rd Sidcup	Nelson Road, Sidcup	F. G. Holmes, Northcroft, Lansdown Rd. Sidcup	Mar. 1915	12
2nd East Wickham	Parish Room, Hutments	Rev. G. Arrowsmith, 295, Ashkirk Av., Welling	Feb. 1917	37
1st Lamorbey	Day's Lane, Lamorbey	H. E. Spencer, North Cray Troop	Mar. 1917	27
2nd Lamorbey	Lamorbey Homes		June 1917	29
2nd Crayford	Vickers' Works, Crayford	F. J. McDuell, Vickers' Works, Crayford	June 1917	55

WOLF CUBS.

Bexley Heath Pack	Parish Room, Bex. Heath	F. Wintersgill, 14, Oaklands Rd., Bex. Heath (on service)	June 1917	7
1st Welling	„ National Schools, Welling	Miss Storer, Belle Grove, Welling	Mar. 1915	19
1st East Wickham	„ Parish Hall, E. Wickham	J. A. Hudson, 40, Gipsy Road, Welling	May, 1915	18
4th Sidcup	„ Parish Hall, Longlands	F. Merritt, 148, Wooside Road, Sidcup	Sept., 1917	15
Fooks Cray	„ Rectory, Fooks Cray	Rev. G. Berens-Dowdeswell, Rectory.	Oct. 1917	21
		Fooks Cray		—

586



Fast forward ninety years to 2007 and look at the latest figures for the four Bexley Districts of Bexleyheath, East Wickham & Welling, Erith & Crayford and Sidcup.

Bexleyheath (9 Groups)

Beaver Scouts	205
Cub Scouts	259
Scouts	147
Explorer Scouts	23
Total	634

East Wickham & Welling (8 Groups)

Beaver Scouts	37
Cub Scouts	141
Scouts	98
Explorer Scouts	41
Total	407

Erith & Crayford (13 Groups)

Beaver Scouts	182
Cub Scouts	248
Scouts	172
Explorer Scouts	46
Total	648

Sidcup (10 Groups)

Beaver Scouts	75
Cub Scouts	103
Scouts	80
Explorer Scouts	10
Total	268

Total number of young people in Bexley involved **1,957**

Of course you can't really compare the two totals. Bexley has changed out of all recognition from being a rural society to a suburb and its population has grown enormously, although the birth rate has actually fallen enormously in the past ninety years.

Also in 1917, Scouting was for boys only from the age of 8; today both boys and girls can join from the age of 6.

However, the 2007 Bexley census creates many questions. The Wolf Cub section was originally created to attract younger boys who were too young for Scouts, the modern-day Cubs has more members than Scouts! Could it be that there is now more for older boys to do when compared to 1917?

Why is Scouting more popular in Bexleyheath and Erith & Crayford when compared to Sidcup? Could it be simply 'there are more children living in those areas'?

I wonder what historians will make of our figures in the 2107 celebrations. The popularity of Scouting, like so many subjects, moves in circles. What is important the circles are moving forward. I think Baden-Powell would be happy with these figures.

Tim Harlow, Sidcup Scouts

ADULTS IN SCOUTING

Adults in Scouting are from all walks of life, yet the one thing they share is the enjoyment of helping young people reach their full potential. Did you know?

- None of our Leaders are paid – they are all volunteers
- The majority of our Leaders have full time jobs and a family
- 44% of our Leaders are female
- Leaders get involved to have fun and make new friends themselves
- Leaders don't have to be 'superheroes' who know everything. They are given training on the job and learn new skills as they go along. The one thing that unites our Leaders is the energy and enthusiasm they have for giving young people the adventure of Scouting
- Whilst all our volunteers are passionate about what they do, many help out on a flexible basis due to other commitments. Some may help out once a week or fortnight whereas others may only help occasionally or at summer camp
- 27% of volunteers help out in Scouting as they are a parent of a current Member. Many were not Scouts when they were young but have learnt new skills and made new friends through Scouting
- Not all volunteers have to wear uniform
- Many of our adult volunteers say they are more confident in their everyday lives as a result of their involvement with Scouting
- Not all adults who volunteer for Scouting work with young people. There are a variety of other support jobs that need to be done. This enables the adult Leaders to spend more time doing what they do best.



Where does it hurt sir? - Being subjected to Scouts' First Aid skills during a District competition.

COLLECTORS ITEMS



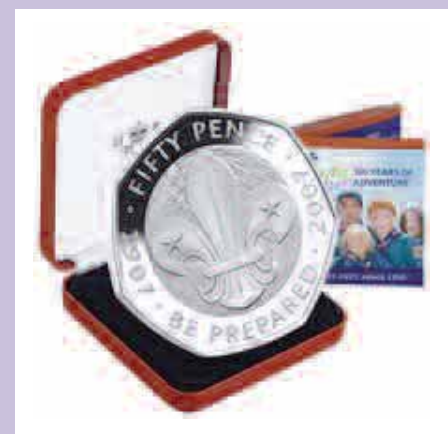
This set of stamps commemorating the Year of the Scout are printed in lithography by John Enschede Security Print in sheets of 25/50. The Scouts wanted the stamps to show the contemporary nature of Scouting and for this reason the illustrator Jez Fry was chosen. Jez is half Japanese and works in a style similar to Japanese Manga (comic illustration) and Anime (film animation). © Copyright Royal Mail 2006/07.

<http://www.royalmail.com>

This year, on 1st August 2007, the Scout Movement will celebrate its 100th birthday. It all began with one man's vision in the summer of 1907 when Robert Baden-Powell organised an experimental camp on Brownsea Island in Dorset. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Scout Movement the Royal Mint has designed a wonderful limited-edition commemorative fifty pence coin for 2007.

Designed by Royal Mint engraver Kerry Jones, the coin depicts the familiar arrowhead emblem, embossed on a representation of the globe, along with the famous Scout motto 'Be prepared'

<http://www.royalmint.com/RoyalMint/web/site/Annexes/scmove.asp>



Scout & Guide Uniforms • Badges • Trophies • Books

BEXLEY SCOUT SHOP

Bexleyheath Scout Headquarters Mayplace Road West
(forecourt parking)

Open Thursday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm (during term time)

Run by Scouts for Scouts of all ages and all sizes

USEFUL CONTACTS & WEBSITES

Greater London South East Scout County

www.glsescouts.org.uk

Bexleyheath Scout District

email: dc.bexleyheath@ntlworld.com

East Wickham & Welling Scout District

email: scoutfest.brochure@ntlworld.com

Erith & Crayford Scout District

www.ecscouts.org.uk

Sidcup District Scout District

www.sidcupscoutnet.org.uk

or ring 0845 094 4017

National Scouting

www.scoutbase.org.uk

www.scouts.org.uk

www.scoutsreunited.org.uk

Student Scout and Guide Organisation

www.ssago.org.uk

Bexley Council For Voluntary Youth Organisations Ltd

www.bcvyo.org.uk

or ring 020 8855 9496

Jamboree Contingent Unit 35

www.myspace.com/arcticmonkeys_unit35

