

As our centenary comes to an end, we conclude our look back over the years at various noteworthy events and occurrences from our first century of existence. I hope you have enjoyed these reminiscences.

All ten editions can be found on our centenary website: www.edsc100.org.uk. – Frank Woods

100 Years Ago ~ The first full camp of local scouts was held in Firlie Park from 20th to 30th August 1910 under SM T. Sutton; it was considered “quite an adventure” and, bearing in mind the lack of camping knowledge at that time, “was a very great success”.

75 Years Ago ~ In his DC’s Report at the 1937 AGM, Lt-Col. W. J. Keen recorded that “the two major Scouting events of the year were the Coronation Souvenir Programme Good Turn and the Jamboree. We were allotted 1,500 Souvenir Programmes and we sold them all. We sent an entire Troop to the Jamboree [Holland] and they obtained an excellent report.” They were also awarded a pennant for good camping.

70 Years Ago ~ The 1940 AGM Attendance List was “inadvertently sent into store with the Hon. Sec.’s furniture on his evacuation”. In his Report to the Meeting, the Secretary (H. K. Bagnall-Oakeley) recorded that two Troops had closed down, one Troop had left the town, and four were “in abeyance”; nearly a third of our Scouters had been called up, and two Groups were “entirely without Scouters”; this meant that the PLs took charge.

60 Years Ago ~ In June 1952, a second District Rally took place, this time at The Oval in Princes Park and opened by The Right Hon. The Viscount Waverley. The objects of the event were to obtain publicity for the Movement and to raise money for the Jamboree Fund, *i.e.* to assist Eastbourne Scouts who were chosen to attend the 1955 World Jamboree in Canada. The Arena Programme ran through from 3p.m. to 7.30p.m. and included such bizarre items as “Cycle Football”!

50 Years Ago ~ In the summer 1962 edition of the District Newsletter, DC Donald Love reports on the Eastbourne Carnival: “Once again the Scouts have turned up ‘trumps’ in helping in this very important event. Our Association duck, Cynthia, and her attendant duckling Harry – with additional eggs – arrived too late for the judging owing to trouble with the wind. (Meteorological, not gastric!) However, she waddled round the course to the amusement of all and contributed much to the gaiety of the Procession.”

40 Years Ago ~ In the September 1968 *District Digest* it was reported: “New heights were reached at this year’s annual Eastbourne Flower Show when Scouts prepared and served a civic lunch. It is hoped that His Worship the Mayor [Cllr C. G. Scott] was wistfully reminded of many

happy camping days when surrounded by cooks and waiters in Scout uniform. Congratulations to the 2nd Eastbourne for the good job they made of the lunch and the 4th Eastbourne for their excellent waiting.” (*Yes, I was one of them!*)

35 Years Ago ~ In September 1975, Donald Love announced “with the utmost regret” that he had resigned as DC “owing to business commitments which mean my removal to Northampton”. Don had been our longest-serving DC, clocking up some 13½ years, and while the search was on for his successor, duties were shared between the five ADCs and the District Secretary, Cyril Whitehead.

- With membership booming (935), DC Gerry Gillett was delighted to report in the September 1977 *District Digest* that, following close behind the earlier announcement (in July) of the new 2nd Willingdon Group, there was now another new Group, this time to bridge the gap between the 6th and the 8th – namely, the 7th Eastbourne, under the Leadership of Keith Lambert, who had transferred from 1st Hampden Park.

30 Years Ago ~ With membership still at an all-time high, the second annual Swimming Gala at the Eastbourne Leisure Pool, in September 1978, saw no less than 23 teams taking part, “before a capacity crowd of over 300 parents and friends”. Two Packs – 11th Eastbourne and 18th Eastbourne (Anderida) – jointly won the new Pack Trophy (donated by the Dental Estimates Board Sports & Social Club), and 2nd Eastbourne won the Troop Trophy.

- A new activity was instigated in September 1982, when the first Soapbox Derby took place at Wartling Road Coach Park; organised by SL Peter Melville-Brown, the event attracted no less than 25 carts, each staffed by six scouts, and judged on categories of speed, obstacles, mechanical construction and “best decorated to advertise Scouting”.

15 Years Ago ~ The Inaugural Meeting of the District PLC took place at the end of September 1995 at the Lansdowne Hotel, “with nearly every Troop represented”. Those present didn’t mind in the least that “the meeting was interrupted by the appearance of a waitress pushing an enormous trolley of teas and biscuits – all with the Manager’s compliments – and then the Press turned up as well!” Chris Comper, from 1st Willingdon, was elected Chairman.