

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. – Frank Woods

80 Years Ago ~ The Local Association By-laws state: “The area to be administered by the Local Association shall be Pevensey Bay to the Cuckmere and up the line of that River to the Crossing of the Southern Railway, following the Railway Line to Polegate and proceeding from Polegate to Hankham and Pevensey Bay, including all the places named, and also Pevensey and Westham, or as may be hereafter decided by Headquarters on the recommendation of the District Commissioner.”

70 Years Ago ~ In his DC’s Report for 1938, Lt-Col. W. J. Keen said “We acknowledge with thanks the gift of a large and beautiful tent from Mrs. Morrell. With her permission we have handed it over to Broadstone Warren, primarily for the use of Eastbourne Scouts and after them for the accommodation of distinguished visitors.” (*I wonder if it’s still there?*)

60 Years Ago ~ Never mind e-mails, another solution for “economies in postage” is given in the June 1952 Newsletter: “In order to economise, it is suggested that each Troop in turn should act as duty Troop for one month, undertaking to distribute circulars by hand, and that the Hon. Secretary might call upon the S.M. of the Duty Patrol for this work when needed.”

50 Years Ago ~ By 1961, the two ADCs for Scouts, Ron Houston and Jack Stevens, had followed the ADC(C)s’ scheme and divided their duties between the 19 Groups. Also, Groups were being encouraged to send donations to the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund in exchange for which they were not only named “B.-P. House Founder Groups” and listed on a Roll to be kept there, but were also awarded a Bronze Plaque of the Founder. Four of our current Groups who received Plaques were the 11th, 23rd, 1st P and 1st W. (*Have they still got them?*)

45 Years Ago ~ In his Chairman’s Report for 1966–67, John Claremont made reference to publication of the “Chief Scout’s Advance Party Report” which announced the “new look” for scouts, with a completely new uniform (long trousers!) and our title changing from “Boy Scouts” to plain “Scouts”. He also announced that not only would the District be “opening a Scout Shop in time to sell the new uniforms”, but also that we are “continuing to search for premises suitable for a permanent headquarters in the town”.

35 Years Ago ~ Our first outdoor AGM took place in 1974, on Spring Bank Holiday Saturday at Bushy Wood. “Never before have we had such a star-spangled gathering of visitors” exclaimed DC Donald Love. Guests included “our new County Commissioner, George Herbert, [who] must have spoken to nearly every boy in Bushy Wood”, as well as Lord Monk Bretton (County Chairman), John Claremont

(County Vice-Chairman and retiring District Chairman), Peter Lankester (Field Commissioner), Jim Lees (Deputy County Commissioner) and Vice-President Sir Sydney and Lady Caffyn. They all toured Bushy Wood and stayed to watch “the fun and games of ‘It’s A Knock-out’ arranged by Gerry Gillett” (ADC(LT)).

30 Years Ago ~ After many months of great anticipation, March 1979 saw the formation of our District Scout Band, the Kingfishers. Having compiled a list of 40 boys wishing to join, and following a very successful “Inaugural Meeting” at Langney School, the first practice took place at the end of the month; in April eight second-hand drums were purchased from 2nd Brighton Marching Ambassadors, and in his Annual Report at the AGM, DC Gerry Gillett confirmed: “The future of the . . . Band is assured”.

- In the March 1982 *District Digest* it was announced that yet another trophy had been received by the District, this time in memory of Frank Richardson, who had been Badge Examiner for the Swimmer Badge for over 30 years! The “Frank Richardson Swimming Trophy” would be competed for at the annual Swimming Gala. (*Again, I wonder where it is now?*)

- Also in the March 1982 *District Digest*, Peter Goble of W. E. Coy & Sons, our Scout Shop in Seaside, wrote: “I would like to express my good wishes to Mr Lewis of ‘Outdoor Life’ [in The Goffs] on his Agency for Scout Shop equipment. In doing so, I would also remind you that we are continuing to stock Scout and Cub Scout uniform, including a full range of Group scarves.”

25 Years Ago ~ Cub Scouts were celebrating their 70th Anniversary in 1986. The theme for the year was “Over the Rainbow” and a special badge was produced for everyone in that section to wear. There was also a County Rainbow Camp at Broadstone Warren in June, but unfortunately there was very little reported about it in our Newsletters, only that Cub Scouts from Eastbourne did attend and that it was “a fantastic weekend”.

10 Years Ago ~ In 2000, to celebrate the “new millennium”, over a quarter of a million Scouts took part in “the biggest camping weekend in Scouting’s history” over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Our Millennium Camp took place at Bushy Wood, adopting a theme of the “Wicked Wild West”, with a John Wayne shoot-out, horse-shoe throwing, etc., and the highlight was the evening procession of cowboys and indians to the open-air disco – in the rain and mud! Unfortunately, the almost constant torrential rain, together with the imminent closure of the A22 due to flooding, caused the camp to be abandoned early on Sunday morning! (*No comment!*)