

*From Hetfelle to Hatfield - over 1000 years of history*

## HATFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

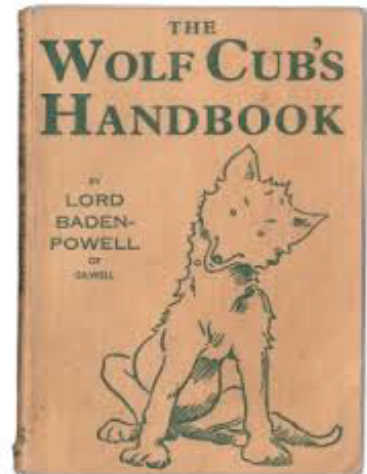
NEWSLETTER No. 100 March 2016

### CUB SCOUTS ARE 100 YEARS OLD

Two significant milestones have been reached with our first newsletter of 2016: firstly, this edition is our 100th and, marginally upstaging it, is the centenary year of the Cubs organisation - the junior branch of Baden-Powell's Scouts, originally called the Wolf Cubs.

Diane Cull, ex Cub Leader and District Cub Commissioner, has kindly sent us her account of Cub Scouting in Hatfield:

2016 brings the centenary anniversary of the formation of the Cub Scouts. The Scout movement itself was founded in 1908 by Lord Robert Baden Powell and brought world wide popularity following the publication of his book "Scouting for Boys". One of the earliest groups to be formed in 1908 was **The 1st Hatfield Scout Group** which in 1926 became affiliated to the Viscount Cranbourne, whose name they included in their title as The Viscount Cranbourne's Own.



The Scout movement was created to encourage the development of young boys, and to promote comradeship and outdoor skills. It soon became evident that younger children were also keen to join the movement. In 1916 therefore, Cub Scouts were introduced for the 8 to 11 age groups. Baden Powell, from his Indian Army service, had become influenced by the country and its culture and the Cub sections were based on characters from Kipling's "Jungle Book". The leader was Akela and each meeting would begin with the Cubs encircling their leader where they were asked to "Do Your Best" to which they would reply we will "Do Our Best". Hence the familiar Cub salute of DYB DYB DYB - DOB DOB DOB.

All the subsequent Hatfield Scout groups had very active Cub packs. **1st Hatfield Group** met at Longmead in Birchwood and by the 1980's had two individual packs meeting on separate nights.

**2nd Hatfield/ 1st Brookmans Park** headquarters were in Brookmans Park and were formed for the children of that village together with Welham Green, they also had two Cub Packs.

In 1924 **The 3rd Hatfield** was formed, and with the developing industry in the town became an Air Scout Group. Their Cub pack met in the Scout hut built in the copse at Chantry Lane and John Cunningham, the chief test pilot for De Havilland's, was their patron.

#### Contact the Editors:

c/o Mill Green Museum, Hatfield, AL9 5PD  
Chairman: **Mrs Chris Martindale**



After the war the new town developed substantially and with it the Scout and Cub movement. In the 50's and 60's the **6th Hatfield** were formed as part of St Peter's Church, and a new hut was built for the **7th Hatfield Group** in Bluebell Wood, off Hazel Grove. At some stage there would have been **4th & 5th and 8th** groups but they appear to have been short lived and little if anything is now known of them.

The final group to be created in the town was **The 9th Hatfield** who met in Skips Grove, the copse at the junction of Woods Avenue and Bishops Rise. The headquarters was completed in 1970, they had two packs 'Mars' and 'Jupiter'. This new group incorporated the nearby already existing **6th Hatfield** group.

During their Pack nights Cubs worked towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold Arrows. They learnt outdoor skills such as fire lighting, tracking, knots, map reading and tent pitching; there was emphasis on the royal family, the national anthem, the make up of the Union flag and the four saints of the United Kingdom.

Cubs could also work for numerous proficiency badges such as: Artist, Book reader, Cyclist, Tracker and Home Help. The range has now expanded and includes all the traditional skills plus; Chef, Global Issues, Road Safety and Skater to name a few.



Every pack would camp at least once a year under canvas, the popular local sites were Harmer Green in Welwyn, Well End near Borehamwood and Tolmers in Cuffley. The tents, large canvas Storm Havens or Nigers slept 6-8 cubs and had a loose ground sheet which the boys slept on in their sleeping bags. Every morning the tent sides were rolled to air the bedding. The older boys in the pack, 'Sixers', were given the opportunity to attend a district 'Sixer's Camp' held at Well End in February.

Some of the more adventurous leaders also held a winter 'Camp' where they stayed in a purpose built cabin, but many activities were still outside.

Hatfield District was very active; on an annual basis there was a Handicraft competition, held at Countess Anne school, the six-a-side football competition with the winning team representing the district at the County competition and a swimming gala held at Monks Walk school.

In 1977 the Scouts and Guides joined up to produce the first ever Hatfield & District Gang show at the Forum Theatre in Lemsford Road, and of course Cubs and Brownies were invited. The show ran bi-annually until 2001 when Hatfield was merged with WGC and became the Mid Herts District.





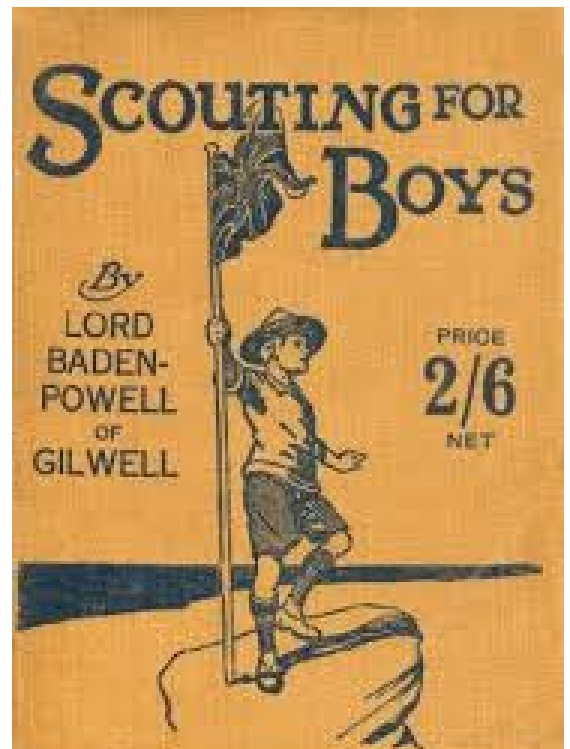
The Scout association always celebrates anniversaries when they would hold a County camp and the Chief Scout would attend and present awards. The photograph is of Sir William Garth Morrison the Chief Scout with Hatfield Cubs, when the Cubs celebrated their

75th anniversary In 1991, the same year as girls were admitted into the Scout Movement.

Sadly modern times have seen a decline in the popularity of the movement. The Scout headquarters of the 7<sup>th</sup> at Hazel Grove and the 9<sup>th</sup> Skips Grove were damaged beyond repair by arsonists. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Headquarters, affected by the chalk mines, is no longer standing. Today only the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Scout Groups remain and they meet in Hatfield old town. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hatfield/ 1<sup>st</sup> Brookmans Park joined Potters Bar District in 2002.

***Hertfordshire Scouts Historian, Frank Brittain, has kindly provided the following account:***

The birthplace of Scouting is considered to be Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Dorset, where Lieutenant General Baden-Powell (B-P) set up an experimental camp to test out his theories on good citizenship and complete a book he was writing, *Scouting for Boys*. He chose 21 boys from the Boys Brigade in Poole and from his friends who sent their children to public schools. He mixed them up like “plumbs in a pudding” sorted them into “Patrols” but made sure the Patrol Leader (PL) was a public schoolboy. B-P’s literary contact was Percy Everett (PWE), a manager from Pearson’s the publisher. He lived at Elstree in Hertfordshire. Following the camp, PWE collected copy for editing and it was eventually published in fortnightly parts starting 16 January 1908. It is from this date that the Boy Scouts were considered as becoming a “Movement”. *Scouting for Boys* as a complete book, became world famous, has never been out of print to this day and is reputed to be the fourth most read book in the world.



PWE got hooked on the idea and following the experimental camp asked B-P “How can I help?” “Go back to Hertfordshire and start organising it as a Scout County” was his reply. This is how Hertfordshire became the first Scout County in the World.

### *A timeline of local Cubs & Scouts events:*

In **1910** the first County Rally was held at Hatfield Park. **1923:** Col. Acland (District Commissioner) of Hatfield organised a Scouters Conference in the Old Palace.

**1924:** the third Hatfield Troop was formed. **1924:** a district camp was held at Barnes Wood House the home of the Acland Family. **1925:** The first County Music competition was held at Hatfield House. This later grew to be a national event. **1926:** Teams competing for the Tempest-Hicks ambulance and home nursing completion were held at the Hatfield District HQ. **1926:** The First Hatfield Troop were allowed to use "Viscount Cranbourne's Own" in their title. **1927:** Chief Scout Baden-Powell attended a County Rally in Hatfield Park.



**1929: Scouts from Hatfield attended the World Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead (can you spot them?)**

In **1933** the Chief Scout and Olave Chief Guide, attended a County Rally at Hatfield House. **1939:** the Deputy Chief Scout Lord Somers attended a County Rally at Hatfield House and Park.

This is just a taster of events in Hatfield Scout District. There are many others. I would be prepared to come and give an extended illustrated talk about all these events with documentation if you think this would be appropriate later in the year.

**FRANK BRITTAIN**, Archivist & Historian, Hertfordshire Scouts.

The requirements for early Wolf Cubs to earn their stars, which were worn on the cap:

#### **1st Star:**

**Union Jack:** Know the composition of the Union flag and the right way to fly it.

**Saints:** Know the stories of St. George, St. Andrew and St Patrick.

**National Anthem:** Know the first verse and what to do when it is played.

**Knots:** Know how to tie a reef knot and a sheet bend.

**Skill:** Be able to tell the time. Know how to keep safe on the roads.

**Nature:** Grow a bulb or cress seeds.

**Physical skills:** Perform a forward roll, and leap frog over a Cub of the same size.

**Service:** Clean a pair of shoes and fold clothes neatly.

#### **2nd Star:**

**Compass:** Know the eight points of the compass.

**Knots:** Know how to tie a bowline, a round turn and two half hitches.

**Thrift:** Understand the importance of saving money and looking after things.

**Handcraft:** Make a model using wood, metal, cardboard or clay, or paint/draw a picture.

**Skills:** Lay and light a fire outdoors and make a pot of tea on it.

**Service:** Memorise a message and repeat it correctly after running around a route. Be able to use a public telephone and know how to get emergency assistance.

**First Aid:** Clean and dress a cut finger, and treat a small scald or burn. Understand the need for cleanliness.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2.15 for a 2.30 start

***Images of North Mymms***

Presented by Mike Allen

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 7.15 for a 7.30 start

***AGM***

***'Hatfield 2030'+***

***Visioning Project for the Town Centre***

Presented by Anita Ward WHBC

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 7.15 for a 7.30 start

***'Hertfordshire's Parks and the Tudors'***

Presented by Anne Rowe

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2.15 for a 2.30 start.

***Christmas open meeting***

All meetings are held at Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield. AL10 0BU  
£1 members & £2 non-members



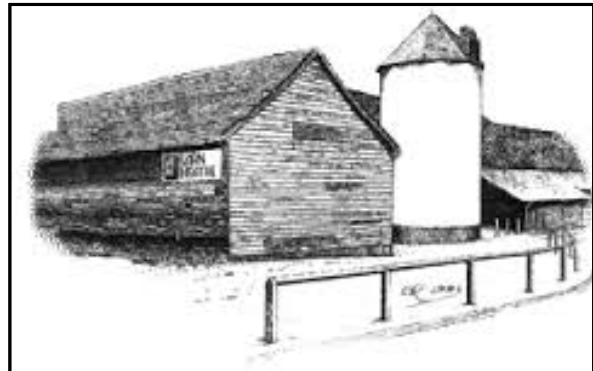
St Mary's Church North Mymms

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### **Barn Theatre Visit** **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

A visit has been arranged on the afternoon of Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> to visit the Barn Theatre WGC.

The visit begins at 2pm., meeting in the Clubroom where there will be a presentation on the history of the Barn both as a farm and a theatre followed by a tour around the theatre.



Barn Theatre WGC

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### **Talking New Towns: Hatfield**

Mill Green Museum

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Take a trip down memory lane and go along to this exhibition. You will find fantastic memories and images which have contributed to the "Talking New Towns" project, which explores the experience of people moving to and living in Hertfordshire's new towns. Hear about what brought people to Hatfield New Town through local residents themselves. Learn more about what life was like living and working in Hatfield New Town.

## **Taking Off** **Memories of de Havilland at Hatfield**

A new publication is about to be published by our Society telling the early story of the de Havilland Aircraft Company through the eyes of some of those who were there at the time. The story starts in the early 1930s when the company first moved to Hatfield and continues through World War 2 into the 1950s.

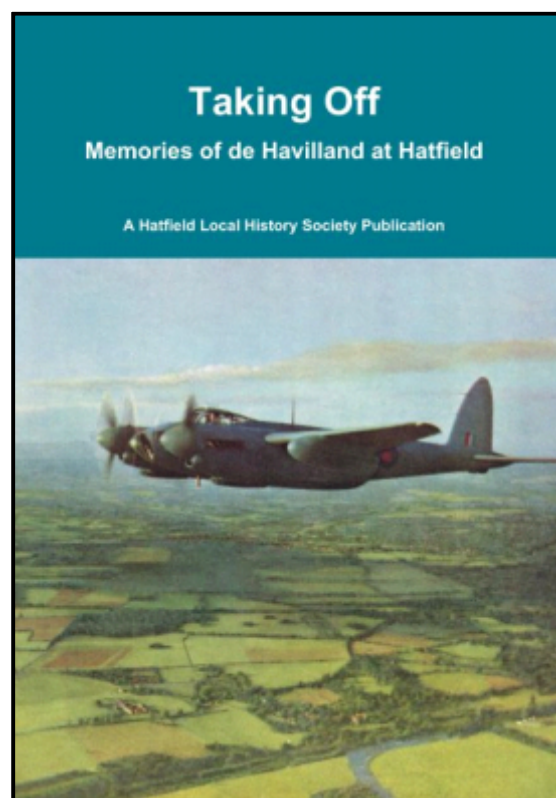
The book has been assembled from a variety of sources including Don Lawrence's "Early Days of de Havilland", and articles from our newsletter and elsewhere. It is well illustrated with photographs and advertisements sourced mainly from the archives of BAE systems and Aviation Ancestry.

Also, aircraft built at Hatfield and key events for this period have been listed along with a comprehensive index.

Book size, A5, 95-100 pages, professionally bound.

Price £5 + p&p.

To pre order a copy contact our publications officer



DH98 Mosquito  
(Known as the "Wooden Wonder")

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## **Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the twenty fifth Annual General Meeting  
will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield

7:15 for 7:30pm start.

### **AGENDA**

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the twenty fourth Annual General Meeting
- 3) Matters arising not covered elsewhere
- 4) Chairman's Report
- 5) Treasurer's Report
- 6) Election of Auditor
- 7) Election of committee members
- 8) Any other business

Your Committee is very short of members. Please consider volunteering to serve on the committee or to help in other ways to keep the Society alive. The committee meets about 5 times a year.

If you want further information please ring Chris

## **COME ON VOLUNTEER TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE**



## SECRET RADIO TEST SITE

Not far from the Smallford end of the former De Havillands runway is about 25 acres of land which has an interesting history. It was owned by the old GPO (General Post Office) who built what appeared to be a 'house' on it in around 1926, plus other outbuildings. From the outside – and from the air – it probably looked like a farm; which may have been the intention!

It was, in fact, set up as a point-to-point radio link run by the GPO. Known as the St. Albans Radio Station, it became a testing ground for various forms of communications research and surveillance. It is claimed that this site was the one where, in 1932, Arnold 'Skip' Wilkins noticed radio interference caused by aircraft. And by 1935, he had used GPO radio equipment to track aircraft by bouncing radio waves off them at distances of over 100 miles. This invention became known as radar and it was this 'early warning system' which largely saved the RAF from defeat in the Battle of Britain in 1940. Stan Ames writes that the radio station at Smallford was 'used secretly in WW2 as a listening station feeding coded messages to Bletchley Park for decryption. It was the first station to intercept German radio teleprinter transmissions which were used for their most secret messages, but using the Colossus computer they were decrypted at Bletchley and were a major influence on the outcome of the war'.

The radio station closed during the 1960s and eventually became a trial site for British Telecom.

In 2011, all of the buildings, towers and telegraph poles were demolished and removed. A small housing development - called Pasture View - was built in 2012 and stands at the former entrance to the radio station site.

\*On another note, further to our story in the last newsletter, the main building there was used as a Trig point (TL32/T47, 4th order).



### All Gone: The Former Radio Station



**The main admin building**

Photos by Pete Riley



**Test equipment**



**A photo from 2010**

The site can now be accessed by a bridleway from Ellenbrook Fields (ex airfield site) which joins a tarmaced perimeter path. All that now remains is the occasional glimpse of telegraph post holes; bits of fibre optic cabling and an inaccessible concrete car park.

## Henry John Broughton Kendall and a Town called Kendall

*We recently received the following request, (via the Lemsford History Society):  
Hello, I am writing you from the U.S. I run a group that shares the history of our hometown in Miami, Florida. I grew up in a town called Kendall, Florida. Which was named after Mr. Kendall. I have been researching him for weeks and cannot find a photo of him to share with our group. Do you have one? Henry had moved into the area of Kendall Fla. in the 1900s he was a director at the time for the Florida Land and Mortgage Company. I would love to see what he looked like as I lived in the town for many years and never knew its origin. I would deeply appreciate any help in locating a photo of Henry. Thank you in advance. Robyn Noelle.*



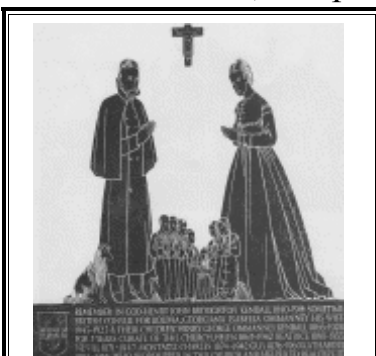
Mrs Kendall at Hyde House

While not finding a photograph of Henry, (we found one of his wife) our searches found that Henry had quite an interesting life. Henry was born in Lima Peru in 1840, his father Henry Snr. an employee in a firm of City of London merchants, was a close friend of President General Castilla, whom he later represented in London as Consul for 30 years. Henry Jnr. went to school at Cheltenham College but later left to enter his father's business in the City. Henry Jnr. travelled extensively between the Americas and London on business. In 1884, Sir Edward Reed's Florida Land and Mortgage Company appointed Henry John Broughton Kendall, as one of four trustees to manage the company properties in Dade County. Henry was appointed managing agent, from the information we received from Robyn it was while the area was being developed that the town was named after Henry. The town is now a suburb of Miami.

On April 19<sup>th</sup> 1865, he married Georgiana Isabella, eldest daughter of Admiral Octavius Ommanney JP, of the Planes, East Sheen. In the mid 1870's Henry moved his family from Richmond Surrey (his wife and five children) to Bush Hall Hatfield, later moving to Hyde House, Hatfield Hyde where he and his family took a leading part in the life of the district, becoming one of the founding fathers on the Council for the Parish of Hatfield, the Night School, and St Mary's Church Hatfield Hyde where from 1896-98 the curacy was held by the Kendall's eldest son, Rev Henry George Ommanney Kendall MA. Oxon. According to his sister Katharine, "he preached blood and thunder and hell fire, but was a great draw....."<sup>1</sup>



St Mary's Church Hatfield Hyde, before enlargement as the Kendall's would have known it.



The Kendall's brass plaque, St Mary's Church Hatfield Hyde

### **Obituary, Bishops Hatfield Parish Magazine March 1914**

We regret to announce the death of Mr H.J.B. Kendall, who died at Hatfield Hyde on Wednesday morning at 2.0am. There are few older inhabitants of Hatfield, though not a native of the place, for more than 30 years, first at Bush Hall and then the Hyde Mr Kendall has been one of the conspicuous figures of local life. At one time nearly every function of any importance in Hatfield had his support and presence. The heartfelt sympathy of all our fellow parishioners will go out to Mrs Kendall and the family in their sudden sorrow.

*Derek Martindale*

<sup>1</sup> Further reading, an article by Richard Busby held at the Hatfield Library, "A modern brass in Hertfordshire"