

# A HISTORY OF ROMFORD SCOUTING

1908-1997.

(Minor updates 2013 & 2014)



Compiled by John “Bunny” Warren, *District Archivist*.

*A HISTORY OF ROMFORD SCOUTING.*

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*Revised and expanded 2013 by the district team.*

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It should be noted that until 1966 Romford was part of the County of Essex, then, by virtue of the London Government Act 1963, it became part of the County of Greater London. For Scout purposes this huge conurbation was divided into seven parts, and we became part of Greater London North-east.

In the early days, Romford Local Association embraced Hornchurch, Upminster, Harold Wood, a branch of the 2nd Romford at Newbury Park, possibly Dagenham and Chadwell Heath and even Navestock Side. Some, but not all, Hornchurch Troops became a separate District in the 'Thirties, and in 1948 the District was further divided, the 3rd and 5th Romford, 1st Emerson Park, 1st Ardleigh Green, 1st and 2nd Gidea Park and 1st and 3rd Harold Wood becoming "Squirrels Heath". References to these Groups therefore disappear from this history after that date.

Readers may be a little confused by apparently random use, above and in the earlier Chapters, of the terms "District" and "Local Association". A Local Association was a body which fulfilled more or less the same functions as today's District Executive with its sub-committees, with the proviso that a L.A. was not necessarily co-terminus with a District, and a District might include more than one L.A. Indeed, until 1926, when we became a District in our own right, Romford was in Mid-Essex and Romford District which included Local Associations in Romford, Brentwood, Chelmsford and Billericay. The situation arose again in 1947 when Squirrels Heath was, for a few months, a separate L.A. within Romford District before becoming a separate District. This untidiness was abolished by the Chief Scout's Advance Party (see Chapter 6).

## ABBREVIATIONS

LH.QJH.Q	Imperial Headquarters/Headquarters from 1961
D.H.Q.	District Headquarters.
L.A.	Local Association.
P.O.R.	<i>Policy, Organisation and Rules</i> . Each Group was provided with a free copy of the current (1995) edition, and further copies may be bought from the Scout Shop.
D.C	District Commissioner.
A.D.C.	Assistant District Commissioner. [N.B. Since the Twenties, A. D.Cs have generally been appointed for specific sections or specific duties e.g. A.D.C. (Scouts), A.D.C. (Leader Training). These are normally stated in full in the text.]
G.S.M./G.S.L.	Group Scoutmaster/Group Scout Leader from 1967.
S.M./S.L.	Scoutmaster/Scout Leader from 1967.
S.M.(S)	Scoutmaster (Senior Scouts).
C.M./C.S.L.	Cubmaster (male or female)/Cub Scout Leader from 1967.
R.S.L.	Rover Scout Leader.
V.S.L.	Venture Scout Leader (from 1967)
BSL.	Beaver Scout Leader (from 1983)
"A"	before any of the above    Assistant.
"A/"	before any of the above    Acting
"D"	before any of the above    District. E.g. District Scout Leader.

[For the benefit of the uninitiated, a D.S.L. (e.g.) is, in effect, an Assistant A.D.C. for a specific section.]

P.L.	Patrol Leader.
P.2nd/A.P.L.	Patrol Second/Assistant Patrol Leader from 1967.
P.L.(S)	Patrol Leader (Senior Scouts) to 1967. <i>Not</i> Senior Patrol Leader.
T.L./S.P.L.	Troop Leader/Senior Patrol Leader from 1967.
Sixer.	Leader of a "Six" in Wolf Cubs. Unchanged in 1967.
"Scouter"	is a generic term to cover warranted leaders of any rank.
"Cubber"	was a somewhat inelegant term once sometimes used to cover all Wolf Cub Leaders in the same way. It is not used in this volume.

*"If you ignore history, YOU are condemned to relive it"*  
 Claire Rayner  
 On radio 2, 16/8/95.

# A HISTORY OF ROMFORD SCOUTING

## PREFACE

In January 1908, a new publication appeared on the bookstalls of the United Kingdom. Titled "Scouting for Boys", written by Lieut. General R.S.S. Baden-Powell, and priced at four old pence (about 1½ pence in today's money), it was the first of a series of fortnightly parts which were to revolutionise life for millions of boys and girls throughout the world.

This book is the story of the impact which this publication, and the movement which it started, had upon the boys of Romford. It updates and expands upon the short history of Romford District written by Joan Walker in 1982 and is written not simply for nostalgia but so that future generations can, hopefully, learn something from the events of the past: may avoid making the same mistakes all over again, and, more positively, discover that some forgotten successes will stand up to another try.

For the over-riding impression which the author has gained from his research, and from over fifty years' membership of Romford District, is that, in spite of two world wars and huge developments in technology in the latter years of the century, beneath the surface the needs and aspirations of boys have changed very little.

So many people have played their part in these 90 years that it has been difficult to decide who to include, and who not. In some cases, mention or otherwise has been dictated by the availability of sufficient material - committee minutes read 30 or 40 years on can be quite maddening and, as a historian, it would be wrong of me to rely on memory. For the same reason some events may have been omitted. Many of the folk who are not mentioned will, however, play very prominent parts in the histories of the Groups from which they came. A separate register of those who have received awards for good services has been compiled and is available for reference at the District H.Q.

I will be happy to assist those Groups which decide to write their own histories - as some have done - with material which I have gleaned along the way and which may no longer be available in the Groups. I will be especially keen to help any of our younger members who would like to tackle such a project for an award, or as a school project perhaps, or just for fun. If I can set a budding historian on the road to success, I will be a happy.

When Ralph Reader ventured into authorship in 1950, he titled his book "OH, SCOUTING IS A BOY." Making due allowance for the fact that we now have girl members, this would not be at all a bad slogan as we venture into the twenty-first century and, before long, into the second century of Scouting in Romford.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author's thanks are freely offered to all those members of the present District Association who have come forth with reminiscences and with artefacts for the District archives. Some of these artefacts have been shown on training courses and it is hoped to display them more permanently in due course. Acknowledgement of published material has been made in the text as it arises, but I would also like to thank Paul Moynihan, Archivist at Headquarters, and the staffs at Romford Central Reference Library and the Public Record office for their help.

## 1 - EARLY DAYS

In 1908, the year in which *Scouting for Boys* was published, Romford was a relatively unimportant market town in the countryside which surrounded the growing sprawl of London. The Great Eastern Railway had already started to have an impact on the "country town" image of Romford and with an eye to commuter business they were to play a prominent part in the establishment of the Gidea Park estate, but the growth of Romford to its present size was still very much in the future.

Nevertheless before the year was out, a Troop (later to be known as the 1st Romford) was formed at St. Edwards School (then in the Market Place) and on 16th December 1908 a sub-committee of the Trinity Guild at Trinity Methodist Church resolved that a Troop of Boy Scouts be formed" and to ask Mr. F. W. Ashby to be it's Scoutmaster. This Troop was, in fact formed, and became the 2nd Romford. The Scoutmaster of the 1st Romford was D.C. Mackness and his Assistant was F. Hay-Davies who later became District Chairman. F.W. Ashby did become Scoutmaster of the 2nd Romford, and he later became District Commissioner.

The constitution of the 2nd Romford Troop (reproduced in their Jubilee Year souvenir booklet, 1958) refers to sections to be formed at Newbury Park, Hornchurch, Squirrels Heath and Park Lane. The Newbury Park section certainly existed until 1938 (in the early days under their "Scoutmistress" Mrs. N. Shelford) when they became a separate Group in Ilford District. A Park Lane section was in existence in 1917, when they combined with the 1st Romford to hold a Concert at the Corn Exchange in aid of their funds. It is possible, but unconfirmed at present, that this section eventually became the 1st Hornchurch. Whether the Hornchurch and Squirrels Heath sections were formed or whether the Troops in those places started life as independent Troops, is not known.

### STIRRING TIMES

Writing in 1935, Mr. Ashby explains how "Twenty-six years ago" (i.e. in 1909) two lone Scouters (presumably himself and Mr. Mackness):

*"..without much knowledge of Scouting, or its requirements, met one evening for a chat on the work and its possibilities, with the two Troops working without rules or regulations and doing very much as they pleased. The outcome of the chat was a visit to Headquarters and an interview with the Chief Scout's Secretary, Mr. Eric Walker, and one of the Scouters coming back with a Warrant as one of the first Essex Scouters, and a*

*week or two afterwards the Romford and District Boy Scouts' Association was born. The Executive consisted of two Scouters and four assistants. What stirring times - boys shouted and ridiculed and pelted with all kinds of things - but what times we had! 1st Romford with 40 and 2nd Romford with 60, the two oldest Groups thus formed have always had the closest friendship with each other even to this day We thought it a great day when the third Group was formed and when the Association obtained its first Secretary One of the first officers was the Rev Charles Steer, who was afterwards our own District Commissioner."* (Scout Pie 1934/5)

The Directory of Commissioners published quarterly by Headquarters shows that in 1912 we were a part of Mid-Essex and Romford District and our District Commissioner was the Rt. Hon. Lord O'Hagan. Lord O'Hagan lived at Pyrgo, and, according to "Who Was Who" he founded a battery of Royal Horse Artillery in the 1st World War and was invalided out in 1918. He was still in Romford in 1921, but subsequently lived in Hampshire and became Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman of the House of Lords. During 1918 and 1919 J. O. Thompson of Chelmsford was Acting D.C.

### A USEFUL BODY OF' INDIVIDUALS

The 3rd Romford Troop (Scoutmaster Percy Weston) was in existence by 1913, and probably much earlier, and during 1913 they were prominent in having their "Parade Orders" published nearly every week in the *Romford Times*. Their Summer Camp at Little Clacton was also fully reported together with a report on a concert held in the hall of the White Hart Hotel in May in aid of their funds, during which the Chairman (Mr. H. Hollebhone, J.P., tenant of Gidea Hall) observed that "The Boy Scouts were in themselves a useful body of individuals, and were a body most attentive to their instructors." He had recently seen them constructing an open-air oven and baking a cake. He also commented on the lack of any Government funding for Scouts, although he thought they deserved every consideration. He supposed the expenses fell to a great extent upon the Scout masters.

### EARLY DAYS

In May, the Troop (the 3rd Romford still) "waited upon Scoutmaster Percy Weston ... to present him with a gold Swastika, the official badge of thanks of the Scout movement". The swastika is a very ancient emblem (the word is Sanskrit in origin) and, according to Tim Jeal [*Baden-Powell*, Hutchinson,

1989], when the German Nazis adopted it as their emblem, B.-P. was reluctant to stop using it, as he had done for nearly thirty years. He finally did so in 1935 when he learnt that holders wearing it whilst travelling in Europe had been assaulted. The full story is told in an article by Stan Lucas, Secretary of the District Scout Fellowship, in *District News*, November 1996.

In 1910-11 B.-P. was a member of the committee which planned the Gidea Park Garden Suburb Exhibition (1911). [Article by R. Lonsdale in *Romford Record* No. 9]

## SCOUTING OPERATIONS

An advance notice in the Romford Times during 1913 reads as follows:

*Attention is called to scouting operations taking place in Pyrigo Park on Easter Saturday. Instructions have been sent to all officers in the district, and it is hoped that every Scout will make a special effort to be present. Special and detailed instructions will be given by Scoutmasters to their various Troops, but in the meantime it is as well to know that operations will last from about two to five, followed by tea and camp concert round the camp fire. Not the least enjoyable part of the evening will be yarns from an old South African warrior who was with the Chief Scout in Mafeking. It is anticipated that about 200 Scouts will be engaged, and every Scout should make certain of attending.*

Our own "Baden-Powell" Scouts did not have it all their own way, however. Frequent reports also appeared during 1913 for Romford branches of the Imperial Scout Corps, the British Boy Scouts and the British Girl Scouts' Nursing Corps. These three were evidently associated, since they held a joint camp at Great Warley in May. The "British Boy Scouts" had been started in 1909 as a breakaway movement by leaders who feared, wrongly as Tim Jeal has shown, that B.-P. intended "his" Scouts to be a pre-military force. It achieved considerable early support in London and Birmingham, but from 1912 "entered a period of rapid decline" [Jeal]. The "imps", on the other hand, still existed locally until 1929.

Nor did everyone approve of Scouting. Under the heading "VIGOROUS ATTACK ON SCOUT MOVEMENT" a Mr. H. H. Elvin is reported as condemning Scouting for its militarism and for teaching the young to desecrate Sunday by holding activities on that day. The report relates to Ongar rather than Romford and so is not reproduced in full, but it is interesting to note that, amongst other things, Mr. Elvin said "... any movement which infers that this country has enemies against which

it has to provide is not going on the right lines". Less than a year later, we were at war with Germany.

In August 1913 the Havering and Stapleford Abbotts sections of the "Romford Y.M.C.A. Scouts" gave an "interesting display at Pyrigo Park ... under the command of Instructor Hale. The occasion was a tea and entertainment given to the cottagers and workpeople at Pyrigo Park. The display was given on the beautiful lawns of the mansion, and was keenly watched by a company consisting of Lord and Lady O'Hagan, Lady Strachie and the wives and families of the cottagers and workpeople on the estate." "To the parents Lord O'Hagan said that the aim of the Scout movement was not to make soldiers of the boys, but to make them sharper, to make men of them, and to make them useful and helpful to their parents" No other reference to Romford Y.M.C.A. Scouts has surfaced, unless they were the 3rd Romford referred to above.

## THEN CAME THE WAR

Mr. Ashby's reminiscences continue:

*"Then came the War. What an appalling tragedy. Scouters and elder Scouts called to the Colours, and all hopes of keeping Troops together seemed an impossibility, the poor Commissioner at his wits' end, every post bringing an S.O.S. for help... Clergymen and others stepped into the breach; many Groups carrying on with Patrol Leaders in charge - glorious fellows, we take our hats off to them. Very few officers returned to their Groups after the War."*

The report of an Empire Day Parade in May 1915 states that only two of the five Troops in the Romford Association were able to attend. It is thought that the two Troops not already mentioned were the 1st Dagenham (Wesleyan) Troop and the 1st Chadwell Heath. They were certainly both represented at a District meeting in January 1917, and in 1913 "Scoutmaster Ashby of Romford" was reported as having examined sixteen members of the 1st Dagenham Troop for their Second Class badges. Dagenham did not appear in the records as a separate District until March 1925.

## GUARDING BRIDGES

By 1915 regular reports of our "rival" originations had disappeared; in their place ever lengthening Lists of local men who had lost their lives "at the front". Parade orders for the 3rd Romford Troop (by now known as "The Greys") continued to appear until mid-1915, when they, too, disappeared. Occasional reports of activities by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Romford Troops continued to appear, however, and these give hints of war work being carried out



by Scouts. At a concert in aid of the 2nd Romford, for instance, it was reported that "last year there was no camp, the Troop being on duty with other local Troops in guarding the railway etc." The 3rd Romford held a Supper and Distribution of Badges in April 1915, at which "War badges, for Scouts who have done 28 days duty of not less than three hours a day, on actual service in connection with the war, such as guarding bridges, carrying dispatches etc., were awarded to Patrol-Leader Donald McDermott, C.E. Dunlop, J.D. Puddy, B.R. Fox, and R.A. Williams." It is intriguing to note that each Scout attending the 2nd Romford concert was asked to take a new-laid egg, "to be sent to Mrs. Eric Wright for despatch for the use of wounded soldiers". In case it may be thought that "guarding bridges" was simply a game, it should be noted that, at the outbreak of war, there were 80,00 to 100,000 Germans domiciled in Britain and there were fears that they would try to interfere with our communications. [*Edwardian Children* Joanna Smith, Hutchinson 1983; *Baden -Powell*, Tim Jeal]

## COURAGE

On February 2nd, 1915, Scout E. Harris of the 2nd Romford was awarded the Silver Cross, but no details have emerged at present. [Source: "My Record Book" published by Headquarters, 1938] This might have been for courage under suffering, since the Cornwell Badge, now awarded for this purpose, was not created until after World War I, in memory of Boy Seaman Jack Cornwell, V.C. (who had been a Scout in Ilford.)

By 1916, references to Scouting had more or less disappeared from the columns of the Romford Times. However, on Easter Monday 1916 "over 30 of the Dagenham Scouts paraded under Scoutmaster Pearcey, and proceeded to Upminster Common, where they were joined by about 200 of the Romford District Scouts and were inspected by Sir Montagu Turner, who congratulated them on their efficiency. Scout games were indulged in, and were much enjoyed". There appear to have been close links between the Romford Troops and the 1st Dagenham (Wesleyan) Troop, which lends support to the previous suggestion that they were one of the five Troops in the Romford Association referred to in the Empire Day Report.

## TOPS AND TAILS

In spite of the difficulties created by the war, in particular the shortage of leaders, attention was paid nationally during this period to two age groups at opposite ends of the Scouting spectrum.

To start with, younger boys were wanting to join Scout Troops, but on account of their age were unable to keep up with the older boys. An experimental scheme was begun in 1914 and in December 1916 "The Wolf Cub Handbook" was published.. Wolf Cubs were aged 8 - 11; their programme was based firmly on Kipling's *Jungle Book*, they had their own distinctive uniform and their own motto - "Do Your Best". The boys responded with enthusiasm and by 1928 there were in Romford 180 Wolf Cubs and in 1937, 413. All Groups in Romford except those at the Royal Liberty School and Hylands School formed Wolf Cub Packs and they will figure later in this history.

At the other end of the scale, there were problems with older boys. The Government had established a Cadet force, which attracted some of our older members, and there were fears that membership would be made compulsory for older boys (as it already was in Canada, Australia and South Africa [Tim Jeal]), indeed, in 1909 Lord Haldane (Minister for War) had announced his intention (fortunately not fulfilled) of militarizing youth movements, and B.-P. took strenuous steps to combat this, to the extent of resisting his deputy's suggestion that he should seek War Office recognition for Scouting. It was doubtless, in part, to prove the usefulness of Scouts, that he encouraged the "civilian" war service referred to earlier, and following experiments in some Troops a "Senior Scout Section" was introduced in 1917, with a going-up age of 15. By 1919 this section had been given the name "Rover Scouts", with a uniform similar to the Scout section (but with distinctive trimmings), and a badge scheme suitable to their age. At a later date Rovers were given their own motto - "Service" - which became the driving force of at least one Romford Rover Crew as will be seen in due course. The going-up age was raised, in several stages, rising eventually to 17½, which created a renewed leakage problem as will be seen in the chapter on the Late Forties.



## 2 - THE NINETEEN-TWENTIES

### GROWTH

Very little about Scouting appears in the local paper in the early twenties - we appear to have been about as "good" at publicity as we have been in more recent years and this is surprising, since this must actually have been a busy decade with at least fourteen new Groups started:

- 4th Romford (Salvation Army)
- 5th Romford (but see below)
- 6th Romford (R.C.)
- 7th Romford (Royal Liberty School)
- 8th Romford (St. John's)
- 9th Romford (Royal Liberty School)
- 10th Romford (St. Andrew's, Romford)
- 11th Romford (Royal Liberty School)
- 12th Romford (Royal Liberty School)
- 1st Hornchurch
- 1st Upminster
- 2nd Upminster
- 1st Gidea Park
- 2nd Gidea Park
- 1st Harold Wood.

Two of these Troops had early successes. The 7th Romford was founded in 1923, soon after the school was opened, and in 1926 they won the Essex Scouts Swimming Gala at Chelmsford. The 8th Romford are thought to have started in 1923 and they won a cup for "the best turned-out Troop" in 1924. Early records of the 4th Romford were probably lost when the Salvation Army Youth Hall was destroyed by enemy action in 1944, but it is thought that the Scoutmaster in the mid- twenties was a Mr. Ashman and that the junior section (later Wolf Cubs) were called "Chums".

The early history of the 5th Romford is also uncertain and will be referred to again in the next chapter. Nothing concerning the 3rd Romford has been found after 1915, and it seems reasonable to assume that they were a victim of the war. This title was reused in 1937, but nothing has been found to connect the 1st Hornchurch, to whom it was given, with the original 3rd Romford. The 6th Romford (St. Edwards R.C.) had a rather chequered early history as described in Appendix 1. The 1st Gidea Park, founded by Miss Reid-Wilson (referred to elsewhere) apparently met at Gidea Hall (in what part is not known) until the hall was demolished in 1930.

### OUR MAN IN KHARTOUM

In January 1920 Brigadier-General J. T. Wigan became District Commissioner for Mid-Essex and Romford District, to be replaced in 1921 by

Brigadier-General C.H. de Rougemont, CH, CB, CMG, MVO, DSO, DL, JP. Each Local Association in this District had an A.D.C. who, it is suspected, was effectively D.C. Our A.D.C. was the Reverend Charles Steer M.C., who was Vicar of St. Andrews, Hornchurch. A.D.C. Wolf Cubs from 1923 was Miss D. Reid-Wilson. General de Rougemont, of Coombe Lodge, Great Warley, started his army career in 1885, was wounded and mentioned in despatches at Khartoum, and seven times "mentioned" in World War One. If the year of commencing his service in *Who Was Who* is correct, he was evidently in the relieving force at Khartoum, since the siege itself started in the previous year.

In November 1923, Mr. J. P. Foreman of Hooks Hall, Romford, was granted a Warrant as Commissioner for the newly-formed Dagenham Local Association, and it was presumably at this time that the 1st Dagenham left this Association, if they were, indeed, part of it. There were presumably other Dagenham Troops by then otherwise the establishment of a separate L.A. would seem to be superfluous.

In 1925, the Rev. Steer having left Hornchurch, Major Godfrey Pike of Upminster Court became A.D.C. Romford, but in 1926, following a re-organisation of the County, Romford became a District in its own right, and Major Pike became our first, very own, D.C. Major Pike's service was, however, short, and he was succeeded in 1927 by Lt. Colonel A. M. Turner, DSO, DL.

Boy Scouts and Cubs from local Groups formed a Guard of Honour at the Ardleigh Green railway bridge on 25th March 1925, when H.R.H. Prince Henry (later Duke of Gloucester) came to open the Southend Arterial Road [Article by John Drain in *Romford Record*, vol. 21]

We seem to have recovered from "hiding our light" by the latter half of the decade, and the following reports are culled partly from the pages - usually the front page - of the *Romford Times*

In January 1926 140 Scouts attended tea at Wykeham Hall. Afterwards "through the kindness of Major Godfrey Pike, the District Commissioner for Romford" they were treated to a private cinematograph show. Later, in February, there was a Wolf Cubs' Display at the Carlisle Institute (South Street) which was opened by Lady Gwendobne Colvin, wife of the County Commissioner. The 1st Romford, 2nd Romford, 8th Romford, 1st Gidea Park and 1st Harold Wood Packs attended. In September the District census showed 333 Scouts and Rovers and 181 Wolf Cubs.

## PHYSICAL TRAINING

During the summer of 1926, a District Sports was held at Cottons Recreation Ground, and in September, a District Swimming Gala. In 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 a Cup (which survives) was awarded for an "Athletic Dancing Championship". This was won by E.J. Alexander (1925), A.S. Halgath (1926) and J. Wells (1927 and 1928) but whether they were Wolf Cubs or Boy Scouts is not stated. Joan Walker has suggested that "athletic dancing" may have been akin to sword dancing. 1927 began with an Inter-club and Scout Boxing Tournament at the Red Triangle Club (Y.M.C.A., Western Road).

In March 1927 a Thanks Badge was presented to the Chairman of Romford Urban District Council in recognition of various assistance (unspecified) given by the Council; and in April a "St. Georges Day Celebration" was held at the Corn Exchange. This included an address by Sir Harold Downer L.L.B., a member of the Royal Society of St. George, the Scout hymn, prayers, and renewal of Promises followed by "community singing". The Scout hymn referred to would not, at this date, have been the Ralph Reader composition which we sing today, but was probably a very early Scout Hymn composed by W.C. Everett of Colchester, in which each verse is based on one of the Scout Laws. A copy of the words and music is in the District archives. The words are copied below although at the time copies could only be obtained from Mr E. A. Blaxill J.P District Commissioner of Colchester.

1. *FATHER of all! we come to Thee;  
We own Thy care, Thy praise we sing;  
Fill us with truest loyalty  
To Thee, our country, and our king.*
2. *Teach us to speak and do the truth,  
The false in speech and deed to shun,  
So that the honour of our word  
May trusted be by everyone.*
3. *Help us to copy Thee, and do  
The good that lieth near at hand ;  
Thus daily helping, may we learn  
How perfect is Thy law's command.*
4. *O Friend of all, help us to be .  
The friends of all; to understand  
The meaning of true brotherhood  
With every scout, of every land.*
5. *(Courteous to others may we be  
In word and act; true kindness brings  
A love for all God's family,  
A kinship with all living things.)*
6. *Forgive us all the times that we  
Have disobedient been and wrong;  
We would obey Thy holy Will;  
Against temptation make us strong.*

7. *When troubles come, and things go ill,  
Teach us to seek from Thee the grace  
That turns to Heaven a trustful heart,  
And to the World a smiling face*
8. *(Trusting Thy love, we know that We  
From anxious thought and care are freed ;  
Yet we by thrift provision make  
Against our own and others' need.)*
9. *Guard Thou our minds from thoughts impure,  
Our lips from all defilement stay.  
We are Thy knights! O make us strong  
To follow Thee through all life's way. Amen*

In 1927 Syd Feldwick (who first joined the movement as a Scout in Croydon in 1913) came to Romford from Guildford and formed one of the District's first Rover Scout Crews at the 2nd Romford. He became District Rover Scout Leader in 1932, was Group Scoutmaster of the (now defunct) 1st Collier Row Group from 1934-1939 and after war service was Assistant District Commissioner (Rover Scouts) from 1945 to 1958. He and his wife Margaret later became joint managers of the newly formed District Scout Shop.

## BRAVE BOYS

On January 18th 1928 Troop Leader J. F. Wooderson of the 1st Romford was awarded the Silver Cross for bravery. The presentation was made in April by General R.B. Colvin, County Commissioner (Essex) and the *Romford Times* reported: at "Dovercourt last August (Wooderson) dived from the sea wall to rescue a girl who was drowning. Although he was not a strong swimmer, he succeeded in keeping the girl above water until other members of his Troop came to his assistance with ropes".

In September of the same year Cub Sixer J. Cass, 2nd Romford, was awarded the same medal "For rescuing two boys from drowning in the sea at Thorpe Bay" No other details have been found.

## THE GROUP SYSTEM

Prior to 1928, Boy Scout Troops, Wolf Cub Packs and Rover Crews were registered separately, but in that year the Group system was instituted and the newly-formed Groups had to re-register. This was done without regard to the age of the various sections involved, and this accounts for some apparent anomalies in Group registration numbers which survive until today.

It seems that, in those days, parades terminating at St. Edwards Church assembled at Romford Station. There are hints that they then proceeded via Eastern Road, Junction Road and Main Road, but this is not certain. The shorter alternative, of course, was South Street, but even in the Twenties this was quite a busy road. The District Wolf Cubs held an Empire Day Parade starting at the station

in 1928, and the St. Georges Day Parade in 1929 followed the same course.

At a District dinner in January 1928 (attended by the Hon. Charles Rhys, M.P.) the District Commissioner, in replying to a toast, said that "more Scoutmasters were needed."

### ACROSS LONDON IN QUICK TIME

The Royal Liberty School Troops were in the forefront of overseas travel for Scouts and in August 1928 it was reported that when returning from France they "showed their fitness by trekking across London with their cart in quick time." The original 7th Romford was so successful that by 1928 a second Troop (the 9th Romford) was started at the school, followed in 1929 by two more Troops, the 11th and 12th Romford. The 9th and 11th, however, did not survive beyond 1939, but the other Troops outlasted the war, the 12th being run for over a year by its Patrol Leaders) and continued to have independent existences until 1969 when they were merged, finally closing in 1978.

In 1934 the 11th Romford, whilst camping in Belgium, won a trophy in a local swimming gala held *in the River Meuse* at Dinant! The school Troops invariably did well, also, in District and County Swimming Galas, having the rare opportunity - in those days - of training in the school's own pool.

In September 1928 the Rover Scouts of the District held a camp at Grey Towers, Hornchurch when the programme included instruction in folk dancing. Miss D. Reid Wilson (A.D.C. Cubs) presented the Rovers with a bust of the Chief Scout (for what purpose is not stated.) Miss Reid Wilson's name crops up frequently around this time and she was evidently one of the "personalities" who abound in Romford Scouting.

The Wolf Cubs, not to be outdone no doubt, had a District Tea at the 1st Romford's H.Q. (Brownsea Hall 1) when a totem pole for the highest marks in District Competitions was awarded to the 1st Harold Wood Pack. Another early success for a newly-formed section.

A Local Association registration in 1928 lists only eleven Groups - the 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th and 9th Romford, the 1st and 2nd Gidea Park, the 1st Hornchurch, the 1st Harold Wood and the 1st and 2nd Upminster. The 4th, 5th and 6th seem to have been temporarily defunct. The 11th & 12th Romford

had, however, still to be formed in this decade, and the 13th Romford, 2nd and 3rd Harold Wood, 1st Ardleigh Green and 1st Emerson Park soon after. in view of our perpetual concern over shortage of leaders, the following statistics are perhaps of interest:

	LEADERS PER GROUP	BOYS PER LEADER/HELPER
1928 (3 sections)	3.2	14.33
1996 (4 sections)	11	4.73

The area of the District in 1928 was stated as "Romford, Hornchurch, Upminster, Harold Wood, Havering, Noak Hill, Collier Row."

In 1929, a World Jamboree was held at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead to celebrate the coming-of age of Scouting, and it is probable that Bill Archer, then a Scout in Ilford, but later our District Commissioner, was there. His copy of the souvenir book - a full size, bound book, not a booklet - is in the District archives.

### 3 - THE NINETEEN –THIRTIES

Some of the information for the latter part of the Nineteen-Thirties is taken from four editions of "Scout Pie", the District Magazine, which were published between 1935 and 1938. Copies are available in the District archives. This was a period when Romford was growing rapidly, with new housing development particularly at Collier Row, Rise Park, Rush Green and Gidea Park.

In 1933, Upminster became a separate District embracing most, but not all, of the area administered by Hornchurch Urban District Council. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3rd Harold Wood, 1st Ardleigh Green, 1st and 2nd Gidea Park, 1st Emerson Park and 1st and 5th Hornchurch remained in Romford District. The new District comprised two "Local Associations" viz. Hornchurch and Upminster, and in 1937 Imperial Headquarters requested that, to avoid confusion, the 1st and 5th Hornchurch, which remained in Romford District, should be renamed. They were accordingly given the titles 3rd and 5th Romford respectively, both, apparently, reallocations of lapsed titles rather than reversions to earlier titles of their own. (The last record found of the original 3rd Romford was during the 1st World War. There must also have been an earlier 5th Romford, since seven Groups with higher Romford numbers are known to have started in the 'twenties whereas the 5th Hornchurch reported in "Scout Pie" No. 2 that they were founded in April 1935) Another 1st Hornchurch existed in Upminster District by 1945, and the whole District was renamed Hornchurch in 1956.



In 1934, Colonel Turner resigned as District Commissioner on moving to East Essex, and an illuminated address and book containing signatures of Romford Scouts and Scouters was presented to him. F. W. Ashby, one of the first 'officers' in 1908 was appointed in Col. Turner's place. An article, including a photograph, about Mr. Ashby appears in "Scout Pie" No. 2.

At a District Executive Committee meeting in 1934 a letter was read from the Cub Secretary "regretting the continued disregard of circulars issued" and complaining that he had further instances of information not having been passed on by G.S.Ms and others.

In an article for "Scout Pie" No. 1. in this year, Lord Hampton, Chief Commissioner at Headquarters, wrote "... may I put out the need for doing all we can to improve the physical standard of our boys". Sixty years later, in 1994, this had echoes in government concerns about the fitness of our schoolchildren. Nothing changes!

#### MORE BRAVE BOYS

In October (1934) the Cornwell Badge was awarded to Patrol Leader Ellis (2nd Romford, Newbury Park section) for fortitude in several years of painful illness, and Rover Scout Gordon Raper, 1st Gidea Park was awarded the Royal Humane Society's medal for saving a man from drowning at Southend in July.

In 1935, the District Scout Swimming Club had 170 members (of a total District membership of 1163). They had the exclusive use of Mawney Road Baths for two hours a week throughout the summer and one hour in winter, and "there were often attendances of over 100 members in an evening" Anyone who remembers the Mawney Road Baths (now demolished) will conclude that they trained in shifts, and changed standing on each others' heads! However, the next available pools were at Seven Kings and Brentwood (open-air) and swimming was an achievement greatly desired but difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, Scouts had to swim fifty yards as part of the First Class badge unless there were medical reasons why they could not. Jim Aylett, 12th Romford (A.D.C. Scouts after the war) was Secretary for Swimming.

In 1935 and 1936 two donations of £50 each were received from the Romford Police Court Mission in appreciation of the Association's work on behalf of probation boys. These are no further details in the minutes. Four Romford Rover Scouts attended the second World Rover Moot at Ingaro, Sweden in 1935.

#### THE POOR CHILDREN'S' TEA

In January 1936, the Rover Secretary was granted a loan to cover expenses with regard to "The Poor Children's' Tea". The actual event does not seem to have been reported in the press or in the minutes, and no other details have emerged.

The statement of accounts for 1934/5 shows a turnover of nearly £86 and assets of £165.10.7. (£165.53). A rifle club (of which little other information has survived) is shown as a liability to the tune of one penny!. This had apparently been written off by 1937. The club evidently owned some rifles which were surrendered to the police in 1938 (presumably in anticipation of the war) but it appears that no arrangements were made for their eventual replacement. As a result of the inauguration of a Scout Badge Competition the number of badges gained during the year 1934-5 almost doubled (from 94 to 187).



## CAMP SITES

During 1936 the District obtained the use for camping of a piece of land known as "Woodlands" in Slewins Lane, from Haynes Park Estates Ltd. Mr. Edmund Crisp, A.D.C. Scouts, took on the wardenship, and work continued on the site until the war. Events then apparently overtook this project and in June 1940 it was reported to the Executive that "the Association had been released from all liability in connection with the lease of Woodlands". Around this time, use for camping was also obtained of land at the northern end of Bedfords Park, and a hut erected. This hut suffered war damage, being reported in 1914 as being in bad repair, and it was removed in 1945. There had been considerable discussion in Committee as to where it should be moved, but the final outcome was not recorded.

## 1937: THE CORONATION OF KING GEORGE VI

"Scout Pie" reported:

*On Coronation Day "By 8.30 am. over 60 Scouts were scattered all over the District selling the Official Programmes. Although it rained in torrents during the early afternoon, we sold our quota of 1000 by the evening. The Scouts even invaded the local cinemas to sell the last few. Also during the morning, we sent representatives to the Town's Thanksgiving Service, took the collection, issued hymn sheets, and in the evening helped with Community singing in the parks."*

*"The Association was asked by the Council to provide a twenty minutes display as part of the Town Coronation Pageant. It was decided that this should take the form of a general march past - that is a District parade - followed by a tent-pitching competition, the erection of a model camp, a demonstration of signalling and the building of a bridge, all to proceed simultaneously. This programme was ably carried out and the Association put up a really effective display, the details being as interesting as the whole was striking."*

About thirty Scouts from the District attended the Scout and Guide Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey, and five King's Scouts from the District had seats along the Procession route. [Coronation report in Scout Pie No. 4]. These included Don Hakes and Harry Carver of the 1st Romford. ["1st Romford Scouts Ancient and Modern, 1982"]

## WORLD JAMBOREE 1937

The District was represented at Vögelenzang (Holland) by 3 "officers" and 16 Scouts from the

2nd, 8th and 13th Romford, 1st Ardleigh Green, 1st and 3rd Gidea Park. An extract from a report by "Freddy" Rowsell in "Scout Pie" No. 4. follows:

*The profoundest thanks are due to the Dutch Scouts for the provision of shower-baths, which helped so much to mitigate the tremendous heat. As we were well below sea-level, cut off by sand-dunes from the coast, no sea-breezes came our way.*

*We were soon afflicted with the usual Jamboree malady - swapping of badges, thirst for autographs of members of other States, and the spending of our hard-earned shekels on clogs,*

*The general camp-fires in the dunes will never be forgotten. On each occasion some 25,000 people were present. Some of the programmes were broadcast, though it hardly seemed needful to use radio at all to let the yells or the applause of such an audience be heard all over Holland. Sub-Camp IV. had their own camp-fires too, and one of these was broadcast. Probably the best item in these was the East Indians' dancing; at the final general camp-fire the greatest applause seemed to be given to the Scots' high-speed bagpipe performance, and to the Americans' Eagle Dance.*



Freddy Rowsell was one of the "characters" of Romford Scouting. A classics master at Brentwood School, he ran the Brentwood School Troop in addition to the 3rd Gidea Park, and was keenly interested in overseas travel for Scouts, specialising in what were then unusual locations for British holiday-makers. Under his leadership, the 3rd Gidea Park became the first British Troop to camp in Sicily (1950): an account by Scout Brian Hood of that camp appeared in Scout Pie in December of that year. In 1951 their summer camp was in Lapland, 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, the second overseas camp of that year. This is, however, leaping ahead in time.

## ROVER SCOUT SERVICE

In 1936 former Scouts from the four Royal Liberty School Troops formed a Royal Liberty Rover Crew (inspired by Rover Hugh Knights, who sadly died within a year - see Tribute in *Scout Pie* No.3) and on one weekend as Ian Petre reported in his *Cumculuin Auscultendi Duroliti* [Log of a Romford Scout]:

*'hired barrel organ at Stratford, brought it by train to Romford, spent Saturday trundling it round Romford Market, South Street, High Street, making hideous row and holding passers-by to ransom for charity'.*

## 1936 GRANT OF CHARTER MAKING ROMFORD A BOROUGH.

Scouts took part in the Romford Charter Tattoo.

*"An old Rover Scout organized a satisfying and macabre show based on the legend of St. George and the Dragon, which was well and convincingly acted by the large Scout contingent and, in contrast with the Coronation Show, illustrated that Scouts can play and work with the same gusto. [Scout Pie No. 4]*

On Charter Day itself, the Scouts were responsible for the sale of Charter programmes, the formation of the Guard of Honour for the Mayor and other general duties during the day. Rover Scouts assisted the Police with crowd control in Romford town centre.

## KIM'S HALL

During the 'thirties Scouts and Rover Scouts apparently from the whole District had a Physical Training Class on Mondays and Boxing and Athletics on Fridays, both at Kim's Hail, Hornchurch Road. Kim's Hail was donated, prior to 1934, by Captain Samuel Williams of Little Tomkyns, Upminster Common, who was A.D.C. (Rovers) in the early thirties, and was used by the 1st Hornchurch (later 3rd Romford) as a Group H.Q., in addition to use by the District for physical training activities, it appears that in 1946 there was some disagreement as to whether Capt. Williams had given the hall to the Group or the District, and this was resolved by his making a Deed of Gift in favour of the District. This was reported to the District Executive in June 1946, and a scheme of management approved the following month. Following the division of the District, the hall was made over to Squirrels Heath District. (This was formalised by a minute of the District Executive Committee on March 8th, 1949). Samuel Williams was also, presumably, the donor of the Samuel Williams Trophy for Scout swimming, which is still in use.

The District gave "assistance" (unspecified) at the opening of Rise Park in 1937.

## BADGES AND UNIFORMS

Proficiency Badges available to Scouts in 1937 included Beemaster, Bird Warden, Folk Dancer, Mason, Plumber, Prospector and Tailor. The list of Proficiency Badges for Cubs is very similar to the present Activity Badges, but not so many of them. Candidates for all proficiency badges, Wolf Cub and Boy Scout, and for all tests in the Scout First Class badge and Wolf Cub Second Star were tested by examiners appointed by the District. This ensured even standards and it was also B.P.'s intention that boys would thus meet new people, thereby expanding their horizons, and the examiners might also be enthusiasts in their subject who could encourage the boys to make further progress. The principle has now, perhaps sadly, been largely abandoned.

A Boy Scout uniform of the smallest size and cheapest quality could be bought in 1937 for 14/- (70p) [Scout Shop advertisement in *Scout Pie*]. That would, however, have been about a quarter to one-third of a week's wages for some of their Dads. The uniform did not, of course, include long trousers, but did include the old "wideawake" hat.

## THE COUNTY MARATHON

A regular annual feature of the Thirties, continuing into the forties and *fifties*, was the County Scout Marathon. In this event, teams of three Scouts cycled to a central point, visiting specified places en route, camping overnight (having found their own site) and writing a log of their journey. At the finishing point a detailed inspection of boys, equipment and cycles was carried out and log-books collected, in earlier days for marking later, but latterly a large team from the BP. Guild of Old Scouts read the logs - on an 'assembly line' system - while the inspection and tea were taking place so that results could be announced on the day. This event was extremely popular, over one hundred teams from the county being usual (the 12th Romford magazine reported 160 teams in 1946) and in many years the District ran a District Marathon to serve as training for this event. In later years a hiking section was added. After 1965 the newly-created County of Greater London North-east ran one or two similar Marathons, but they were then dropped. The District Marathon survived until 1968 when it, too, was dropped because of parental reluctance to allow their boys to camp in unknown places. The Barton Challenge [see Appendix 3] was later amended to take its place.

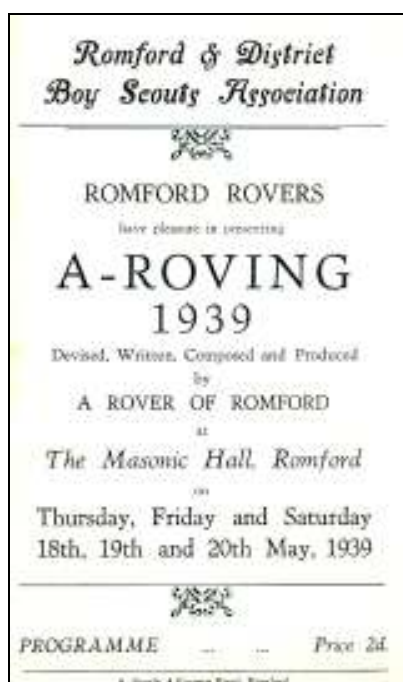
## ASSOCIATION OFFICES

In the early days, the District apparently rented an office in Brownsea Hall 1, but this was destroyed by fire in 1934. Executive Committee meetings were then held at various locations, notably the meeting room at Mawney Road Baths. From about 1937, however, the District had the use of a large detached room adjoining "Albyn Cottage", St. Andrews Road. A figure for "office rent and heating" re-appears in the accounts for the year ended September 1937, but, oddly, nothing appears in the minutes about the arrangement, which, however, continued until the last District meeting was held there in June 1959. The author believes the room may have been the original St. Andrews schoolroom.

## VOLLEY BALL

From at least 1934 a District Scout Volley Ball League existed. Matches were played in the various Troops' normal meeting places, and this proved to be an excellent way for the Scouts of the District to get to know each other. The game was actually hand-ball rather than volley-ball: our own Romford rules were published in Scout Pie No. 5 (December 1950) and the league was still in full swing then. Later, from about 1944, continuing until about 1949, there was a District Football Team which held matches with other Districts. A District Football Committee existed, and in 1946 they reported that the team was doing well, but little else has been found. There was evidently an arrangement for Scouts to play cricket at Heath Park School, as in 1942 a difficulty arose over others using the ground at the same time.

## "A-ROVING"



Two events concluded the Thirties. For three nights in May 1939, Romford Rovers presented "A-Roving 1939" devised, written, composed and produced by "A Rover of Romford", at the Masonic Hall, Romford. Proceeds were in aid of the "Romford Scouts Campfire Fund". Nothing else concerning this fund has been found: one wonders if it had something to do with the Poor Children's Tea mentioned earlier.

The talented "Rover of Romford" was actually Eric ("Sam") Sergeant, 12th Romford, whose name tragically appeared, just a few short years later, in the World War II Roll of Honour. There was, however, a sequel. In 1945, Eric's younger brother Desmond was co-producer with Bunny Warren of a Gang Show by the 12th Romford Troop. In the Troop's log, Des. recorded:

*"Ever since my brother produced the "A-Roving" shows, I wanted to produce one myself, and "Gang Show" was the fulfilment of my wants. My only regret after the show was that "Sam", or as I knew him Eric, was not there to help Bunny and I through our rough Spots"*

Also in May, a District Scout camp was held at Bower Park, Havering, attended, according to the press report, by 257 Scouts and Scouters. The 12th Romford log records: "At tea-time there was a very fine assortment of cakes to offer to the visitors, the tea however tasted very strongly of stew, the dixie having been used to cook the dinner in the morning". (in 1937, an 8th Romford report on a camp stated "but that idiot Charlie had let some paraffin from his bike lamp get on the bread, so that mucked up our supper". Ah, well, boys will be boys!)

## SCOUT PIE

Scout Pie appears to be an annual Romford District Scouts publication. First produced for the year 1934 – 1935 issue 4 was issued for the year 1937 – 38. There is then a break presumably due to the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war with issues 5 and 6 being published in 1950 and 51 respectively.

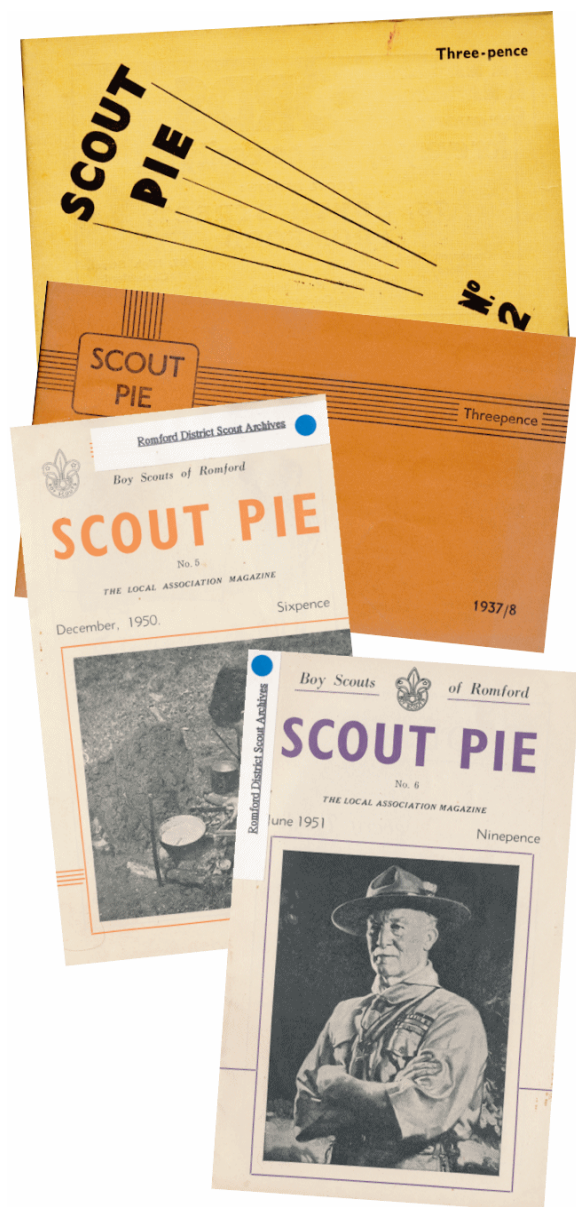
The contents is best described as a cross between a district AGM report, District directory and district news letter. The first four editions contain reports from each group as well as reports from district officials and district reports for each section including Cubs, Scouts, Rovers, the swimming section, football section and boxing section!

As well as a directory of all Scout leaders and district officials Scout Pie contains an extensive list of badge examiners.



Scout Pie also contains a record of the district accounts and district calendar but it is the group reports, news articles and adverts for Romford shops that are of most interest to the historian.

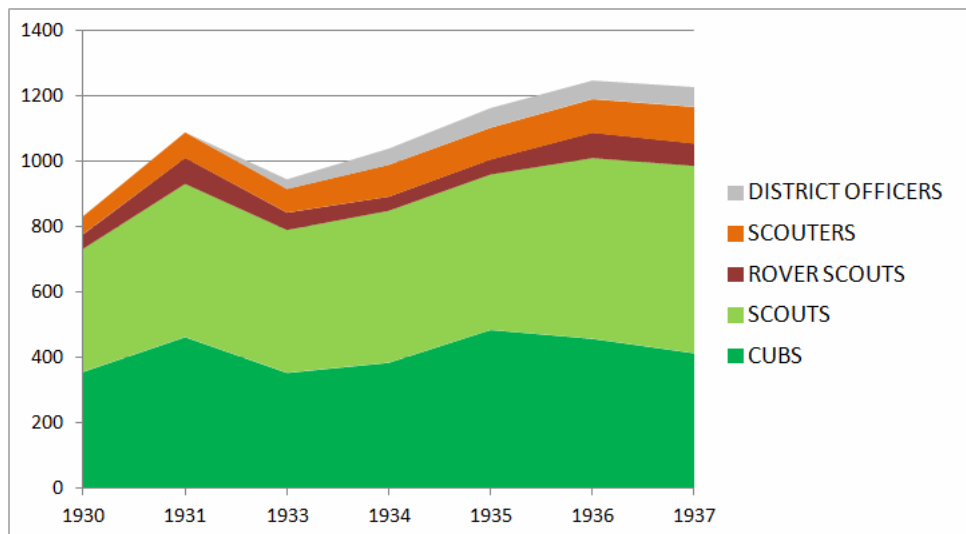
The 1935 – 36 edition includes a full page advert for the “Romford Red Triangle Club” based in north street Romford. Apparently the club was open to “all young people of good will” and its aims were fellowship and service. The advert includes a slip that you can get your Scout Master to fill in for you so that he can recommend you for one month’s free membership!



## CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE THIRTIES

	CUBS	SCOUTS	ROVER SCOUTS	SCOUTERS	TOTAL	NOTES
1930	356	376	44	55	835	
1931	462	468	80	79	1095	
1932	Not Available					
1933	353	436	53	73	915	+30DistrictOfficers
1934	384	464	43	98	989	+50District Officers
1935	484	475	46	98	1103	+ 60 District Officers
1936	457	552	78	104	1191	+ 56 District Officers
1937	413	572	69	113	1167	+60DistrictOfficers

1938 & 1939 NOT AVAILABLE



(The large number shown as "District Officers" is somewhat mystifying but this could include Vice-Presidents, District lay members, and possibly badge examiners. In the 'thirties, dues to County and Headquarters were not on a *per capita* basis, so these people could be included without financial penalty. Excluding these people, whoever they were, the 1936 figure represents 10.45 boys per leader.)

## 4 - THE NINETEEN-FORTIES.

The first half of this decade was dominated by the Second World War (1939-45). There were many difficulties but Scouting carried on, perhaps because of the legacy of strength in the 'Thirties. The District Annual Report for 1940 shows that most Scout Troops were meeting on Saturday afternoons, that a surprising number of camps were still being held, and at least one Cub Pack was meeting in air raid shelters. A number of Cubs and Scouts were evacuated, and it was reported to the District Executive Committee in 1940 that around sixty adult leaders were away on war service. By the middle of the war Wilf Brown, A.D.C. Scouts was running three Troops in addition to his duties as A.D.C. The 13th Romford Gang Show in 1940 was held in the Brewery Air Raid Shelter!

F. W. Ashby, District Commissioner, died in 1940 while still in office. (An article about him, including a photograph, had previously appeared in *Scout Pie* No.2.) His dying wish (as stated to the District Executive by his son) was that Mr. Will Payne, founder S.M. and later G.S.M. 8th Romford, A.D.C. (Physical Education) and Warden of Bedfords camp site, should succeed him. Mr. Payne, however, declined the appointment and Mr. E. C. Crisp, G.S.M. 1st Emerson Park, became D.C.

### HEROES

In January 1941 the Posthumous award of a Bronze Cross (the Association's highest award for gallantry) was made to 13-year old Ronald Eke, 1st Ardleigh Green Troop as a result of courage displayed when his home was demolished by a bomb and both his parents killed. Ronald died in hospital the following day. A photocopy of the Romford Times report of this boy's bravery is in the District archives, and photographs of Ronald and a Bronze Cross are on page 50 of *"Hitler v Haverling"* compiled by Peter Watt [Canton Armitage Press, 1994]

This award was followed in October by a Silver Cross to 15-year old Eric Sheppard, 3rd Gidea Park Troop, "for gallantry and fortitude he displayed when assisting in the rescue of members of his family buried in the wreckage of their home after the explosion of a heavy calibre bomb during a severe air raid on the district in May." [A photocopy of the Romford Times report is in the District archives.]

### B.-P.'S DEATH.

B.-P. died on 9th January 1941, and on the 18th January Romford Scouts, with contingents from the Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade, and Air Cadets, held a

Memorial Service at St. Edwards Church. A photocopy of the Romford Times report is in the District archives, in view of wartime difficulties, it must have been quite an achievement to arrange a District service in such a short time. Later, in 1947, ten Wolf Cubs from the District attended the service in Westminster Abbey for the unveiling of the Memorial to B.-P. Miss King (A.D.C. Cubs) reported to the District Executive: "They were thrilled with the service and were complimented on their smartness and behaviour."

Also in January 1941, Headquarters approved the formation of Air Scout Troops, and by March it was reported to the District Executive that a Troop was already in existence in Romford and meeting at Ashby Hall under Mr. Koester (S.M. 8th Romford) and Mr. Cleaver (S.M. 1st Romford). In September, registration was approved under the title 18th Romford and by July 1942 they were reported as having over 40 members. Mr. A. E. Palmer was later appointed A.D.C. Air Scouts in addition to being A.D.C. War Scouts. By 1943 there were 95 Air Scouts in the District (38, 18th Romford; 57 3rd Harold Wood)

### WAR SERVICE

Throughout the war, Scouts served as messengers in the Civil Defence service. Stan Lucas (later G.S.L. 4th Gidea Park and Secretary of the Romford District Scout Fellowship) recalls:

*"Yours truly was a Messenger at the Town Hall Control Centre during the war, together with Roy Walker and Bob Nunn, both of the 13th Romford and I was with the 18th Romford Air Scout Troop based at Ashby Hall.*

*"When the request came for older Scouts to act as messengers I reported to the Wardens post in Collier Row Lane next to the police station. This was post E8 under Senior Sector Warden Mi Kemp.*

*"Word came that messengers would be based at the Town Hall Report Centre so it was a shift to higher things, and the issue of ill-fitting overalls with an ARP [Air Raid Precautions] badge on it. I recall that Messengers had to do a similar course as the Air Raid Wardens and we sat in the old Court House in South Street to hear about various poison gases and at the end we received a nice certificate.*

*"I remember that messengers slept in a building opposite the Laurie Hall and had to dash across to the Town Hall when the air-*

*raid siren went. In the sleeping area there was a light kept burning all night (blue I think), known for some reason as the 'Fido light' after Mr. "Fido" Palmer. Leaders in charge of the messengers included Will Brown (A.D.C. Scouts, later D.C Squirrels Heath] and Jack Jones [later G.S.L. 10th Romford]. Molly Heffer (?) was one of the ladies in charge of the Guide telephonists - speak to them at the peril of your life! Always a free breakfast and if Mrs. Knight was on duty you got a good breakfast, but if the other lady was on ... was her name Molly? you got starvation rations.*

*"I suppose we treated it all as great adventure, not realising the true horror of it all. I remember how proud I was to wear my National Service badge on my Scout shirt. Was it half a crown (12 ½ ip) we used to get for bike maintenance? Exact duties carried out are a bit vague ... there was one incident in Gidea Park and another in Rosedale Road, where 1 queued up with the rescue team to get a sandwich and cuppa from the mobile canteen. I was sent to Collier Row to the Lodge Lane incident and recall that all three of us (Roy, Bob and self) were complimented on our efforts, and we were to be recorded in the official diary We kept sending messages to the Town Hall whilst some of the Wardens were in a panic, trying to rescue people instead of manning the post. We were promised special lanyards to wear with our Scout uniforms, but these never turned up.*

*"One incident sticks out in my mind. One evening when all three of us were on duty together, a group of wardens were at the rear of the Town Hall for stirrup pump drill. Some old furniture was set alight in a concrete building and as the wardens were reluctant to crawl in and squirt the water, the three of us showed them how to do it. As a result we got wet through and were sent home: I got well and truly ticked off by my Mother."*

A photograph, not of Romford, but of Hornchurch Scouts manning the control room in the basement of "Langtons" is on page 8 of *Hider v Havering* referred to earlier. The Mobile Canteen which Stan refers to is pictured, attending the Rosedale Road 'incident', on page 134 of the same book.

Roy Walker (District Commissioner 1982 - 1989) was a member of the 13th Romford War Service Patrol and, together with Stan Hall (District Chairman from 1991, but then a member of the 7th Romford) recalls helping to erect Morrison (indoor) shelters for those unable to do so for themselves. These shelters consisted of a steel framework, a heavy steel plate for a top, and wire mesh sides

which had to be strained into place with a special tool. Roy recalls that there were 5-6 boys in each team, and the operation had to be carried out with no unnecessary noise. He claims his Patrol's record time was nineteen minutes. Stan says that the 7th time must therefore have been less! The 2nd Gidea Park were also reported in District minutes as having assisted in this work. A photograph of a completed Morrison shelter is on page 90 of *Hitler v Havering*.

In May 1942 it was reported to the District Executive Committee that about 80 Scouts had applied to attend a War Harvest Camp. It is also recorded that Scouts assisted with Civil Defence Exercises, and took part in a number of parades promoting War Savings. In 1942 the District received thanks from the Mayor "for their part in the United Nations parade when despite short notice over 370 members were on parade".

## **CAMPS**

As mentioned earlier, a surprising number of camps were still held during the war and in 1941 the 7th Romford held their summer camp at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, and the 3rd Gidea Park at Wray Castle, on the shores of Lake Windermere. A report on the latter by Freddy Rowswell appears in the Romford Times for 20th August. All District competitions were cancelled in 1940, but were getting back to normal by 1941. Mr. J. Newton Davey (later Assistant County Commissioner for Rovers) was appointed to keep in touch with members serving in the Forces. The District A.G.M. for 1941 was held on a Sunday afternoon.

On 8th November 1942 the Rattlesnake Lone Patrol - later the 3rd Collier Row Group - was started by Alf Reeve, an expatriate from the 1st Havering Troop, who became it's Patrol Leader and who later became Scout Leader, a post which he held for many years. Alf tells the story, including how his Patrol were responsible for the arrest of a spy, in his entertaining - often hilarious - book: *"A Very Ordinary Troop"* [Bower Publications, 1992].

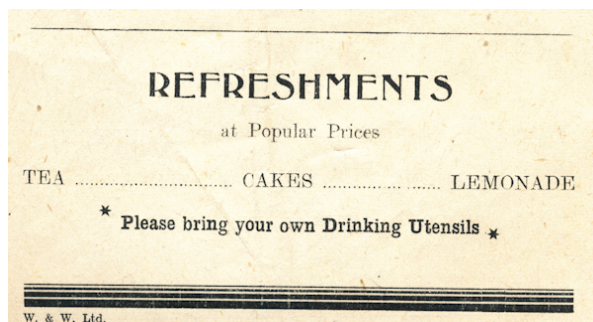
## **VISIT OF THE CHIEF GUIDE**

A Scout and Guide Rally was held at Heath Park Schools in July 1943 and was attended by Lord Hampton (Chief Commissioner), Lady Rasch (Guide County Commissioner) and Major Magor (Scout County Commissioner) and in June 1944 a "Scout and Guide Display and Fete" also at Heath Park Road School was opened by the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell in the presence of Lady Rasch and Major Magor. The displays were "Formation of the Union Flag", Physical Training (Scouts), Brownie Games, "After the Blitz", St. George and the Dragon, Country Dancing, Cub Tests, Charades, Camping Pageant, Physical Training (Rangers) and an Inter-District Pioneering Lest.





The *Romford Times* reported that about 2000 members of the two Associations, with colours, took part in the March Past. An indication of wartime shortages is that under the heading "Refreshments" in the programme, visitors were asked to "bring your own Drinking Utensils". On the Sunday following the rally, a Drumhead Service was held in Raphael Park, attended by bands of the 1st Gidea Park and 3rd Harold Wood Troops. The lesson was read by 11-year-old Raymond Hare, 1st Ardleigh Green.



Early in 1944 the V1 "Doodlebug" attacks having begun, there was a fresh round of evacuation of children from Romford, most of the original 1939 evacuees having long since returned home, and this had some impact on attendance at Cub and Scout meetings for a while.

The first two months of 1944 saw the publication of two editions of *The Monthly Moan*, subtitled "The Mouthpiece of Romford P.Ls." This was a semi-satirical newsheet, published by "Romford Scouts Underground Press", the editors remaining anonymous because "one cannot walk about in a suit of armour these days". In the second (and apparently the last) edition the editors, commenting on lack of support for the Franklyn Shield Competition ask "is it that P.Ls. are scared of it or simply not interested or perhaps it's too much FAG". There have been times in recent years when A.D.C. (Scouts) Paul Leeper has been asking the same questions. The Competition has, however, had varied fortunes. In 1960 thirty-seven Patrols took part and in 1965 when it was held at a mystery location outside Romford (actually Tolmers, Cuffley) there was enough support to justify hiring four double deck buses to get the boys there. See Appendix 4 for more about the Franklyn Shield.

## THE ASHBY AND FORCES MEMORIAL FUND

During the war, consideration was given to a memorial for the late Francis Ashby and those former Romford Scouts who had lost their lives during the war. A fund was established by a minute of the District Executive Committee in September 1944, and launched in April 1945. A permanent camp site was the favoured option and, in spite of wartime and immediate post-war difficulties, various fund-raising activities were held under the banner "Get That Camp Site This Year". The precise objects of the fund were restated to the Executive Committee in 1951 as follows:

1. To acquire and maintain a permanent camping and training ground for the Scouts of the Romford and District and the Squirrels Heath District Boy Scouts Association and afterwards:
2. To assist Groups in obtaining their own headquarters either by way of grant or loan.

However, following the division of the District (see page 15), by a resolution of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association held on 14th November 1951, it was decided to divide the fund equally between the two Associations.

## WORLD WAR II ROLL OF HONOUR

An original Roll of Honour which existed after the war is missing. The following has been reconstructed from currently available sources and may be incomplete. In addition, with wartime leader difficulties, it is possible that some names were not recorded, or known about, in the first place.

BANNISTER,	Hugh 8th Romford	GILBERT, Basil	8th Romford
BURTON, E.C.,	7th Romford	GODWIN, Fred	3rd Gidea Park
CASS, V.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford	HUGHES, W.A.	12th Romford
CLEMENTS, R.	1 <sup>st</sup> Gidea Park	KENNARD, Selwyn	13th Romford
COOKE, L.A.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford	KINSMAN, J.E.	12th Romford
CORNELIUS, R.	12 Romford	LLOYD, David	3rd Gidea Park.
COATES, R.	12th Romford	MOLYNEUX, D.	7th Romford
COOPER, H.B.	12th Romford	POSTON, A.R.	3rd Gidea Park.
DAVIDSON, F.C.	3rd Harold Wood	SARGEANT, Eric	12th Romford
DAY, H. H.	12th Romford	SIBTHORP, G.A.	12th Romford
DEVINE, Ronald	8th Romford	THOMPSON, Norman	8th Romford
ERSKINE, Roy	13th Romford.	WARDEN, Derek	1st Emerson Park.
GARNRAM, Leslie	8th Romford	WATSON, W.	12th Romford
GARNHAM, Philip	8 <sup>th</sup> Romford	WHITAKER, R.G.H.	3rd Gidea Park.

### CIVILIAN WAR CASUALTIES

EKE, Ronald (aged 13) 1st Ardleigh Green.  
 KEEN-NICOLASS, W.W.A. (Home Guard) 3rd Gidea Park.  
 SMITH, JAMES WILLIAM (aged 17) 1st Ardleigh Green.

### DECORATIONS

APPS, RONALD .G.E., 3rd Gidea Park. Military Cross and Bar. (See next page)  
 CALDWELL. CECIL F. 3rd Gidea Park. Distinguished Flying Medal and Cross.  
 COTTIER, DENNIS, 3rd Gidea Park. Distinguished Flying Cross.

TRANSCRIPT of Commanding Officer's recommendation for the award of a MILITARY CROSS to Lt. (temporary Captain) RONALD APPS [Public Record Office, WO 373133]

"On the 22nd April 1944 Captain App's company was the leading company of the attack on NINGTHOUKHONG VILLAGE [Burma]. Crossing the open space in front of the village his company came under concentrated and sustained HMG and mortar fire, and sustained very heavy casualties. Captain App immediately took over command of the leading elements and led them forward close to the enemy bunkers. Here with only 15 men left he was pinned to the ground in the open. He continued to engage the enemy with his remaining men while the wounded were being evacuated by carrier, and maintained his position under heavy fire for three hours until ordered to withdraw. During this time, to evacuate some casualties close up to the enemy, Capt. App himself took over a carrier and drove it up under heavy fire to within 100 yards of the enemy position and close to a located anti-tank gun, and brought away four men. His gallant conduct was an inspiration to all who saw him and undoubtedly saved the lives of the four wounded men who were lying up close to the enemy. He subsequently organised the successful withdrawal of his company bringing away all wounded and weapons.

He was himself slightly wounded" [Crown Copyright. See reverse of title page]

TRANSCRIPT of Commanding Officer's recommendation for the award of a BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS to Captain (temporary Major) RONALD APPS, M.C. [Public Record Office WO 373/37]

"On the night of 17/18 Feb. 1945 the KYIGON bridgehead [Burma] was heavily attacked by a battalion of Japanese. The attack was preceded by a heavy bombardment which swept the area and caused casualties amongst Major App's company who were largely composed of young soldiers and were shaken. At 0200 hours a very heavy attack developed against Major App's company. This attack went on till 0400 hours when the spearhead of the attack succeeded in over-running three trenches and occupying them. Major App steadied his men and organised a counter attack.

"The reserve was called for but, as it formed up to charge, Major App and a small party threw smoke grenades and charged in. Major App personally shot the Jap Battalion Commander, cleared the trenches and reoccupied the position.

"His conduct throughout the night was magnificent. Not only did he exude confidence throughout but he inspired his young soldiers to hang on after the forward trenches were overrun and his personal bravery in the final assault was worthy of the highest praise. Forty-two Japanese including three officers were found lying outside the perimeter of Major App's company in the morning."

[Crown Copyright. See reverse of title page]

The awards to Cecil Caidwell and Dennis Cottier were reported at the time by F.R. ("Freddy") Rowswell, Scoutmaster, but I have been unable to find any further information. Royal Air Force records in the Public Record Office are not "user-friendly", so I was advised, and research in a number of published books and elsewhere has proved fruitless. If any reader can provide any further information, I shall be glad to hear of it.



## THE LATE FORTIES: SENIOR SCOUTS

In the very earliest days boys were allowed to remain in the Scout section more or less indefinitely. As shown in the Chapter on "Early Days" this proved to be unsuccessful and, as already seen, in 1917 B.P. introduced Rover Scouts for boys over fifteen. The age was subsequently raised to 17 (and at one stage 17½) but it was found that this resulted in a huge leakage at the age of around 13-14. Boys of this age were wanting to show their paces as Patrol Leaders and "Seconds", but found older boys in their way' and, as Lord Somers (second Chief Scout) wrote in 1943 "a boy becomes a senior at a certain age, and if he has to spend his Scout life almost entirely with the younger boys of the Troop he will in nearly every case lose interest, gradually adopt the pace of the younger boys, or leave the Troop" Consequently many Troops found themselves with a large number of small boys, and a few "Peter Pans". More successful Troops had experimented with separate activities for the older boys, (a scheme was proposed in *The Scouter* May 1943) leaving the field clear for the 14-year olds, and experience with War Service Patrols was taken into account, and in October 1946 "Senior Scouts" were made "official" for the age range 15-17½, with their own Troops, own Patrol Leaders, own activities and own badges designed for their age group. Patrols were named after explorers and the Senior Scout motto was "Look Wide". Although in November 1948 A.D.C. Jim Aylett reported that "he was very worried about the Senior Scouts in the District", those were early days and some Senior Troops went on to become very successful, reaching around twenty members. In later years, County organised some well-supported night exercises for Senior Scouts in various parts of Essex, and we held at least two of our own in Epping Forest. There was a proposal in 1952 to fuse Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts, but this did not actually happen until 1966 when Venture Scouts were created.

In 1945, to commemorate his year as Mayor, Alderman A. J. Dyer presented the District with a cup, to be awarded annually "to the Scout Group which, in the opinion of an independent person or persons, has, during the previous twelve months, most worthily carried out the Scout Law and principles." in practice, the award was made on the basis of Commissioners' visits, camp reports, and co-operation with the District in such matters as attendance at meetings and events, response to Secretary's letters and so on. The cup was first awarded in 1947, jointly to the 3rd Gidea Park and 12th Romford.

Haydn Dimmock, editor of *The Scout* encouraged boys to become his "Personal Representatives" in their Groups and to send in reports. In December 1946, one of these, Troop Leader Colin O'Hare, 4th Gidea Park, reported:

*The 4th Gidea Park Troop holds regular bike and cycle rides and some of the Scouts recently visited I.H.Q. A recent night stunt was successful. All Patrols are working hard for the new badges. Magazines are being collected for a local hospital, and a bob-a-job week is being arranged. Plans for the future include a parents' evening and a bazaar.*

A portrait of Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout, was awarded each week to the Troop sending the best report and it was won on that occasion by the 4th Gidea Park.

In about 1947-48, the use of the original camp site within the bounds of Bedfords Park having lapsed, Romford was offered a piece of woodland to the north of Bedfords Park (west of the present cricket field). Unfortunately there were difficulties with this site in regard to vehicular access and the impossibility of keeping the public out, and the project therefore lapsed after a few years. While it lasted, a number of Groups used the site (carrying their equipment from the car park) both for camping and day activities. A number of people functioned as wardens of this site, amongst them H. de Caux (Chase Rover crew), Alf Reeve (3rd Collier Row), Jim Fogg (1st Havering) and John Moore (A.D.C. Senior Scouts)

## FORMATION OF SQUIRRELS HEATH DISTRICT

As mentioned earlier, in 1947 eight Groups separated from Romford becoming, firstly, a separate Local Association within Romford District, and in 1948 a separate district (Squirrels Heath) with their own D.C. Mr. E. C. Crisp resigned as D.C. in the summer of 1947 and W. G. ("Bill") Archer, became D.C. from 1948. Bill began his Scouting with the 15th Ilford at St. Andrews, The Drive in 1919. After moving to Romford he became Assistant Scoutmaster of the 7th Romford and was Scoutmaster from 1942. He became A.D.C. (Scouts) towards the end of the war, and D.C. as stated, in 1948. Following his service as D.C., he became Borough Commissioner on the formation of the London Borough of Havering in 1965. Also Chairman of the 3rd Gidea Park Group Executive Committee, he died in 1990. The Bill Archer Trophy for Beaver Sports was presented by his daughter, Joan, in 1991.



## **WORLD JAMBOREE**

In August 1947 thirteen Romford Scouts attended the Sixth World Scout Jamboree at Moisson, France. A photocopy of a report in the *Romford Recorder*, based on an interview with Peter Bridgstock, Troop Leader of the 12th Romford, is in the District archives. For France to host a World Jamboree only three years after the end of German occupation was in itself a remarkable achievement.

During 1948 twenty-three Romford Rover Scouts took part in the Eastern Counties' Rover Moot at Felstead School, and in September the District mounted a camping exhibition on a grass area in front of Lambourne Hall, Western Road (approximately where British Home Stores now stands) in support of a Road Safety Exhibition being held inside the hall.

In February 1948 sixty Troop Leaders, Patrol Leaders and Patrol Seconds from twelve Troops attended a District Patrol Leaders' Conference which was addressed by Mr. F. Haydn Dimmock, Editor of *The Scout*. Three of the Patrol Leaders produced a wall-sheet (which is in the District archives) in which the co-editors, C.B. O'Hare and T. Barnes, summarising a discussion on "courtesy" commented "Briefly, we are not encouraged by the public to be courteous."

## **CROW CAMP: PRE-NATAL PERIOD**

Also around 1948, some Groups started using the land which subsequently became Crow Camp and also another piece of land in Benskins Lane. The full story of Crow Camp appears as an appendix to this History. Continuing the camp site theme, in 1948 Essex Troops were asked to contribute to the cost of the trees which now form "Essex Chase" at Gilwell.

In 1949 we hosted French Scouts following the Essex International Jamboree at Hockley. Also in 1949, berets became optional wear for Senior Scouts, Rover Scouts and Scouters and this was extended to Scouts in 1954.

## **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE**

During the 'forties the initials S.O.R.O. crop up frequently. They stand for "Scouts' Own Religious Observance" and frequent Scouts' Owns were held at various locations around the District (usually reported as "well attended") in addition to the regular St. Georges Day Service. One of the driving forces was Mr. P. A. Mann, S.M. 2nd Gidea Park, and Secretary of the Association of Methodist Scouters. Secretary for SORO was a Mr. Kingsnorth.

There is no record of Cubs' Owns being held at this period, but they will be referred to in a later chapter.

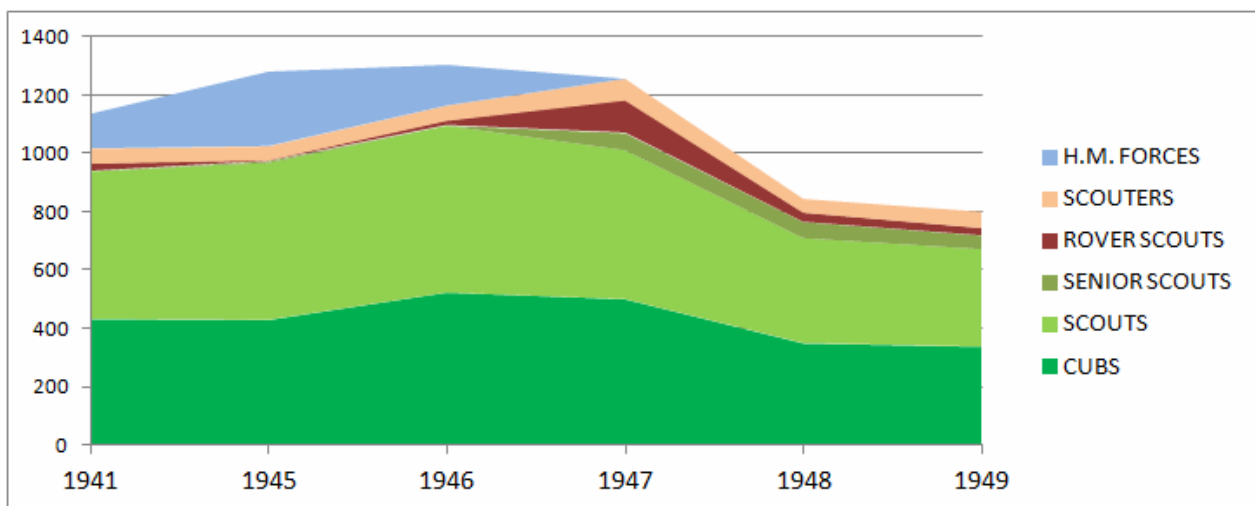
## **BANDS**

Very Senior Citizens tend to associate Scouts with wide-brimmed hats, shorts, Good Turns and bugle bands. However, very little on the latter has emerged from the archives. The 1st Romford had a band in 1937/1938 (at any event they set aside one evening a week for band practice), the 1st Hornchurch too in 1937 and the 1st Gidea Park and 3rd Harold Wood (both now in Squirrels Heath District) played at the Drumhead Service in 1944 reported earlier in this Chapter. A Scout band was photographed leading our St. George's Day Parade through the market place in 1948, and this was, presumably, one of the last two mentioned.

## CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE FORTIES

	<u>CUBS</u>	<u>SCOUTS</u>	<u>SENIOR SCOUTS</u>	<u>ROVER SCOUTS</u>	<u>SCOUTERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>H.M. FORCES</u>
1941	433	507	-	26	52	1018	119
1942-44	CENSUS NOT TAKEN.						
1945	430	539	6	3	48	1026	257
1946	524	573	-	16	53	1160	140
1947	501	512	58	112	75	1199	
In this year we "lost" eight groups to squirrels heath district							
1948	350	361	55	32	48	846	
1949	338	335	47	25	57	802	

Scout figures for 1941-1946 include air scouts and a few Sea Scouts (3rd Harold Wood?). No air scouts shown for 1947, but Rover figure for that year includes 59 Rover Air Scouts. The six "Senior Scouts" shown for 1945 were War Service Scouts. 1941 figures represent 18.58 boys per leader. Note 20% of members in H.M. Forces in 1945.



## 5 - THE NINETEEN-FIFTIES

### OLD SCOUTS

In June 1948, Headquarters inaugurated the B.-P. Guild of Old Scouts and an exploratory meeting was held in Romford in October of that year. A local branch of the Guild got off to a good start, having a reported 40 members by October 1949, and in 1950 and 1951 they carried out various service tasks for the District such as stewarding at the St. George's Day Services and Swimming Gala, and assisting in the arrangements for Bob-a-Job Week. However, by 1952 it was reported that membership had dropped from 65 to 13, and in 1967 the Guild was wound up altogether. It was not until the 'eighties that it was restarted under the name "Scout Fellowship" (see Chapter 8).

### EXPANSION

Towards the end of 1949 the first houses on the new London overspill estate at Harold Hill were completed amidst a sea of mud, and in October 1950 Ted Butcher, formerly of the 3rd Gidea Park, opened the first of four Troops on the estate - meeting on the first evening under a lamppost, but afterwards in the estate contractor's canteen until the first school was built nearly two years later. Three Cub Packs were eventually started in this Group by A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs) Miss Phil. King (subsequently Mrs. Brown). Her method was to start a Pack, hand it over to a 'helper' who inevitably became Cubmaster before long, and move on to start another. A number of Packs in the District owe their birth to Phil. Her father, Mr. J. T. King (shoemaker of Victoria Road), was a stalwart supporter of the District in the background. There have been two long-serving leaders in this Group: one serving for 42 years and the other for 28 years as a Scouter and a further 12 as Group Chairman - but these are matters for a Group history.

Two further editions of *Scout Pie* were published in December 1950 and June 1951 respectively. The second of these contained an article on "Caving in the Mendips" by Senior Scout J. Purton, 12th Romford, describing an activity which became very popular with some Senior Scouts in the District in the 'fifties and 'sixties.

In July 1950, Syd. Feldwick, A.D.C. (Rovers) reported a need for more blood donors and remarked that "some Scouters and Rovers had already been good enough to give donations".

### 1951 WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE. AUSTRIA

Four Scouts from Romford - D. Dear, 8th Romford, A. Green, 12th Romford, J. Ford, 13th Romford and

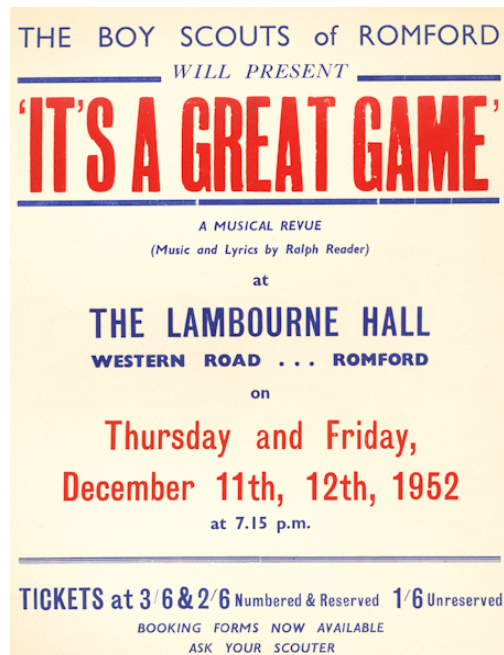
one from the 7th Romford (un-named in the minutes) attended the World Scout Jamboree at Bad Ischl, Austria in August 1951. It is believed that our D.C., Bill Archer, was leader of the Essex Troop at this Jamboree.

Also in 1951, Rover Scouts from the District, in pursuance of their "Service" motto, erected a large number of temporary flagpoles at Chigwell Youth Camp in preparation for an international event.

In 1950/51 a District Senior Scout magazine existed edited by King's Scout Dennis Dear, 8th Romford, but no copies have been found. The magazine did, however, make a profit, and in May 1952 the sum of fifteen shillings (75p) was passed to the District for the credit of the Jamboree Fund.

In 1952, Eric Pattrick, formerly District Cubmaster was appointed A.D.C. (General Duties) with special responsibility for the Harold Hill estate. By that time there were two Groups on the estate, with a third about to be formed, in addition to the 4th Gidea Park catering partly for Harold Hill and partly for the Romford Council estate on the west side of Straight Road.

In December 1952, the District staged a Gang Show entitled "it's a Great Game" (Music and Lyrics by Ralph Reader) at the Lambourne Hall, Western Road. Memories include Syd Feldwick (A.D.C. Rovers) and other Scouters as fairies, and noisy competition from table tennis in the upstairs hall. £10.10.0 (£10.50) from the proceeds was donated to the Romford War Memorial Fund.





## 1953: THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Brian Denton, 12th Romford, (there may have been others from Romford) had a close view of the procession. Having spent the previous week delivering official letters to the various hotels in which foreign royalty and heads of state were stabled, on the day itself the Lord Chancellor had given his permission for the Scout messengers to line the pathway from the Abbey to the road, thereby getting an excellent view as a recompense for their services [Letter from Brian Denton, August 1996] Another Romford Senior Scout (unnamed in the minutes) was stationed in the Palace forecourt to assist in manoeuvring the royal coach.

Scouts sold programmes on the Coronation procession route and David Hart, the present District Commissioner (1997) but then a member of the 2nd Collier Row, has the following recollections:

*We had a very early stall, my fellow P.L. Terry Williams and myself, as we had to be in London by 6a.m.! When we got out of the tube station it seemed that people were everywhere, many of them still trying to sleep on the pavement It was, of course, raining, but this did not dampen the spirit amid everyone was in a happy mood. Our base was a Ministry of Health Building to the rear of Regent Street, We were briefed, given the programmes we had to sell and sent out into Regent Street to work. All morning we walked among great crowds, selling our programmes, and, after a break to eat our sandwiches, back we went.*

*There are many memories, but perhaps one of the most vivid was at the moment of the Queen's crowning, which was heard on portable radios and by the firing of gun salutes. The vast crowd stood and sang the National Anthem.*

*We were on the route back from Westminster Abbey to the Palace and had been told that we would probably not be able to see anything Then, just before the procession was due, we were taken out and through the crowd to the front, between the R.A.F. men lining the route. We could not have had a better view. I will not forget the parade of servicemen from the Commonwealth, the well-known people in the coaches, and Sir Winston Churchill leaning out of the coach window and waving.*

*The end of the procession was drawing near with the coaches of members of the Royal Family. At last you knew that the Queen's coach was coming because you could hear*

*people singing the National Anthem. The singing followed the coach along and then, there it was. The Golden Coach with a young Queen, dressed in her robes of State with the Crown on her head. She held the orb and sceptre in her hands. Whoever could forget a sight like that? After it was all over we made our way home. 'Tired and damp, but remembering a day that will never be forgotten.*

*But for me it was not all over. As soon as I arrived home, I had to play the piano for our street party!*

As part of the local celebrations Romford Scouts put on a display of Scouting in Raphael Park. This included a trek cart race in which teams of Senior Scouts raced to a start line with a trek cart loaded with pioneering gear and rucksacks, constructed a (partly prefabricated) bridge, dismantled the trek cart and carried it over the bridge together with the rucksacks, dismantled the bridge, re-assembled and loaded the trek cart and raced to a finish line. Teams accomplished this in less than fifteen minutes. Wolf Cubs, Scouts and Rovers also took part and our entire display lasted 1½-2 hours. A chain of beacons around the country was lit on Coronation night, and we were responsible for the Romford beacon in Bedford Park. We also sold 1686 official Coronation programmes locally.

Correction: The display of Scouting in Raphael Park attributed above to the Queen's Coronation celebrations was actually in 1951, probably in connection with the Festival of Britain (but this awaits confirmation).

Later in 1953, a District Patrol Leaders' Conference was held at Gilwell. For some years in the Fifties a regular District Good Turn in the autumn was to rake up the huge quantity of plane leaves on the Training Ground at Gilwell, and this was generally incorporated into an activity weekend of some kind. Towards the end of the same year, the 1st Havering formed a "B" Troop, and the 6th Romford established a Troop at St. Mary's, Hornchurch, which was transferred to Squirrels Heath District later in the year.

A "St. Georges Day Reunion Supper" was held annually jointly with Squirrels Heath District until 1954 when it was decided to abandon it and invite Squirrels Heath Leaders to our annual Christmas/New Year Party instead.

In 1955 Syd Feldwick resigned as A.D.C. Rovers, and Vic. Vaughan, G.S.M. 8th Romford, was appointed in his place. Also in that year Phil. Brown resigned as A.D.C. Cubs and Eric Pattrick was appointed in her place. A year later, Rex Bradfield became A.D.C. (Senior Scouts) and John Moore

A.D.C. (Scouts). Rex Bradfield resigned a year later due to work commitments.

Some German Scouts were hosted in Romford following the Essex County Jamboree in 1956.

## **DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS**

In 1955 the 1st Romford Group, having been given notice to quit tire land on which Brownsea Hall II stood, considered the purchase of land at the end of Dunton Road, and to the rear of houses in Park Drive, but found that the cost of levelling the ground was beyond their means, and in November the District Executive asked to be given the option to purchase. The actual purchase at a cost of £255 (including indemnity insurance and fees) was approved by the District Executive Committee on 12th June 1956, and this land became the site of the present District H.Q. Following four years of work by teams of Senior Scouts, Rover Scouts and Lay Members led by Vic. Vaughan, A.D.C. (Rovers) together with work by Contractors, a headquarters building and separate toilet block were ready for use late in 1960, and the first meeting of the District Executive Committee in the new building was on 8th November 1960.

From 1956 until about 1964, Essex Rover Scouts staged an annual Motor Rally, generally by night, although there was one daytime event. Romford Rover Crews invariably entered several teams in this popular event, and in 1962 we bagged five of the first ten places. Each year's winners were expected to organise the following year's event, which was quite an undertaking in view of the large number of marshals etc. needed. Motor rallies generally became too popular during this period and -following a period of regulation by the R.A.C. - finally died out in the Sixties because of the nuisance to country-dwellers.

Each year during the Fifties and Sixties assistance was given by Romford Scouts at the Romford Music Festival for which a letter of thanks was received from the Council each year.

## **GANG SHOWS**

The 12th Romford Gang Show in 1945 and the District Show in 1952 have already been mentioned, but also in the fifties Group Gang Shows were presented by the 2nd Romford, 3rd Gidea Park, 13th Romford and 2nd Collier Row Groups.

## **1957: SCOUTS SILVER JUBILEE**

As host country, Great Britain had a large contingent at the World Scout "Jubilee" Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, Twenty-eight Romford Scouts attended, mostly as members of Essex "B" Troop, led by our A.D.C. John Moore, 3 Scouters attended the associated Leaders indaba,

and three Rovers the Rover Moot. A Reunion of Romford members attending was held in November 1958.

Nearly forty years on, David Lamb, then a Senior Scout in the 1st Harold Hill Group had these recollections:

*If you were to plan a trip from London to Birmingham by train, travelling via Colchester and Ely would not be an ideal route. Yet in 1957 several hundred Scouts from Essex and London made this trip to attend the Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield. Getting nearly thirty-five thousand Scouts from all over the world to one English station must have been a planning nightmare for British Rail: but they did it!*

*Each day there were displays in the main arena where demonstrations of Scouting activities were put on by various countries. One of the most spectacular was put on by the contingent from the United States. Hundreds of Scouts in authentic costumes performed Red Indian dances and then gave a demonstration of fire-lighting by the old method of rubbing two sticks together. The grand finale was lighting a fire using a tree trunk the size of a telegraph pole, held upright with guy ropes and then rotated backwards and forwards on a wooden board by two teams of Scouts hauling on a rope looped around the pole. It actually worked.*

*One of the biggest pastimes was trading badges. The main road through the camp site was like an eastern bazaar with groups of Scouts trading and bartering. Many Groups, especially the Americans, had come with special trading kits of badges, scarves and woggles.*

Following the Jamboree, over 100 Austrian Scouts were entertained in Scouts' homes in Romford. The programme provided included a visit to the Ford Works, a tour of the Brewery and a social at Wykeham Hall. Parts of the booklet given to the visitors were translated into German by Patrol Leader Roy Wilder, 7th Romford. Other members of the 7th Romford acted as interpreters.

In celebration of the Jubilee, the District gave the Council a seat which was sited at the junction of Main Road and Repton Avenue. A photo of the presentation appeared in the *Romford Times* for October 9th. Romford Council Parks Department mounted a floral tribute in Raphael Park.

1957 was also the Centenary of B.-P's birth and Scouts from Romford took part in Thanksgiving Services both in Romford and at Chelmsford

Cathedral. A copy of the Order of Service is in the District's archives.

By 1958, the 1st Harold Hill, already mentioned, having 56 boys in the Troop, formed a Sea Scout Troop to absorb some of the eighty-strong waiting list. Late in 1957 or early '58, the 13th Romford Senior Troop constructed a substantial bamboo bridge across the foyer of the Odeon Cinema, South Street, to support the showing of the film "Bridge on the River Kwai". A photograph appeared in *The Scouter* magazine for April. 1958.

In 1959, the 10th World Scout Jamboree was held at Manila, Philippines. No Romford Scouts appear to have attended.

Since this is "mid-way" Chapter, the opportunity will be taken here to review a few subjects which have been ongoing throughout the years before resuming the year by year account in the Sixties.

## BASIC TESTS

From the earliest days until the Report of the Chief Scout's Advance Party referred to in the next Chapter, the pattern of basic tests for Wolf Cubs and Scouts was as follows:

### WOLF CUBS:

Tenderpad	Preparation for Investiture
One Star.	A metal star worn in the cap - "one eye open"
Two Stars	"Both eyes open"

### BOY SCOUTS:

Tenderfoot	Preparation for Investiture
Second Class	"No boy will want to remain second class for long" - B-P
First Class	

following which the Scout could gain "cords" of various colours for gaining 6, 12 or 18 Proficiency badges.

Prior to the advent of Senior Scouts, the coveted King's Scout Badge was the province of the Boy Scout section.

Details changed over the years, but the tests remained substantially the same until 1966. As an example, the following are the tests a Boy Scout had to take *before investiture*, taken from the 1952 edition of "P.O.R."

- (1) *Preliminary*. Know the Scout Law and Promise, and their meaning in accordance with his age; the salute as explained in Camp Fire Yarn 3 of "Scouting for Boys"; and the composition of the Union Flag, and how to hoist, break and fly it.
- (2) *Health*. Clean a wound, and make and apply a dressing.

- (3) *Observation*. Make the woodcraft signs given in Camp Fire Yarn 4 of "Scouting for Boys".

- (4) *Pioneering*. Demonstrate with rope how to tie the following knots: reef, sheet bend, clove-hitch, bowline, round turn and two half hitches, sheepshank; and explain their uses. Whip the end of a rope.

## JOB WEEK

The embryo of Job Week was actually a single day towards the end of the 2nd World War to raise funds to send Scout Relief Teams into Europe in the wake of our advancing armies.

In 1949 the concept was reintroduced to raise funds for Headquarters, prior to the introduction of a Capitation fee (Membership fee from 1977), and each Scout and Cub was expected to raise a stated sum of money. It was originally titled "Bob-a-Job Week" - a "Bob" (for those whose childhood commenced after 1972) being a shilling (now 5p). However, when inflation started in earnest, it was found that some members of the public were taking the 'bob' too literally (the author recalls two boys who spent three mornings creosoting a fence at Harold Wood for a bob each) and the name was changed to "Scout Job Week" as it is today.

At the same time, the number of houses unoccupied during the day was growing rapidly, which was discouraging for the keenest boys, and several Romford Groups experimented with "post boxes" where members of the public could "book a Scout" (or a Cub). These experiments do not seem to have lasted for long so can, perhaps, be regarded as not too successful.

With the introduction of Capitation Fees in the sixties, Groups were given the option of continuing with Bob-a-Job - putting any surplus into their own funds, or making good any deficiency - or raising the fee in some other way. Very few Romford Groups now exercise the option.

Apart from the money, Job Week does seem to have generated more press publicity than almost anything else we do - cartoonists have an annual field day - and "Bob-a-Job" has become almost as large a part of our national heritage as "Dyb, dyb, dyb".

## ADULT LEADER TRAINING

Another ongoing aspect of Scouting has been the training of adult leaders ever since the first "Course of Instruction for London Scoutmasters" in 1910. One wonders if Messrs. Ashby and Mackness attended that course.

The pattern of Wood Badge training, as it came to be known, which is familiar to older leaders was as follows:



- a) A Preliminary Training Course, run by Counties and related to the particular section in which a leader intended to work. This was usually a weekend course, and on completion one could wear the "Gilwell woggle"
- b) A week in camp, at which one belonged to a Patrol or Six and took part in Pack or Troop meetings and activities with the Leader Trainers acting as Scouters. These camps were run mainly by counties, but also at Gilwell, which had the added benefit of being international. In the author's Patrol on Scout course 247 at Gilwell were a Ugandan, an American and a Swede.
- c) Another part - and for some the hardest - was written and was carried out by post in three stages, rather like a correspondence course. Candidates were invited to answer in writing questions relating to the running of their Packs, Troops or Crews tire books being forwarded to Gilwell who sent them on to a team of anonymous "Readers" - we had at least one in Romford - who added their comments and recommended the candidate for a 'pass" or - very rarely - recommended that the candidate should be given some help from his or her A.D.C.
- d) Finally, four months supervision locally from an A.D.C.

After all that, one was entitled to wear the coveted Wood Badge and many are the tales of the difficulty in getting those beads "in the old days".

Nevertheless, District minutes are peppered with reports of leaders who had completed their training, so it couldn't have been *that* bad!

In later years the pattern of Leader Training has changed so many times, and is still changing, that it would be tedious to outline even the current procedure. Readers who want to know are free to try a "hands on" experience.

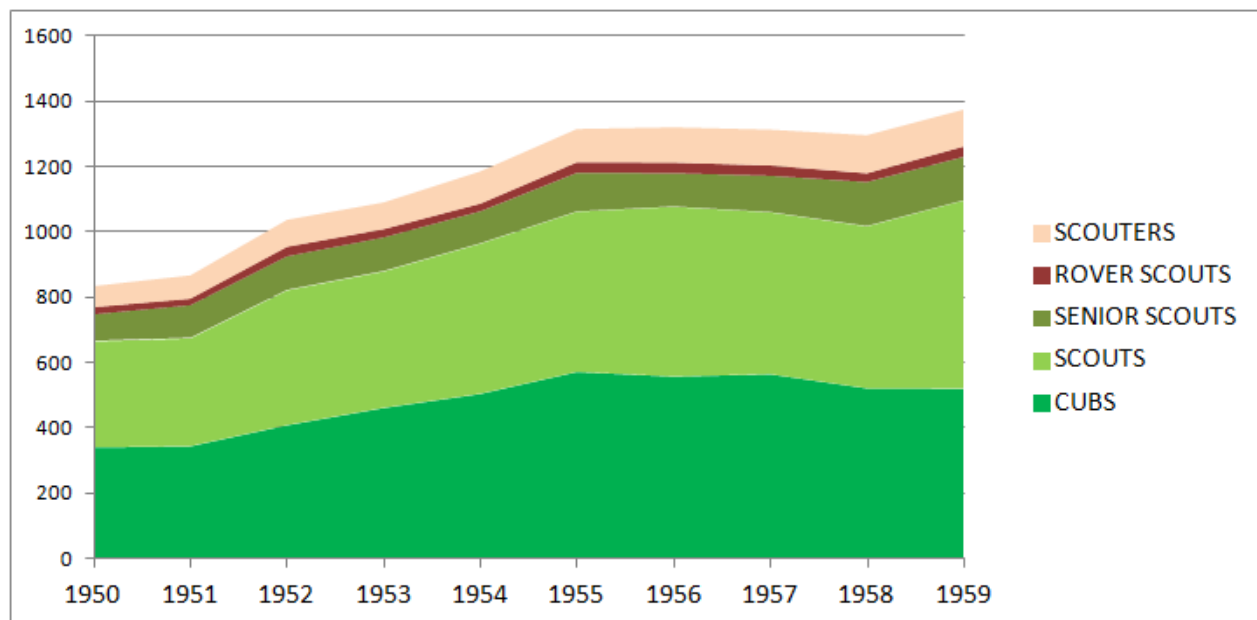
## CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE FIFTIES

It is noteworthy that by 1955 our total membership had recovered from the loss of eight Groups to Squirrels Heath District eight years earlier.

	CUBS	SCOUTS	SENIOR SCOUTS	ROVER SCOUTS	SCOUTERS	TOTAL
1950	341	324	81	23	65	834
1951	345	329	100	21	72	867
1952	409	412	103	30	83	1037
1953	462	417	103	26	82	1095
1954	505	459	98	24	99	1185
1955	572	490	118	33	102	1315
1956	558	519	102	33	108	1320
1957	565	495	111	32	110	1313
1958	522	495	135	27	117	1296
1959	521	575	133	32	113	1374

The 1959 figures represent 11.16 boys per leader.

Going-up ages: Cubs - Scouts: 11 Scouts - Senior Scouts: 15. Senior Scouts - Rovers: Minimum 17.



## 6 - THE NINETEEN-SIXTIES

The 'fifties were the decade of Teddy Boys and Rock 'n' Roll, and while these trends caused alarm in the minds of some older folk, they were as nothing compared with the Mods and Rockers and teenage gang fights of the 'sixties. Nevertheless, and in spite of adult concerns over the state of the nation's youth, our numbers remained high during both decades reaching our all-time peak of 1374 in 1959, followed by 1356 in 1960 and 1362 in 1962. This trend is particularly noticeable in the figures for Senior Scouts - the age group which one might assume was most "at risk" - which reached their peak of 147 in 1962.

### CAVALCADE

In September 1959, many Troops and Senior Troops took part in the "Cavalcade of *Youth*" organised by Romford British Legion at Romford Stadium, and this was to some extent a "warm-up" for a similar event in September 1960 when we surprised the audience by filling the arena with activity for the penultimate display. Lightweight tents were pitched, flagpoles constructed with staves, ballistas fired paper cannon-balls into the crowd, the Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts constructed an aerial runway (from a pre-erected scaffold tower), and as a climax, flags were broken at the head of the flagpoles then, as all lights went out, twenty small fires sprang up around the arena. All, including clearing the arena, in the space of twenty minutes.

In November 1960, the 2nd Romford organised a Night Cycle Rally for the District's Senior Scouts, and in January 1961, Senior Scouts from Romford, under the leadership of John Moore, A.D.C. (Senior Scouts) staged a display of "transporter races" at the Camping and Outdoor Life Exhibition at Olympia.

### SERVICE

The 1st Harold Hill Group formed a Rover Crew in December 1959, and, since some of the members, as Senior Scouts, had assisted with Essex camps for handicapped Scouts, the Crew soon became involved in a major service project, namely the running of a Scout Troop at Trueloves, a Shaftesbury Society home for severely disabled boys at Ingatestone. This work continued until Rover Scouts ceased to exist in 1967 (see below) after which, Charlie Lawrence, Rover Scout Leader, continued the work as a Scouter in Chelmsford district. This Rover Crew also organised several night incident hikes, primarily for Harold Hill Scouts, in the Noak Hill/Navestock area. In 1960 nine Patrols from five Troops took part. Also in 1960, Rovers from various Crews in the

District acted as a security force during Guy Fawkes celebrations in Bedfords Park.

During 1963 three Romford Senior Scouts and the A.D.C. (Scouts) sold programmes on the route of Princess Alexandra's wedding procession. On St. George's Day, 1965, we erected and lit a beacon in Bedfords Park on behalf of the National Trust in connection with their "Operation Neptune".

### BADEN-POWELL HOUSE

In July 1961, Ian Kirby, 1st Harold Hill, as both a Queen's Scout and holder of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, was a member of the Guard of Honour to Her Majesty the Queen at the opening of Baden-Powell House.

The following Romford Groups contributed funds for the building of the House and are recorded as "Founder House Groups" in the register kept at Baden-Powell House:

4th Romford, 12th Romford, 2nd Collier Row, 3rd Collier Row, 1st Harold Hill.

Long trousers became permissive wear for Senior Scouts, Rover Scouts and Scouters in 1961. In 1962, the District donated £100 from the proceeds of a Christmas Draw to the Freedom from Hunger campaign.

The Essex County Marathon has previously been mentioned, and in 1961 160 teams took part including 13 from Romford. (4th Gidea Park (3), 13th Romford (5), 2nd Collier Row, 2nd Romford, 3rd Gidea Park (2) and 19th Romford, most of them gaining pennants for being in the top twenty of their class.

### THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Nine members of the District were members of the British Contingent to the Austrian National Jamboree at Baden in August 1961. The boys are not named in the District minutes but are known to have included Sea Scout Patrol Leaders John Lamb and Alan Tremain, 1st Harold Hill.

The 11th World Jamboree was held at Marathon, Greece in 1963. Stephen Crutchley, 4th Gidea Park and B. Sheklrake, 13th Romford, were our representatives.

In 1964, the 8th Skien Group from Norway made the first of a number of 4-yearly visits to Romford following Essex County Jamborees. They were accommodated in the homes of Harold Hill boys and leaders (later, when they added a Patrol of girls, with the aid of Harold Wood Guides) and the 1st Harold Hill have paid two return visits to Norway, in 1970 and 1975. The following extracts

are taken from the History of the 8th Skien Group, published 1995.

*"To stay in an English home has been an experience for boys, girls and leaders. In the same way I think our visits to London have been. A world-city, overwhelming with big traffic and millions of people. Our Scouts still remember their visits to St. Pauls, Westminster Abbey, Madame Tussauds etc. (In Westminster Abbey we always have made a halt to pay homage to the memorial of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell in gratitude for what they did for the youth of the world)". And from another contributor:*

*"The camps in England will forever be special for the scouts taking part in them. Travelling abroad in the 60s was not so common as later. For many of the scouts these tours were the first meeting with the world outside Scandinavia. We got a good impression of English scouting combined with English daily life, culture and places of historic interest"*

The 2nd Collier Row hosted about twenty Scouts from Iran following the same Jamboree in 1964, entertaining them to a Group picnic in Bedfords Park, and a sightseeing trip to London.

In 1966 "The Old Gravel Pits, Chequers Road" (Crow Camp) were leased to the Association by Havering Borough Council. For a fuller history of Crow Camp, please refer to Appendix 3.

In September 1966, "The Scout" magazine, which had been a source of inspiration for many Scouts since 1908, ceased publication.

## **1966: THE CHIEF SCOUTS ADVANCE PARTY REPORT**

In 1964, the Chief Scout (Sir Charles, later Lord, McLean) set up an "Advance Party" to examine every aspect of Scouting and make recommendations for bringing the movement "up to date". In an insert in *The Scouter* magazine in September 1964, the Chief Scout invited everyone, Scouters, Cubs, Scouts, Senior & Rover Scouts and lay members to write in with suggestions.

A report was published in 1966, and the following is a summary of some of the principal recommendations as they affected Groups:

- Scout Law simplified; Cubs to make a slightly altered version of the Scout Promise;
- Reversion to a three section movement comprising Cub Scouts (8-11), Scouts (11-16) and Venture Scouts (16-20). Rover Scouts therefore ceased to exist.

- Titles changed. "Boy Scouts Association" became "The Scout Association". Cubmasters became Cub Scout Leaders, Scoutmasters became Scout Leaders. Group Scoutmasters likewise became Group Scout Leaders.
- Uniforms changed. Khaki shirts/jerseys replaced by a green shirt for Scouts, beige for Venture Scouts and leaders; long trousers, already optional for Senior and Rover Scouts and Scouters, became normal uniform for Scouts and above. Woollen Cub jerseys replaced by lighter weight material.
- Badges changed. Cub First and Second Stars replaced by Bronze, Silver and Gold Arrows.
- Scout Second and First Class badges replaced by Scout Standard, Advanced Scout Standard and Chief Scout's Award.
- "Dyb, dyb, dyb" in the grand howl replaced by the words in full.
- Minimum Standards introduced (as in Rules 8.1(e), 8.2(g), 8.3(h) and 8.4(1) of the current (1995) edition of *Policy, Organisation and Rules*.)
- Retirement age for active leadership fixed at 65.

There were in all 409 recommendations (most of which were subsequently accepted) and it is beyond the scope of a District History to summarise them all, but a copy of the report is available in the District archives. Most of the changes took effect in 1967.

Venture Scouts inherited more from Rover Scouting than from Senior Scouts. Proficiency badges disappeared, likewise Patrols (and therefore Patrol Leaders). The programme became "unstructured" in accordance with youth service thinking at the time, and was intended to be planned by an elected committee. Many units, however, have failed to attain a large enough membership to make election practicable. Venture Scouts, however, have done a great deal in the "Service" tradition of Rover Scouts, and this will be referred to again in later chapters.

## **ODD THINGS THAT ROMANS WEAR**

A Cub Pageant was held at the Albert Hall in 1966, and Bill Adams (then A.D.C. (Scouts)) and a team of helpers produced a Roman forum, complete with spears, shields, tridents and swords. Eric Pattrick (A.D.C. (Cubs)) and helpers provided uniforms and "other odd things that Romans wear" [District Circular, July/August 1966]

In 1967 Bill Archer ("Badger") resigned as District Commissioner on appointment as Borough Commissioner and Peter Giles (from Ilford District) was appointed District Commissioner. One of Peter's first moves as D.C. was to promote the establishment of a District Scout Shop, under the

management of Syd and Margaret Feldwick, who have been mentioned earlier, in order to obtain a financial advantage from the new uniforms introduced by the Chief Scout's Advance Party. Unfortunately, probably due to tire financial restraints under which they were then operating, Scout Shops Ltd. were unable to supply adequate stocks of the new uniforms quickly, and this caused some frustration locally. In the long run, however, Peter's foresight resulted in the success story which is told in the chapter on the 'nineties.

The 12th World Jamboree was at Idaho, U.S.A. in 1967. Ron Symonds, 13th Romford, represented Romford, and was selected as a Patrol Leader. The five Scouts from Havering who attended received some attention in the local press, as they were kitted out in the new uniforms, the result of the Chief Scout's Advance Party Report. An interesting and detailed article by Ron appeared in the 13th Romford magazine later in the year, and is reproduced in full in a supplement to this history entitled "1967", available on request.

### **DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION 1967**

Six Romford Troops took part in the Greater London North-east Diamond Jubilee Camp at Schmitburg, Germany, 50 miles south of Koblenz in the Rhein/Pfalz, near the town of Kim. Camp Leader was John Moore, Assistant County Commissioner (Scouts), formerly Scoutmaster of the 7th Romford and A.D.C. (Senior Scouts) for Romford, (and later to become County Commissioner). The Romford Troops which took part were the 2nd Romford, 13th Romford, 2nd Collier Row 4th Gidea Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering and 1st Harold Hill).

The camp site was in a beautiful steep-sided valley with a fair-sized stream running through, and a mined castle (where the local German Scouts hold their investitures) visible on one of the heights. Reports by two leaders who were with their Troops are in the 1967 supplement referred to above.

Venture Scouts took part in an associated Expedition in which they left the train at various points en route, and hiked to Kim to join the Scouts for the return journey. A report by "Tig" of the 13th Romford is also in the 1967 supplement.

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, Havering Council Parks Department mounted an attractive floral tribute comprising a flower-covered tent (complete with Scout badge in flowers), and three model Scouts around a camp fire. At night the display was floodlit and the camp fire glowed. A photograph by Peter Giles, D.C., appeared in *The Scouter* Magazine in September 1967.

Cub Scouts Russell Turley and Simon Westley, 13th Romford, represented Romford at the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey. The 2nd Havering hosted French Scouts from the XVth Pioneer Group, Angers.

### **CAMPING THROUGH THE AGES**

Also in 1967 we took part in the Romford Home and Trades Exhibition in Oldchurch Park, at which seven groups displayed tentage appropriate to the seven decades of Scouting: 1907 Bell tent (2nd Collier Row); 1917 14' x 14' tent (1st Havering); 1927 Gilwell Hike Tents (3rd Gidea Park); 1937 Small Patrol tents (10th Romford); 1947 Bivouac tent (8th Romford); 1957 Bukta Patrol tents, (13th Romford); 1967 Hike tent with "A" poles and frame tent (2nd Romford). Cub Packs took it in turns to hold their Pack meeting at the ground on each evening the Exhibition was open.

A Cub football league started in 1967, 12 Packs taking part initially. A trophy was presented by Mr. Fred Feaver, 11th Romford. During the early 'sixties an attempt was made to restart air Scouting in the District, under the leadership of Mr. Ken Ward, but in 1967 he reported that it had not been too successful, but he hoped air activities could be encouraged as an activity for Venture Scouts.

### **A COURAGEOUS CUB**

During 1968, Cub Scout John Bauldry, 10th Romford, was awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Meritorious Conduct for the courage and determination he displayed following a major heart operation.

### **IN 1969...**

The first District cyclo-cross competition for Scouts was held at Crow Camp, becoming an annual event, still being held.

The 3rd Havering Group started at St. James' Church, Chase Cross Road, beginning with a Cub Pack. The first leader was Alan Gates. The early successes of some sections were noted in an earlier chapter, and it is appropriate here to record that this new Pack won the Cub section of the District Swimming Gala in 1970.

### **AND STILL IN 1969....**

An Upminster leader 'with 45 years' Scouting experience' was reported in a full page article in *"The Recorder"* as saying that Scouting "hadn't much of a future".

The 1st Havering Cubs were praised by the Council for cleaning up the environs of the stocks and Whipping post on Havering Green.

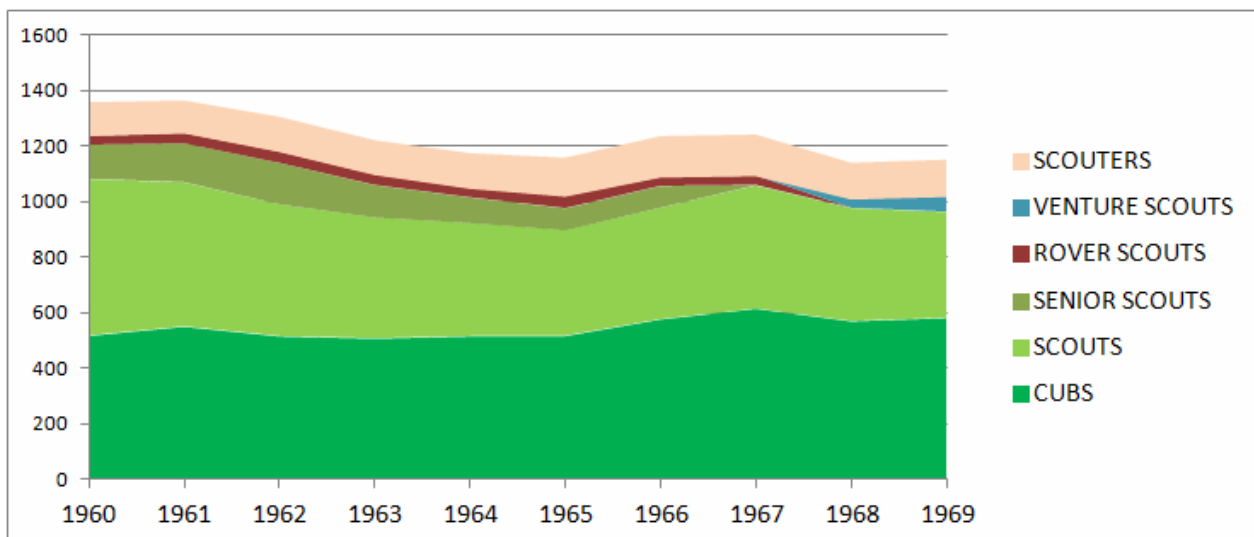
The two surviving Troops at the Royal Liberty School (7th and 12th Romford) were merged, taking the title of the 7th Romford.

On behalf of his Church, Cub Scout Anthony Martin, 2nd Collier Row, presented a purse of money to H.R.H. Princess Anne for the Church of England's Children's Society.

In December, the first caravan at Crow Camp was destroyed by fire. This was the first of three to be lost in this way over the years.

### CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE SIXTIES

	CUBS	SCOUTS	SENIOR SCOUTS	ROVER SCOUTS	VENTURE SCOUTS	SCOUTERS	TOTAL
1960	516	566	121	32		121	1356
1961	549	521	138	37		117	1362
1962	514	477	147	41		125	1304
1963	506	438	115	38		124	1221
1964	514	410	91	33		127	1175
1965	515	383	78	44		139	1159
1966	575	404	77	32		148	1236
1967	613	446 (Scouts & Snr. Scouts)		34		148	1241
1968	568	409			33	131	1141
1969	580	383			56	133	1152





## 7 - THE NINETEEN-SEVENTIES

Peter Giles, District Commissioner, suffered a stroke in August 1970, resulting in a long stay in hospital. Bill Adams was appointed Deputy D.C. until Peter resigned in 1971, later moving to Norfolk. Bill then became District Commissioner. Bill's Scouting days began in Edmonton in 1926; his first service in Romford was from 1952 as Assistant Scoutmaster in the 2nd Romford, and he subsequently served as Scoutmaster and Group Scout Leader, 2nd Romford, District Scoutmaster, District Press Secretary, A.D.C.(Scouts) and A.D.C. (Leader Training) before becoming District Commissioner.

### ST GEORGES DAY PARADES

Early references to St. Georges Day Parades are patchy. The "celebration" in 1927 was referred to in Chapter 2; in 1935 the service was held in Trinity Methodist Church, in 1936 and 1937 at St. Edwards, and in 1942 at the Congregational Church (then in South Street). There are several subsequent references in District minutes without saying where the service was held, but there is little doubt that they circulated around various churches in the (pre-1947) District. After division of the District, the services settled down for a number of years in St. Edwards, the parade assembling in Junction Road, marching to the Church, and afterwards to the Town Hall forecourt, the salute being taken in front of the War Memorial in its old location in Laurie Square. However, because of the large increase in membership in the 'fifties and 'sixties, St. Edwards became very cramped and there was a proposal to hold the 1967 service in the morning in the A.B.C. Cinema, South Street, but this was not proceeded with. Following completion of the ring road in about 1969, assembly and the march past were held in the Market Place. Finally, in 1971, the service was moved to its present location in Main Road Baptist Church. Even there, there were accommodation problems for some years and in 1982 and 1983 the service was relayed to an overflow congregation in a back hall. It was decided not to repeat this in 1984.

The St. George's Flag which is used at St. George's Day parades was presented to the District in 1977 by Tony and Dorothy Jones.

### INTERNATIONAL

The 13th World Jamboree was held at Asagiri Heights, Japan, in August 1971, Romford being represented by Christopher Webb, 2nd Collier Row, and Graham Layer, 7th Romford (R.L.S.). Graham was with one of twelve Troops from the United Kingdom. His immediate impressions, as

reported in the *Brentwood and Billericay press* (Graham lived in Brentwood) seem to have been mainly of "Typhoon Olive" which precipitated a wave of destruction throughout Japan, and which resulted in some Troops, including Graham's, having to be evacuated for several days. They were able later to return and dry out their belongings before setting out on a week-long tour of Japan. Graham was one of fifty British Scouts who were able to climb Mount Fuji (12,388). At nearly three times the height of Ben Nevis, this evidently takes some doing.

In the summer of 1971, the Counties of Greater London combined to arrange a Scout cruise to Scandinavia aboard the S.S. *Nevasa*, normally a school cruise ship. The 13th Romford received a mention in the article in *Scouting Magazine* in October 1971, for taking part "with their complete Troop of 28 plus four Scouters (including the ex-Cub Scout Leader who could claim that twenty-two of the party - including two of the Scouters - had been Cub Scouts in her Pack" During a hospitality stay in Malmo, Patrol Leader Andrew Filtness, 13th Romford, was offered a piglet as a present, and "with great presence of mind" he said "No!" Altogether, 40 boys and 16 Scouters from Romford took part.

In the District Circular for May 1972 David Hart (then A.D.C.(Cubs)) wrote an article entitled *How to Visit Canterbury and Buckmore Park via the Goodwin Sands*. This related to the intended Cubs' day trip to Calais in the previous month when the Hovercraft had to turn back in mid-Channel due to extremely bad weather. Plans were rapidly changed, the hovercraft operators having, very sensibly, detained our coaches which were therefore able to take the boys for sightseeing at Canterbury and activities at Buckmore Park (Chatham). A proposed trip to York by special train planned for the following year (and also open to Scouts) was cancelled for insufficient support.

In October 1972 the 1st Havering received an "honourable mention" in the District circular for rescuing a swimmer whilst canoeing at Thorpe Bay.

Cub Scouts' good turn for 1973 was to support the national "Save the Tiger" Appeal. During the early 'seventies Romford Venture Scouts helped to staff "Bridges of London" walks in aid of REHAB and in 1983 a similar event for Barnardos.

### DEVOTION TO DUTY

Venture Scout John Marrable, 2nd Romford, was awarded the Cornwell Badge in 1974, "In



recognition of his high standard of character and devotion to duty under great suffering”.

## IN 1975

Scouts raised money for the purchase of a lifeboat for the R.N.L.I. Nationally, nearly £100,000 was raised and a lifeboat named “*The Scout*” was commissioned in 1977 and stationed at Hartlepool. By 1996 the vessel was reaching the end of its useful life, and a further appeal was made - this time to all sections of the movement to raise funds for its replacement.

The 4th Collier Row Group started at Corpus Christi R.C. Church.

The 14th World Jamboree was held at Lillehammer, Norway. Romford was represented by Colin Lawrence, 2nd Romford and Martin Shorten, 2nd Collier Row who, on their return presented the District with an International badge and scarf.

A record number of 45 Patrols entered the Franklyn Shield Competition.

## SIXTY YEARS OF CUBS.

1976 was Cub Diamond Jubilee year and Romford was linked with Poplar District for a number of activities, Poplar Cubs coming to join in our Scooter Rally, for instance, and Romford Cubs going to Poplar to take part in an “It’s a Knockout” Competition and a handball competition.

The District organised a Sponsored Walk in Weald Park in 1976 in aid of District and Group funds. 233 participants took part. A Canoeing weekend was also held at South Weald during the close season for fishing: in 1978 this event was transferred to the lake at Harrow Lodge Park.

1976 also saw the first of a series of Annual Dinner/Dances at the Masonic Hall, Shenfield, which took place annually until 1983.

## BASIC SKILLS

Also in 1976, six Scout Leaders took part in a pilot exercise to improve training standards at Troop level. This was steered, rather than organised, by Ron Jeffries, then editor of *Scouting* magazine and Tony Bolton, Field Commissioner, in their capacity as members of the County Programme and Training Committee. The exercise consisted of six sessions with Scout Leaders, at one of which each was asked to bring an Assistant Leader and at one a Patrol Leader. Two of the leaders who took part later led a similar exercise for six other Troops. Reports and evaluations of both these exercises are in the District archives and anyone who cares to read them will, no doubt, be struck by the discovery, by nearly all the leaders, that Patrol Leaders and A.S.Ls can, and should, be given more responsibility.

A Scouters’ weekend camp was held in 1976 and some subsequent years at Thaxted, by courtesy of Peter Aylett, former Scoutmaster 7th Romford.

1977 was the Queen’s Silver Jubilee year and a special class at the Cub Handcraft Competition was to make a commemorative medal from foil. The District sent a message of Loyal Greeting to Her Majesty and the following reply was received:

*To the Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts, Scouters and Lay Members of the Romford District,  
I am commanded by The Queen to write and thank you all for the good wishes which you sent to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee.*

*The Queen was deeply touched that you should remember her at this time, and I am to tell you that your kind message has given Her Majesty great pleasure. I am to send to you all the Queen’s most sincere thanks.  
Kathryn Dugdale, Lady in Waiting.*

The 4th Havering (Rise Park) Group opened at Havering Road Methodist Church in this year. This Group only had a short life, closing in 1984.

The Chief Scouts Advance Party had replaced “Star” awards for cubs with a three-stage arrow scheme - bronze, silver and gold - and in 1977 the tests were revised to give Cubs greater choice. The revised scheme was known as The Developed Arrow Scheme, and was again changed in 1990, resulting in the present scheme of Cub Scout Award, Adventure Award and Adventure Crest Award.

Extensions to the District Headquarters were carried out in 1977, providing inside toilets, an office for the District Commissioner and a room for the “District Team”, and the old toilet block was converted into a store with funds arising from the closure of the 7th Romford Group.

## ACTIVITIES

In 1978 150 Scouts attended an Activity Day organised by Alf. Reeve, 3rd Collier Row, in Bedfords Park. The County Chess Championship for Cubs was mentioned for the first time and Romford Cubs started the practice, continuing today, of holding District heats to select a team to enter the County event.

## HOLIDAY-TIME SCOUTING

Also in 1978, County sponsored a “Holiday-time Scouting” scheme for Cubs, Scouts and friends. Three headquarters - District, 1st Harold Hill and 2nd Collier Row - were open during the days throughout August, manned by retired leaders and lay members who were armed with a vast number of cards bearing ideas for “things to do” to be given

out as appeared to be appropriate for the age and interests of those youngsters who turned up. 132 boys attended at District H.Q., 140 at Collier Row and 24 at Harold Hill. Overall the response did not seem commensurate with the time spent by the operators, and this experiment was not repeated.

A national Good Turn in 1978 involved Scouts in "Tune a Radio Week" to help elderly and housebound people to re-tune to new radio wavelengths. The B.B.C. provided stickers to be put on radio sets and instructions, but in spite of publicity by the B.B.C. one Romford Troop found very little demand for the service. They did, however, receive a certificate.

Also in 1978 twenty Canadian Scouts were billeted in Romford and were entertained to a coach and river trip to Windsor, a camp fire at District H.Q. and a 4-day camp at Perry Wood led by Dennis Rolls, then Scout Leader, 2nd Collier Row. Unfortunately, the Canadians in Romford did not have a leader with them, and discipline presented some problems.

### **"CONTINENTAL COACH JAUNTS"**

Social activity for leaders and partners was catered for in the late seventies by a tour of the Dutch bulb fields in 1977, followed in 1978 by a Rhine Cruise, in 1979 by a visit to Remagen and in 1980 Rheims, Paris and Rouen. These were arranged by Roy Walker, A.D.C. (Scouts). Nick Hilton, District Treasurer from 1996, but then a leader in the 13th Romford has these memories:

*Many of the older members of the District will recall with amusement a few of Roy Walker's 'Continental Coach Jaunts' for anyone in the District ... daft enough to go. Like most things in life, the first time is usually the most memorable. On this occasion the first trip was a '24 hour affair' comprising a visit to the Dutch bulb fields, Kirkenhoff Gardens, Amsterdam Central, including a voyage on the canals, and a tour of other well known areas of the city. As an added bonus, we were allowed four hours free time on the Saturday night, before rendezvousing for the journey home.*

*By the way, we left D.H.Q. late Friday afternoon and joined the most crowded boat from Harwich, with what seemed to be coaches from every town and city in the U.K., all with the same idea. En route we had breakdown on the other side, much to Roy's embarrassment but to the amusement and sense of adventure of many of us. This required a change of coach, which the ever resourceful lad arranged promptly - well, without too much delay. We arrived borne in the early part of Sunday afternoon and you will realise it was not only a fun 24-hours but an endurance course as well.*

*Naturally we were whacked out, but had a great time.*

*Another time was a trip to Remagen which was definitely a bit up-market - almost middle class - where we had hotel accommodation. Within half an hour, the proprietor of the hotel pointed out, in no uncertain terms, that the fuses had blown. More accurately he said "---- British have always got to plug in their tea makers as soon as they arrive using their own adaptor plugs". The same weekend, whether by accident or design we shall never know, the local Fire Brigade were celebrating their centenary and with the visiting brigades, not forgetting their brass bands, the beer flowed like the upper part of the River Nevis in spate. There were also trips up the Rhine with other various activities of a sight-seeing nature to be enjoyed apart from the visits to buildings of architectural and aesthetic interest (after all, Joan was with us) and the inevitable 'Vineyard Enlightenment Tour' ... "That hillside is Piersporter Michelburg!!"*

*The 'Blois weekend' to France was another memorable trip. We had an excursion to Le Chateaux Chenoneaux and witnessed a performance of 'Son et Lumiere'. On this trip, most of us visited the Biayeux Tapestry; enhancing our historical knowledge. The visit to the Normandy invasion beaches and all that entailed was poignant for all of us. Thank you, Roy and Joan, for giving us those happy memories, which I doubt even memory will ever forget.*

### **CUB COUNTRY**

In 1979 Cub Scouts launched "Cub Country" to aid community projects in Nepal. This arose from the desire of the Nepalese government to broaden the range of crops grown by the peasant farmers. The plan was for Nepalese Scouts to go into the villages to teach the farmers how to cultivate the new crops, and British Cub Scouts raised the money, for seed and so on. Special badges were sold (a cloth one for uniform, and a large button badge for mufti) and some Packs held special fund-raising events to swell the fund.

The total sum raised in the United Kingdom was £165,000 of which £1291 was from Romford.

### **VENTURE SCOUTS**

In 1979 a District Venture Unit was formed to cater for boys from Groups with no unit. Membership had risen to eighteen by 1981. Throughout the Seventies Venture Scouts from the District were involved in assistance at Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, attendance at the Cenotaph Remembrance Day Service, attendance in 1976 at the Founders Day Service in Westminster Abbey,

marshalling floats at Romford Carnival, and assistance to the Lions Club with their charity fund-raising events, thus following in the "Service" tradition of Rover Scouts.

A World Jamboree was due to be held in Iran in 1979, but due to the political situation in that country it was cancelled and international camps held instead in Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and U.S.A. I have found no record of any Romford Scouts having attended any of these.

An astonishing ninety-seven per cent of Scout Patrols were reported as having taken up the District Commissioner's challenge to complete various tasks during a six-month period in 1979. Details for 1979 have not been found, but in 1980 the challenges were:

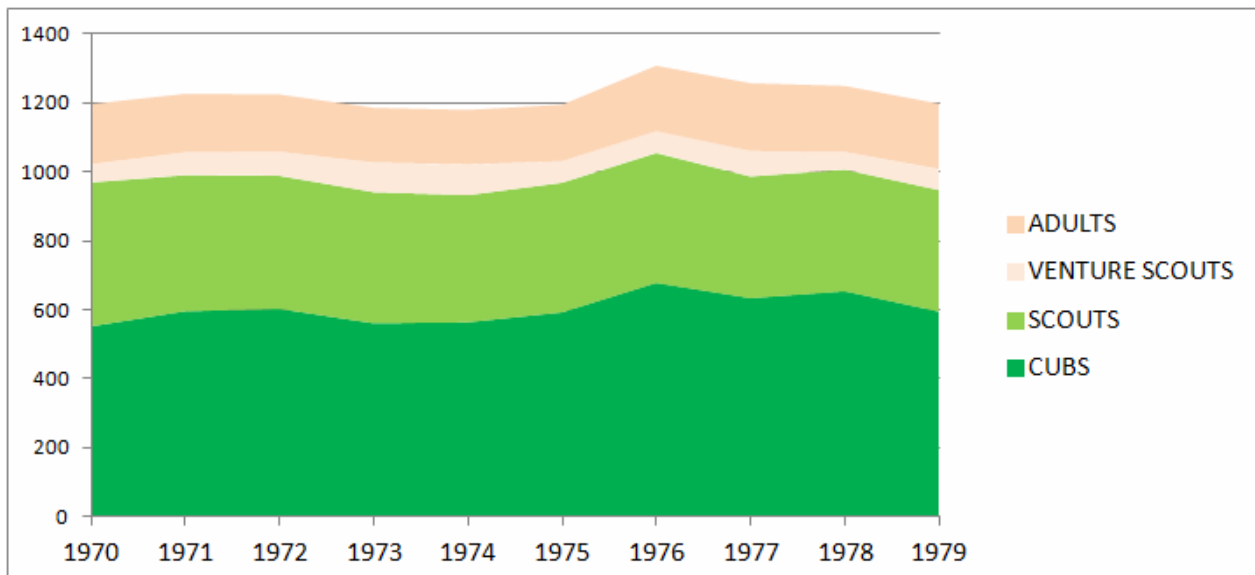
- 1) Record a tape of an entertainment;
- 2) take an active part in Romford Carnival;
- 3) eat out in an unusual place;
- 4) A weekend carp with a log book.

## CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE SEVENTIES

The Sixties and Seventies were good decades for Cubs, with an average of 545 boys per year in the Sixties, rising to 602 per year in the Seventies. Scout numbers had, however, started to decline finishing the decade with 354, compared with our peak of 575 twenty years earlier. Venture Scouts have never been as successful here, numerically, as Senior Scouts despite the wider age range and female members.

	CUBS	SCOUTS	VENTURE SCOUTS	ADULTS	TOTAL
1970	551	419	51	176	1197
1971	595	396	65	171	1227
1972	602	387	69	167	1225
1973	560	382	84	160	1186
1974	563	370	88	159	1180
1975	592	377	61	165	1195
1976	677	378	63	191	1309
1977	633	354	73	198	1262
1978	653	354	50	193	1265
1979	594	354	59	191	1210

Figures for adults include Instructors and District Officials for whom a membership fee is paid.



## 8 - THE NINETEEN-EIGHTIES

### “SLEEP-A-NIGHT CHALLENGE”

“How much are those boy cubs in the window” asked a local paper in September 1981 when Nigel Wright, Nigel Hayes, Keith Pitcher and Darren Clarke, all of the 8th Romford Pack slept for a night in Debenharn’s shop window in order to win a certificate in the *Scouting Magazine* Sleep—a-Night Challenge. Mavis Edwards, Cub Scout Leader, recalls:

*Lin Moore (Bagheera) and I had a meeting with Mr. Coyle, the floor manager I believe, who suggested a date during term time, being the night before their summer sale started. They wanted as much mileage out of it as the Scouts. Although we envisaged a royal-looking four-poster, we were offered four divan beds which were in the sale and their main window.*

*It was easier to choose four boys from the same school to ask for special permission to arrive late at school the next day, and we chose four boys from Mawney School. Together with Lin and our Pack flag we had to arrive about 9p.m., after the shop had closed for the night, and were met by the two security staff who took us to the rest room where we were left to enjoy a great supper of meats and salads left for us in the fudge. It was a very hot night and the drinks dispenser was left at our disposal during our stay*

*The boys were shown their beds and we were greeted by friends, relations and the District team, who had just left a meeting, peering at us through the window and taking photos. Lin and I were offered beds in the ladies’ rest room. A phone was put at the boys’ disposal to be used during the night to call the security men as the whole sales floor was fitted with laser beams which would be set off by any movement. I had previously contacted Main Road Police as after we had begun to think the project through we had become a bit concerned about the reaction of passers-by late at night, and apparently they (the police) patrolled the Market Place quite frequently and the boys stood to attention and saluted each time they passed. There was not a lot of sleeping done.*

*In the morning a queue had formed for the beginning of the sale and we had to be up and away before opening time. A long table had been laid where we all sat round with*

*the managers and reporters from the press, ready to take down the boys’ impressions of the night. Orders were taken for their breakfasts and I was amazed what boys of that age can get through. Everyone was extremely helpful and kind to us and Mr. Coyle followed it up by spending a Pack Night with us and presenting the boys with vouchers to spend. It was great!*

For an earlier challenge the Pack had eaten a meal on the stage of the Queen’s Theatre, and during “Tea-making Fortnight” were photographed - nineteen of them - serving tea to a driver at North Street ‘bus garage.

In 1982, Peter Hurren, a Cub and Scout in the 4th Gidea Park and a sufferer from Spina Bifida was presented with the Cornwell Badge for courage by Jim Green, Assistant County Commissioner for Extension Scouts, in the presence of a large gathering of members of his Group, Church, School and others. Stan Lucas, Group Scout Leader at the time says that when the Lions Club bought him a motorised wheelchair to replace his ancient push-type chair, he sent it back to be given to a really handicapped boy, despite the fact that he was severely disadvantaged himself. Clearly a boy that the 4th Gidea Park can always be very proud to have had as a member.

Bill Adams retired as District Commissioner in 1982, and was replaced by Roy Walker. Roy started his Scouting as a Wolf Cub in the 13th Romford in 1935, eventually becoming Group Scout Leader in the same Group. He was District Scoutmaster from 1963 to 1966 and A.D.C. (Scouts) from 1966 until his appointment as D.C. Roy’s position as A.D.C. (Scouts) was filled by Ted Webster, who is referred to again in the next chapter.

### 1982 “THE YEAR OF THE SCOUT”

1982 was the 75th Anniversary of Scouting (dating its inception from the Brownsea Island camp) and the 125th Anniversary of B.-Ps. birth, and was designated “The Year of the Scout”. Romford celebrated this event in a number of ways:

Publication of *Scouting in Romford 1982* by Joan Walker.

The District Scout Shop produced special T-Shirts with an appropriate anniversary design. The design was by Mr. Howard Newman, 4th Collier Row Parents Committee.

The Association presented the Council with a seat which was, until recently, located outside the

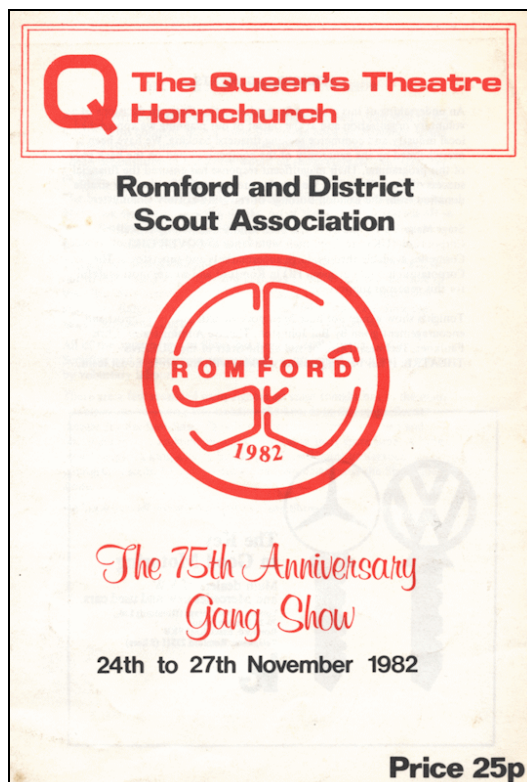


Dolphin Leisure Centre. Cub Scout James Graham and Scout Ian Moody, both of the 1st Romford, planted an oak tree and an ash tree in Raphael Park.

Ten floats were entered by the District and various Groups in Romford Carnival.

In July. County celebrated the Anniversary by holding an International camp at the Guide Camp Site at Chigwell Row. Members of the 8th, 10th, 11th and 13th Romford and 4th Gidea Park attended under the leadership of Graham Don, District Cub Scout Leader, and Clare Walker and Gary Cummins (3rd Havering) were members of the Service Team. Scouts from the United States, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany and Ireland also attended and after the camp, 2 leaders and 8 Scouts from Pennsylvania and Maryland, U.S.A., were accommodated in the homes of Romford leaders and presented the District with flags of the U.S.A. (which had flown over the Capitol and has an authenticating certificate) and their States. Visits were available to a handicapped Scouts camp at Gilwell, Romford Police Station and Magistrates Court, and the House of Commons and Greenwich, the latter visits being arranged by Dave Marfell., Scout Leader 1st Romford. The 6th Romford hosted two Patrols of German Scouts. A camp brochure and copies of the camp newspaper are in the District archives.

A display on Romford Scouting at the Central Library included a "push-button" map showing the location of each Group in the District



During November, after two-and-a-half hectic months of rehearsal and a great deal more of preparation, 162 members of Romford District staged a Gang Show, produced by Roy Walker, District Commissioner, at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch. The theatre was filled on all four nights of the production, and both audio- and video-tapes were made of the show. The back-scenes for the set pieces were designed by Mr. Les Dando, President of the Romford and Hornchurch Art Society, who donated the original artwork to be raffled at each of the performances. Bill Adams, former D.C. and Scout Shop manager was Stage Manager, his wife Connie wardrobe mistress, and Doug Shrimpton was the pianist.

The *Romford Recorder* reported:

*'The 180 people involved were all, in the words of one of their songs, keen, keen, keen.' "The packed audience were transported from colourful south seas islands to the North Pole and back to the Angel, Islington - via some singable songs and laughs along the way, and that was just the first half"*

It was generally agreed that this show generated a great spirit in the District but a proposal to follow it with a further show in 1984 met with no response from the Queen's Theatre.

Cub Scouts from Romford attended the Cub Scout Spectacular in the Royal Albert Hall in December.

In 1983, the District was awarded a certificate under the Havering Environmental Awards Scheme for tree planting in Mawneys Park, Rise Park and Raphael Park. Andrew Kinsey (2nd Romford and District Venture Unit) went to United States as a Camp Counsellor during the summer. A Romford team won the Innsman Trophy in the 4-Inns Walk in Derbyshire. Scouts from the 8th Romford and 3rd Collier Row were 2nd and 3rd in the County Aero competition for the John Corde's Trophy, the competition including making model aircraft, both static and flying, aircraft recognition and making a flight diorama.

Also in 1983 the 15th World Scout Jamboree was held at Alberta, Canada. Andrew Jones and Michael Tong, 3rd Gidea Park, represented Romford.

### GOOD TURNS

In 1981 District Venture Scouts sold programmes on the route of Prince Charles's and Lady Diana's wedding and in 1983 they raised funds for the Sri Lanka Water Project to assist Scouts in the Kalutara district of Sri Lanka to establish a clean water supply for the children of their District, in conjunction with UNICEF.



At Easter 1985, Cubs and Scouts from Formby, Liverpool, ran in relay from Liverpool to St. Francis Hospice, Havering, in aid of the Liverpool hospice. Arriving on Easter Monday they were joined at the Havering boundary by runners from the 1st Harold Hill who thereby raised money for St. Francis Hospice. At various points en route Scouts from various other Groups were present to cheer the runners on and after a brief stop at St. James Church where the 3rd Havering were in attendance, all runners continued to Havering for a brief ceremony at the Hospice followed by tea in the church hall. An article appeared in *Scouting* magazine later in the year. A copy of the full programme for the run, as supplied to the Formby parents, is preserved in the District archives in case anyone wants to try a similar great undertaking.

## **CUB SCOUTS**

Graham Don, District Cub Scout Leader, organised an "activity day for older Cubs" at Thriftwood in 1984, this being repeated in subsequent years with the name "Scoutbound", the aim being to give older Cub Scouts a taste of the sort of activities they ought to expect when they have advanced into the Scout Troop. The problem of leakage between sections has been an on-going concern during the Eighties and Nineties, and the word "Links" has been often heard. Beaver-Cub Link Days, serving a similar purpose to Scoutbound, have been held annually since 1990.

In 1985 a new award scheme was introduced for Scouts comprising the Scout Award, the Pathfinder Award, the Explorer Award, The Chief Scout's Award, The Patrol Activity Award, the Leadership Award and the Chief Scout's Challenge (the latter already existing). "Going-up" ages were fixed at 10½ Cub-Scout, and 15½ Scout - Venture Scout.

## **BEAVER SCOUTS**

In 1982 a scheme was launched for boys of six to eight years of age. To be known as Beaver Scouts, this was, at first, an informal arrangement, the boys not being members of the Scout Association, although the leaders were warranted. All Beaver Scouts wore a turquoise scarf rather than their Group colours, in 1986, following pressure from the 'grass roots' this was changed and Beavers became full members of the Association and of their respective Groups. The scheme was received with some caution in Romford, but by 1995 all except three Groups had established Beaver Colonies. The 6th Romford were the first Group in the district to establish a colony.

## **THE DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP**

In July 1983 the District Commissioner reported that he had asked Stan Hall, then Deputy District

Chairman, to explore the possibility of setting up a Scout Fellowship in Romford. This project finally came to fruition in 1987 and at the first A.G.M. in March 1988 it was reported that 55 people had applied for membership. Officers elected were Dennis Rolls (chairman) Andrew Kinsey (treasurer) - who both continued to hold those offices until 1997 - and Allen Davies (Secretary). It was agreed at that meeting that the primary purpose of the Fellowship was to encourage scouting throughout the district and to assist the district scouters and Groups as and when requested. The accounts for the subsequent year show that, as a result of various fund-raising activities (notably a firework night which raised £306), £500 had been donated to District funds and donations of varying size have continued in each year since then. Donations have also been made to St. Francis Hospice and the County Commissioner's Appeal for Romania.

Social events for members have included coach outings, barbecues and Christmas dinners, barn dances, and recently an annual weekend in Blackpool at "illuminations" time. There has been a wide range of speakers at the monthly meetings, and, in addition to assistance at most District events for the boys, assistance has been given in a number of years to Romford Carnival Committee. Stan Lucas, formerly G.S.L. 4th Gidea Park, became Secretary in 1991, continuing until 1997.

The 16th World Jamboree was held in Australia in 1987. Andrew Mann, 2nd Collier Row, was the sole representative from Romford. Arriving in Australia on Boxing Day (1986) he spent four days in hospitality in Canberra before moving to the Jamboree site for the official opening on New Years Day. Andrew did not, however, last the whole camp, as he finished up in hospital with appendicitis. Nevertheless, he says that it was well worth going.

Also in 1987, Richard Haigh and Peter Hawkins, both of the 1st Romford Group, were awarded Chief Scout's Commendations for Meritorious Conduct for dealing with fire incidents, one at home and one at camp.

Nineteen-eighty-six was the seventieth anniversary of the founding of Wolf Cubs and over 200 Romford Cub Scouts and Leaders from 20 packs attended another Cub Scout Spectacular - titled Cub—Rah - at the Albert Hall.

Also in 1986 fifty-seven Scouts and Leaders from Romford attended "Rheinland '86", a County-organised expedition.

In 1988, Venture Scouts carried out a "Sherpa Climb" by abseiling in relay from the roof of the Central Library. Their return to the roof via the stairs was intended, collectively, to equal the ascent of Everest. A collection was taken amongst

passers-by in aid of Sir Edmund Hilary's Appeal for the Sherpas of Nepal.

Beryl Hart, District Press Secretary 1973-1988 was appointed A.D.C. (Leader Training) in 1988.

### **FUND-RAISING**

The District cannot, of course, operate without funds and a considerable number of methods of raising money has been resorted to over the years to minimise the call on Groups, the events ranging from the District Dinners already mentioned, Christmas Draws, and Fashion Shows to mention a few. A very considerable number of people have been involved in these events - the names of Jim Beavon and Ian Marshall come to mind as promoters of many Christmas Draws - but there have been many others. The work of the Scout Shop managers has been recorded in the next chapter and, as mentioned above, in recent years the District Fellowship has played a part. Summer Fetes under the auspices of the District Executive and with help from the Fellowship have been held in 1995 and 1996 at the 2nd Collier Row headquarters. A fund-raising committee exists, chaired by John Gregory, formerly G.S.L. 11<sup>th</sup> Romford.

### **THE DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB**

The District Swimming Club was mentioned in the Thirties chapter. It continued at Mawney Road pool until that closed in 1974 and there was then a lapse until September 1980 when it reopened at Forest Lodge School, with periodic badge-testing at St. Edwards School. Use of Forest Lodge had to be dropped in 1984 due to rising costs, but badge testing at St. Edwards continued until the early Nineties. Connie Adams (Scout Shop Manager) and Olive Gregory (11th Romford, and latterly District Badge Secretary) were involved in organising the club during this period and Pat Miles (District Cub Scout instructor) and Bill Kinsey (member, District Executive) with badge testing. Pat Miles has also organised annual (sometimes bi-annual) testing for the Cub Athlete Badge at Hornchurch Stadium in the 80s and 90s.

### **JOAN WALKER**

A very large number of Cub Leaders (and others) in Romford will remember, with affection, Joan Walker or "Jay" as Cubs were expected to call her. She first became a District Leader in 1955 as District Cubmaster, and became A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs) in 1966, continuing in that capacity until 1987, thus achieving the record of having the longest continuous service as a District Scouter in our history. For the last eight of her years as A.D.C.

Jay was also Assistant County Commissioner (Cub Scouts), and London Region representative on the National Cub Scout Board from 1982 to 1988. She is an Honorary Commissioner of Greater London N.E., and became Chairman of the County in 1996. For her services to Scouting she was rightly awarded the Silver Wolf in 1989. Romford has been fortunate in having had some very dedicated leaders, but none more dedicated than Joan.

### **G.O.S.H.**

The National Appeal for 1989 was to assist with fundraising to help rebuild Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, in all, Romford contributed over £4700 to this appeal, a major effort being GOSH-Run, a sponsored run from the Necker Hospital (a children's hospital in Paris) to Great Ormond Street, a total running distance of 170 miles (excluding the Channel crossing). Runners were Brian Bland, Jocelyn Cornish, Paul Cummins, Ian Gregory, John Hagger, Nigel Jenvy, James Marsden, Richard Partridge, Duncan Phillips, Brian Ray, Andrew Squire, Eugene Walsh and David Vandoorn, supported by a team comprising Graham Don, David Flynn, Julie Hart, David Lyon, George Marsden, Geoff, Maureen and Dean Preston, Ted Rose, David Vandoorn, Helen Silk and Fred Cornish.



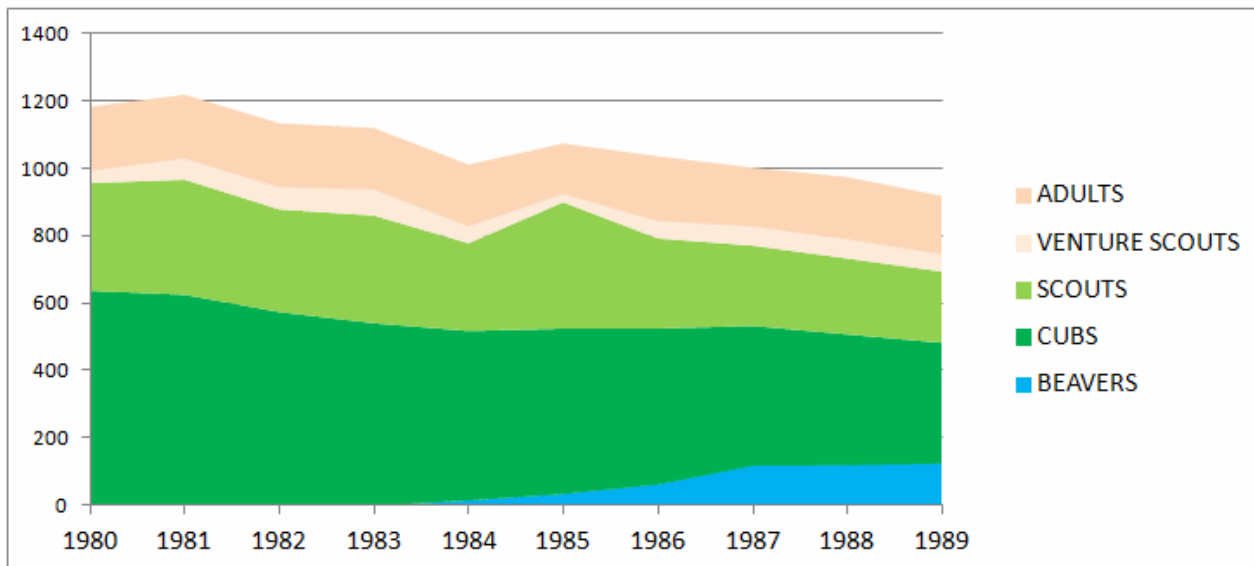
### ***Goshrun '88***

Roy Walker resigned as District Commissioner in 1989 to make way for a younger man, and David Hart took the reins. David joined the movement as a Wolf Cub in 1946 and served in various capacities with the 2nd Collier Row until 1976, was A.D.C. (Cub Scouts) for five years and District Secretary for twelve. Maureen Preston became A.D.C. (Cub Scouts) in 1989.

## CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE EIGHTIES

	BEAVERS	CUBS	SCOUTS	VENTURE SCOUTS	ADULTS	TOTAL
1980	-	636	319	40	190	1185
1981	—	624	341	66	190	1221
1982	—	573	304	69	190	1138
1983	—	540	319	80	183	1122
1984	16	501	260	52	184	1013
1985	35	489	374	28	150	1020
1986	63	461	267	54	193	1028
1987	118	414	238	59	175	1004
1988	120	387	225	59	185*	976*
1989	125	357	211	53	174*	920*

\* These figures include the District Fellowship.



Despite the introduction of the new Beaver section there is no escaping the overall downward trend in membership numbers during the 1980s

## 9 - THE NINETEEN-NINETIES

### GIRLS. GIRLS, GIRLS!

In 1990 Headquarters took the arguably giant leap of permitting girls to become members in all sections (they had been permissible in Venture Scouts since 1976), subject to agreement by all sections of the group, and to adequacy of leadership. (However, Tim Jeal has shown, from contemporary evidence - including reference to the 1909 edition of *Scouting for Boys*, a copy of which is in the District archives - that this was B.-P.'s intention from the start, and, indeed, the author's mother was a Girl Scout - *not* a Girl Guide! - in Ilford prior to the 1st World War!) The first Group in Romford to take advantage of the new ruling was the 11th Romford, in 1996. The Cub Scout and Scout Laws were amended to be "gender-free" in 1993.

A new Cub Scout Programme was introduced in 1990, replacing arrows with Cub Scout Award, Adventure Award and Adventure Crest Award. A large element of choice was introduced into the requirements for these awards.

### 1990: "GOING FOR A MILLION"

This national project, supported by special badges and a great deal of publicity material was designed to strengthen Patrol activity in the Scout section and, at the same time to gain publicity for the movement, and raise funds for a good cause (Barnardo's).



It consisted of a series of challenges for which Patrols could gain "millionaire" points, with prizes for the most successful. The challenges included camping (the aim nationally was for one million camper nights), to raise money for the good cause ("A million IOp's" nationally), water activities, recruiting new members, hiking ("each Patrol member scores three points for every 6 kilometres hiked as part of a Scouting activity"), community service (each Patrol member scoring 3 points per hour of community service), progress in the award scheme, attendance at a Scouts Own, and a treasure hunt in which Patrols "chased the Chief Scout" around the U.K. by means of clues in *Scouting Magazine*.

The Eagle Patrol of the 2nd Romford were first in the District and in the County and 4th in London

Region. They received a gold certificate and a prize of £250.

In 1991 the 17th World Jamboree was held in Korea. No representatives from Romford attended. 1991 was also the 75th Anniversary of Wolf Cubs. Romford hosted Cub Scouts from the Isle of Man and Glasgow who were visiting London for the National celebrations, accommodation being at the 2nd Collier Row, 3rd Gidea Park and 2nd Romford headquarters. Meals were provided by the District Fellowship. Maureen Preston (A.D.C. Cub Scouts) with 6 boys and 2 leaders from Romford attended the national celebrations in Westminster Hall, and, in conjunction with Hornchurch and Squirrels Heath districts, two double-decker buses were hired to take a greater number of Cub Scouts to Pleasurewood Hills Theme Park for a day.

### "PROMISE" APPEAL

"Going for a Million" was followed in 1992 by a National Appeal to all sections to raise funds to help in the development of Scouting in deprived areas. Special badges were available, and scratchcards and *special* woggles were available for sale to the public.

Cub Scouts of the 2nd Collier Row "C" Pack became television stars in 1993 when they appeared live on "Blue Peter" to show the authentic medieval armour which they had made - using steel offcuts shaped with specialist tools, and with chain mail crocheted from dish cloth string. An article by Beryl Silk, Group Scout Leader, appeared in *Scouting Magazine* in July 1993.

### DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

A further extension was made to the District Headquarters in 1993 - to provide a "Team Room" for the use of the Assistant District Commissioners - with aid from the Bernard Sunley Charitable Trust, The Newton Settlement, the Ford of Britain Trust, The Joseph Rank (1942) Trust, the District Scout Shop, the City Parochial Foundation and Groups in the District.

The portrait of B.-P. which hangs in the hall at District H.Q. - a copy of the famous "Jagger" portrait - was painted by Michael Crane, formerly of the 10th Romford, and was presented to the District in 1988 by his father, Mr. Reg Crane, who was presented with a Thanks Badge.

After a short spell as A.D.C. (General Duties) Ted Webster (A.D.C. (Scouts) since 1981) retired in 1994, his place as A.D.C. (Scouts) having been taken by Paul Leeper, who continues to be Scout Leader of the 2nd Romford in addition to his A.D.C.



duties. Ted did his early Scouting with the 12th West Ham (Dame Clara Butt's Own) Group, and was Assistant County Commissioner (Air Activities) from 1976 to 1985. Both prior to, and following, his retirement, he has been Warden of the District Headquarters.

Margaret Polden, formerly Beaver Scout Leader 3rd Gidea Park, became A.D.C. (Beaver Scouts) in 1994 replacing Audrey Young who had held the post for the previous five years, she, in turn, replacing Joan Webster who had held the position from 1986 to 1988. Another 1994 appointment was that of Sue Harris, C.S.L. 19th Romford to be A.D.C. (Cub Scouts) following the resignation of Maureen Preston.

1994 was "Unite" year when members throughout the United Kingdom raised funds for the Scouts of Uganda, particularly to help them carry out a large-scale health education project in their country in conjunction with U.N.I.C.E.F. The Cubs' national Good Turn for 1995 was to raise money for the Children's Society. Romford Cubs contributed the collection at their Cubs Own, a commendable £349.33.



In 1995 Allen Davies, a member of the Romford District Fellowship was awarded the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday honours for services to the legal profession. During the same year, Keith Rawlins, a 13-year-old Patrol Leader in the 1st Harold Hill Troop, was appointed to represent Greater London for one year on the National Scout Team (formerly the National Scout Advisory Committee).

1995 also saw the launch of a new Beaver Scout programme. This adopted a new concept of a framework programme which each colony is expected to follow, with badges following from participation in that programme.

Johnny Herbert, winner of the British and Italian Grand Prix 1995, was a former Cub and Scout in the 3rd Collier Row. He is reported as having gained his Cub Hobbies badge for karting.

### **"THE QUEEN WORE A PINK DRESS"**

On the 14th June 1995, Her Majesty the Queen visited Gilwell Park. Having made suitable arrangements with the schools (it being a school

day) the 8th Romford were able to take 40 members to the supporting activities on which Cub Scout Ben Whitbread reported (with commendable brevity) in the District News:

*On Wednesday we went to see the Queen at Gilwell Park. She was wearing a pink dress and she had a bunch of flowers. We were on the news. We sang songs and played games. There was a bouncy castle and a pillow fight and a camp fire. The Duke of Kent was there too.*

The 2nd Romford and 1st Harold Hill were also present.

No members from Romford attended the 18th World Jamboree in the Netherlands in 1995.

In 1996 Julie Hart, District Scouter Trainer and A.C.S.L. 19th Romford was appointed Assistant County Commissioner (International).

### **THE SCOUT SHOP**

Mention has already been made of the establishment of a District Scout Shop in 1967 under the management of Syd and Margaret Feidwick. On their retirement, Bill Adams (retired D.C.) and his wife Connie became joint managers. On Bill's death in 1988 Connie took over completely, and with the assistance of other retired leaders built the enterprise into a very profitable concern having in 1996 assets totalling over £21,200. A Guide Shop agency had been acquired in addition to the long-standing Scout Shop agency (once held by Jarvis's in the Market Place) and in 1996 the gross profit was over £4600. Of this, £696 was returned to purchaser-Groups in commission, and £2500 donated to District funds, this forming over forty-five per cent of the Districts net income for the year.

Cub Scouts from the 6th and 8th Romford Packs earned praise in 1996 for helping to clean up the riverside at Rainham, together with Councillors and others. Councillor Ray Harris, chairman of the Council's Environment Committee was reported as saying "The performance by the cubs from the 6th and 8th Romford packs in clearing up the riverside was exceptional. Their enthusiasm and tireless approach was an inspiration to us all." [*Yellow Advertiser*, 3/5/96]

Following the retirement in 1996 of Tony Jones, (A.D.C. (Venture Scouts) from 1975), Jackie Greenwood, V.S.L. of the 19th Romford Unit was appointed District Venture Scout Leader and, shortly afterwards, A.D.C. (Venture Scouts).

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts both had anniversaries to celebrate in 1996 - Beavers their tenth, and Cubs their eightieth. The Beaver



celebrations included making Colony banners and parties at Crow Camp and Hargreaves (Ilford East camp site, this event being for the whole County). Beaver Scouts also held a Wild West Activity Day at Crow Camp including trying to ride a "bucking bronco" and panning for gold. The Cub section's celebrations also included a party at Crow Camp (which was reported on the "Press Gang" junior page in the *Romford Recorder*) and a County party at Gilwell. Cubs also had an anniversary badge to wear on their uniforms.

The County Chess Competition for Cub Scouts has already been mentioned (Chapter 7) and this was extended to Scouts in 1996 when Leyton District opened up their own competition to the County, Terence Turner, 19th Romford, won.

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Annual Cubs' Own services have been held since at least the nineteen-seventies, latterly at Corpus Christi Church in Collier Row. An annual Carol Service has also been held for a number of years, recently at Trinity Methodist Church. In latter years an annual service for adults has been held at St. John's, Mawney Road.

Having arrived nearly at the end of this history, I am conscious of the fact that no mention has been made of District Chaplains. Nevertheless, since the earliest days when the Revd. Steer no doubt functioned as Chaplain in addition to his duties as A.D. C., the District has endeavoured to maintain a Chaplain for Roman Catholic, Church of England and Nonconformist Churches, and they are usually to be seen at St. George's Day Services, in addition to being available throughout the year to give advice to the District Commissioner on matters concerning the Church Groups.

## A MAJOR AWARD

In the St. George's Day Awards for 1997, David Hart, District Commissioner, was awarded the Silver Wolf "*in recognition of service of the most exceptional character in Romford over many years*". David's c.v. has already been outlined in chapter 8. In terms of years, he has not been a District leader for as long as Joan Walker (also chapter 8), but including his previous service with the 2nd Collier Row and as District Secretary his service to Romford extends over fifty years. So far as I can discover, he is the first to receive this award specifically for service to this District - John Moore (now the Rev. John Moore), A.D.C. (Senior

Scouts) from 1956 to 1964, received his as a result of his service as County Commissioner and to Headquarters; Joan Walker, similarly, for services to County and Headquarters.

As mentioned in the Preface, a register of leaders who have gained awards over the years has been prepared and was presented to the District at the Annual General Meeting in 1997. It is available at District Headquarters for reference (and inspiration?)

## CUB CAMPS

District Cub Camps have been held in most years from at least 1977, mainly, so far as I can discover, at South Weald, but I am suffering from a dearth of material to enable me to report fully. In 1977 and 1978 the camp was combined with the annual St. George's Day Competition (the Cub equivalent of the Scout Franklyn Shield) and in 1996 Romford Cubs went to the Chief Scout's Picnic at Gilwell Park. (Leaders of the 8th Romford reported in *District News*, June 1996). Romford Cubs have also taken part for many years in the County "Kubadoo" held biannually at Hargreaves, Ilford East District camp site, and Romford leaders usually run a 'base'.

In September 1997, the 4th Gidea Park and 3rd Harold Hill Groups, which had both been without Scout Troops for some years formed a combined Troop under the leadership of Michael Smith, formerly of the 1st Harold Hill, 19th Romford, and District Scout Leader.

Nationally, the Scout Fellowship reached it's twenty-first anniversary in 1997, and the Romford Fellowship celebrated with a party at Crow Camp, during which the Mayor of Romford (Councillor Del Smith) buried a time capsule. "What will the people think of us when it is found?" asked the editors of the Scout Fellowship News. What, indeed.

After missing a number of World Jamborees, we expect to be back on the world scene at Chile in 1999, our representatives being Chris Greenwood, Scott Leadsham and David Hollands, 19th Romford, and Mick Greenwood, S.L. 19th Romford will be going as a leader.

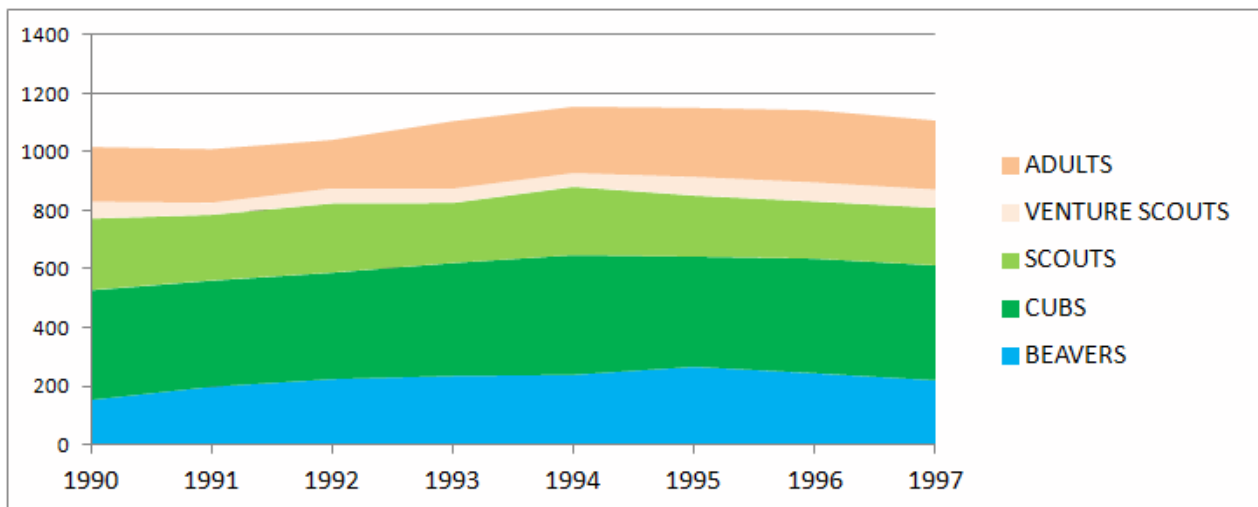
Late in 1997, Beryl Hart retired from the post of A.D.C. (Leader Training), a position she had held for ten years, and Jackie D'Arcy, Cub Scout Leader 2nd Collier Row "C" Pack, took her place, but with the revised title of A.D.C. (Adult Training).

## CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE NINETIES

	BEAVERS	CUBS	SCOUTS	VENTURE SCOUTS	ADULTS	TOTAL
1990	155	373	245	57	185*	1015*
1991	200	361	225	40	182*	1024*
1992	226	362	237	50	164*	1085*
1993	237	384	206	47	229*	1103*
1994	241	407	234	45	225*	1152*
1995	268	375	209	62	234*	1148*
1996	246	390	196	63	245*	1141*
1997	222	391	197	61	234*	1105*

\* These figures include the District Fellowship.

1996 figures represent 4.73 young people per leader/helper (excluding District Fellowship)



During the period 1990 – 1997 Beaver numbers grew steadily, cubs remained more or less constant as did Venture Scouts but membership of the Scout section continued to decline.

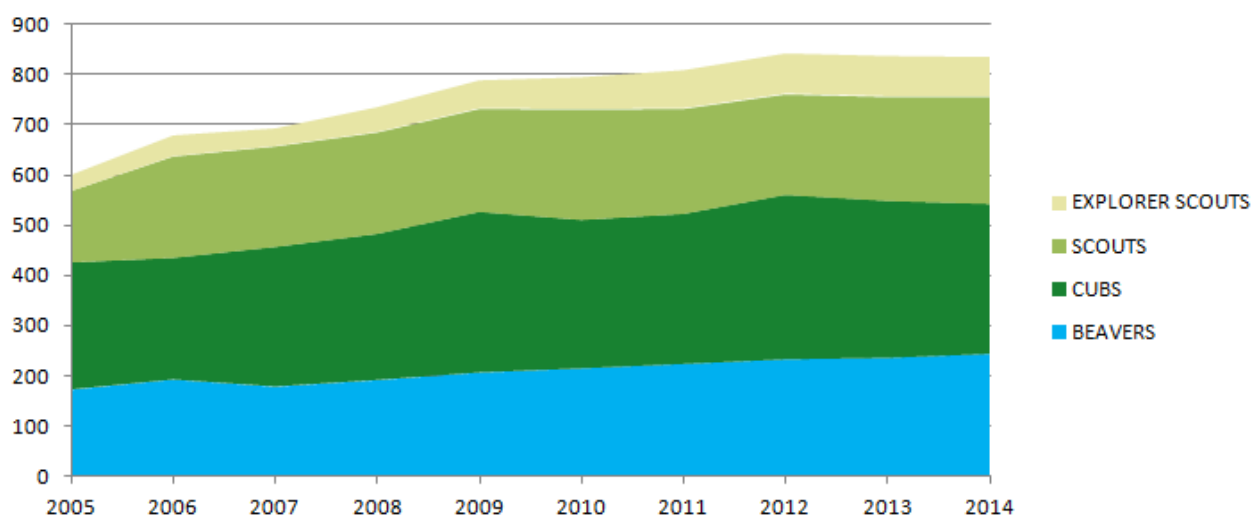
In general membership figures across the whole London region and nationally continued downward until 2005, two years after the launch of the new program and the Explorer section.

## THE NEW MILLENNIUM

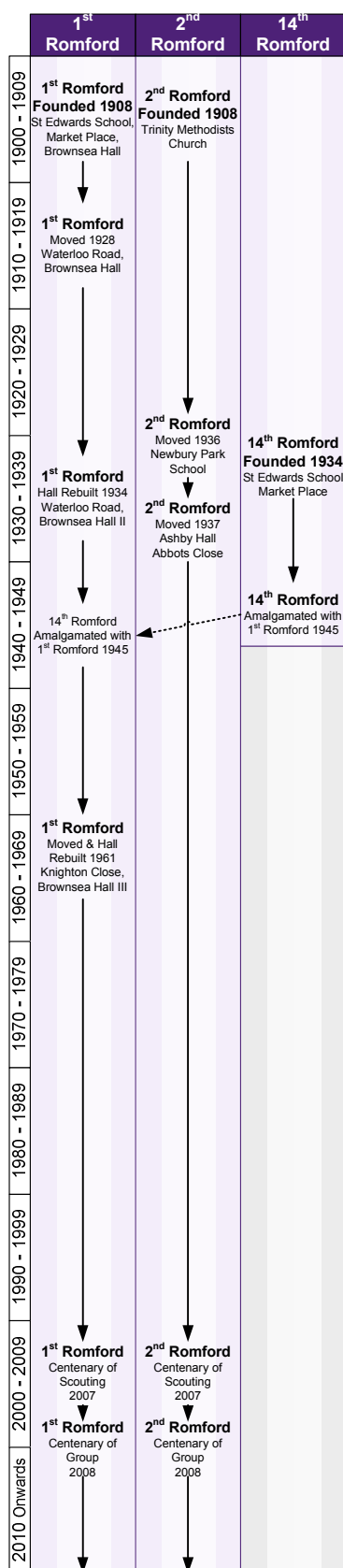
To be completed...

### CENSUS FIGURES FOR THE NOUGHTIES

	BEAVERS	CUBS	SCOUTS	EXPLORER SCOUTS	ADULTS	TOTAL
2005	172	254	143	32		601
2006	192	243	203	41		679
2007	178	279	201	35		693
2008	191	292	203	49		735
2009	206	321	206	55		788
2010	214	297	221	62		794
2011	223	300	210	75		808
2012	232	329	201	79		841
2013	235	314	208	79		836
2014	243	300	214	77		834



## APPENDIX 1 - AROUND THE GROUPS



### 1<sup>st</sup> ROMFORD

Founded 1908 at St. Edwards School, Market Place. Brownsea Hall, Waterloo Road from 1928. This destroyed by fire 1934 and rebuilt as Brownsea Hall II. Brownsea Hall III, Knighton Close from 1961. A year-by-year history of the Group was published by them in 1982 and a copy is in the District archives. Group still existing in 2013.

Brownsea Hall I can just be seen - bottom right of field, top left - in aerial Photograph 125 in *Romford, Collier Row & (Gidea Park by Brian Evans [Phillimore, 1994]*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> ROMFORD

Founded 1908. Originally at Trinity Methodist Church. London Road School and Newbury Park School in 1936/7. Ashby Hall, Abbots Close from 1937, as a result of the generosity of Mr. Thomas England - "Mr. Romford" - who also gave personal and financial support to the Association generally. Existing in 2013. [See Jubilee Year souvenir booklet (1958) in District archives]

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ROMFORD

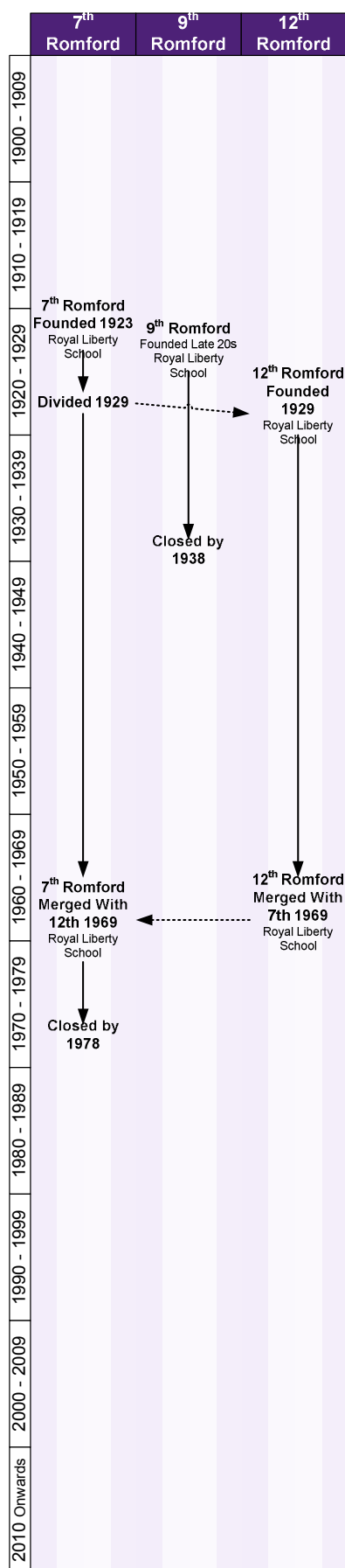
Existed in 1913 possibly at the Y.M.C.A. Red Triangle Club, North Street. May have lapsed during the 1st World War. Title reallocated in 1937 to the 1st Hornchurch (See Chapter 3.) Then at Kim's Hall, Hornchurch Road. Now in Squirrels Heath District

### 4<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD

Salvation Army. Date of formation unknown, probably early twenties. Scoutmaster in the late twenties said to be a Mr. Ashman. Not included in District returns in 1928. The Salvation Army Youth Hall was destroyed by enemy action 1944 and it is probable that early records are lost. Restarted in the late 'forties, but in January 1950, it was reported to the District Executive that the 4th Romford "would have to vacate the use of the stable as the house was now empty". A Cub Pack existed in 1950 and 1951 and is known to have existed in 1957 when air appeal was made for leaders. Finally closed 1961.

### 5<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD

Probably founded originally in the early 'twenties, but no information found. Title allocated in 1937 to the former 5th Hornchurch (Founded April 1935) (See Chapter 3). Then at Holy Cross Church. Squirrels Heath District from 1948; later merged with former 3rd Romford as 1st Squirrels Heath.



### 6th ROMFORD

(St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church.)

This Group has had a somewhat chequered history.

Originally founded in the early twenties, it had ceased to be included in the District return in 1928. It was re-registered in 1943, but Headquarters record no sections operative in 1947, 1948 or 1949. A further re-registration took place in 1950, since when the Group seems to have operated without a break, and is still functioning in 2013.

### 7th ROMFORD

(Royal Liberty School.)

Founded probably 1923. Closed 1978

### 8th ROMFORD

(St. John's Church.)

Founded possibly 1923. In 1924 they won a cup for the "best turned out Troop". Existing 1997. Merged with 13<sup>th</sup> in 2003 to form the 21<sup>st</sup> Romford

### 9th ROMFORD (Royal Liberty School.)

(Blue and gold diagonal scarves?)

Included in District return 1928, probably founded between 1924 and 1927. "Temporarily disbanded" in 1938 and did not restart.

### 10th ROMFORD

(St. Andrews, Romford)

Formation approved by the District Executive in January 1929. In 1936 was stated to be meeting at the Drill Hall, Hornchurch Road (now South Street), but defunct by the Annual Census at 30th September that year. See entries for 15th and 16th Romford. Restarted 1948 at St. Andrews Church, Cotleigh Road with a "B" Troop at St. Augustines Mission Hall, Rush Green which became an independent Group (11th Romford) in 1952. Still existing 2013.

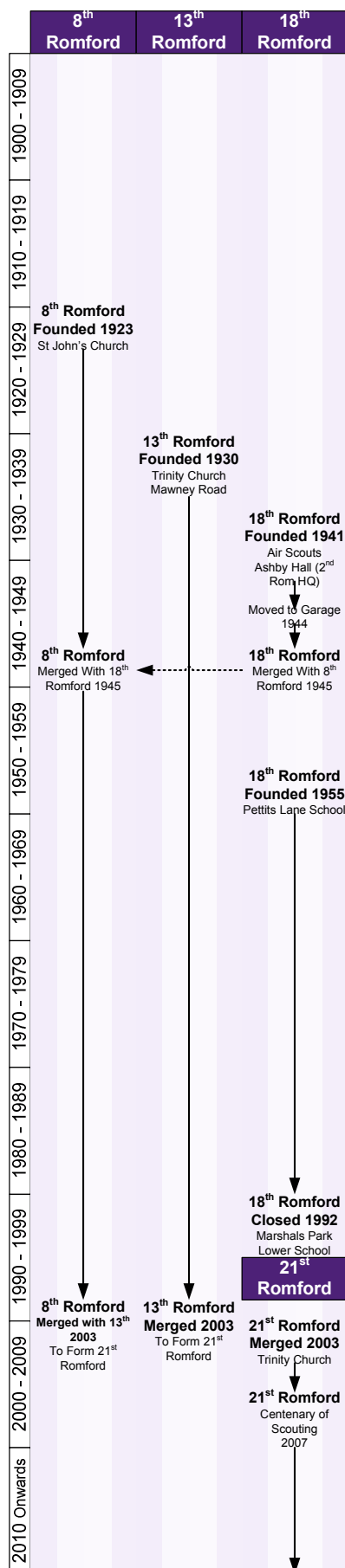
### 11th ROMFORD

Originally at Royal Liberty School. Founded 1929. Closed 1938/39. Title re-allocated 1952 to the newly-independent "B" Troop of the 10th Romford at St. Augustines Church, Rush Green. Still existing 2013.

### 12th ROMFORD

Royal Liberty School. Founded 1929 on division of 7th Romford. Amalgamated with 7th Romford 1969. A Register of all known members, and log books from 1934 to the late 40s are in the District archives.





### 13<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD

Trinity Church, Mawney Road. Founded 1930. Existing 1997. [See Golden Jubilee souvenir booklet (1980) in District archives] Merged with 8<sup>th</sup> Romford in 2003 to form the 21<sup>st</sup> Romford.

### 14<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD

Open Group meeting at St. Edwards School, Market Place. Founded 1934. Amalgamated with 1st Romford 1945.

### 15<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD

Originally a section of the 10th Romford, from 1934 a separate Group at St. Albans Church, Princes Road. Included in a District return in 1948 but thereafter lapsed.

### 16<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD *(Grey and green diagonal scarves?)*

Drill Hall, South Street. Apparently another off-shoot from the 10th Romford. First registered during year ended 30th September 1936. Defunct.

### 17<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD (HYLANDS) *(Gold and Navy scarves?)*

Hylands School. Founded 1936 as Hylands School sponsored Troop. Defunct by 1943. Now, in any case, within Squirrels Heath District.

### 18<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD

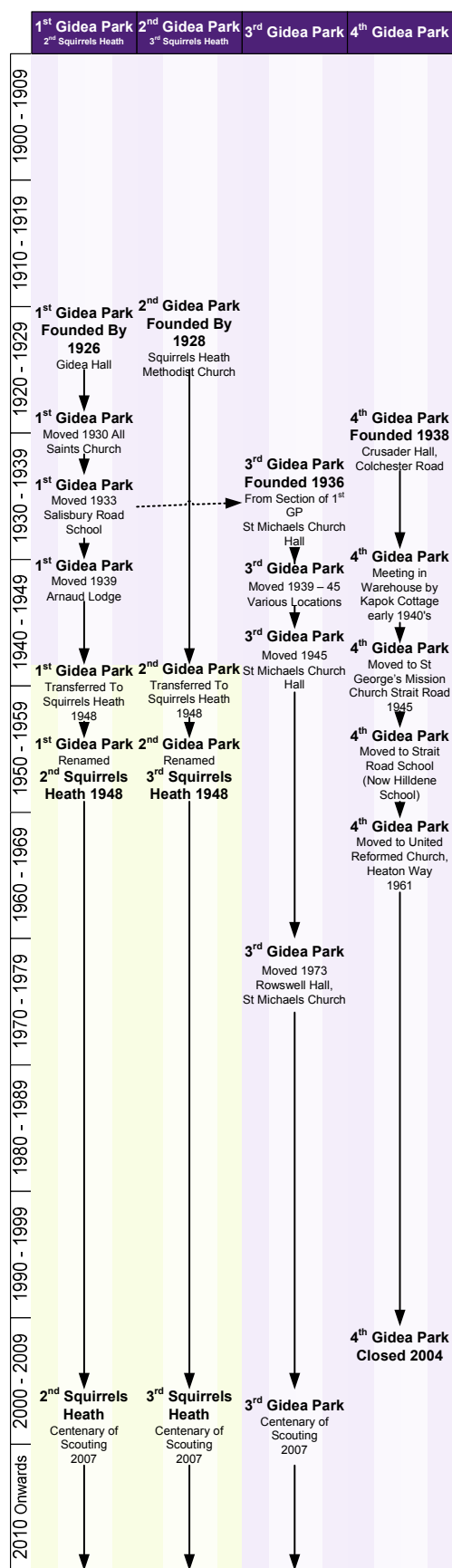
From 1941 an Air Scout Troop meeting at Ashby Hall, 2nd Romford H.Q., but in 1944 were meeting in a garage. See Chapter 4. Merged with 8th Romford 1945. Title re-allocated 1955 to Group meeting at Pettits Lane School (later Marshalls Park Lower School) Closed 1992

### 19<sup>th</sup> ROMFORD

Founded 1945. Sponsored by Christ Church (Pentecostal), Victoria Road from 1945 to 1951. In 1950 at Albert Road School, later at St. Albans Church, Princes Road. Still existing 2013.

### 21<sup>st</sup> ROMFORD

Formed in 2003 by merging 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Romford. The new group scarf took colours from both the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.



### 1st GIDEA PARK (Scarves – in 1936 Hunting Stewart Tartan)

Founded before 1926. A paper in the 3rd Gidea Park archives indicates that this Group was started in Gidea Hall by Miss D. Reid-Wilson, mentioned in Chapter 2. When the hall was demolished in 1930 the Group moved to All Saints' Church (then at Squirrels Heath), then from 1933 at Salisbury Road School until 1938 when Arnaud Lodge was built in Slewins Lane. (Officially opened 24th July 1939 by Miss Yvonne Arnaud, a well-known actress at the time.) Now in Squirrels Heath District as 2<sup>nd</sup> Squirrels Heath

### 2<sup>nd</sup> GIDEA PARK (METHODIST)

Existed before 1928. Squirrels Heath Methodist Church. Squirrels Heath District from 1946. In view of the Methodist connection, was this the Squirrels Heath section of the 2nd Romford? Now 3<sup>rd</sup> Squirrels Heath.

### 3rd GIDEA PARK (ST. MICHAELS)

Originally a section of the 1st Gidea Park. An independent Group from 1936. During the 1939-45 war met in various emergency locations due to the use of St. Michael's Hall as a respirator centre. The Group holds extensive archives relating to its early history. Existing 2013.

### 4th GIDEA PARK

Founded 1938 at Crusader Hall, Colchester Road. Also believed to have met for a time (late war period) in a warehouse adjoining "Kapok Cottage", Colchester Road. By 1945 at St. George's Mission Church, Straight Road, then at Straight Road School (now Hilldene School), and in 1961 became sponsored by, and moved to, the Congregational (now United Reform) Church in Heaton Way. Closed 2004.

### 1st EMERSON PARK (CONGREGATIONAL)

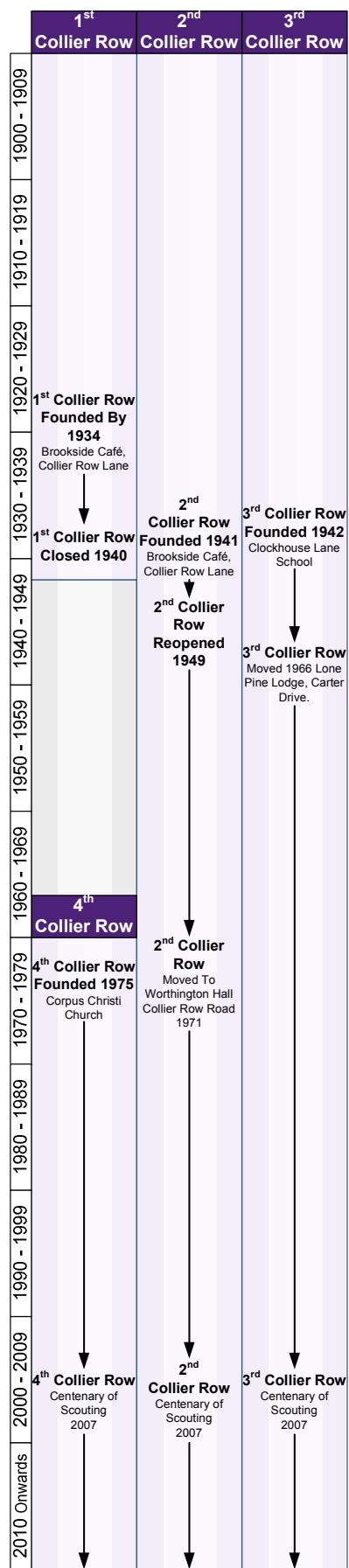
Founded 1930. Squirrels Heath District from 1946. Dark green scarves with yellow ornamental C?

### 1st HAROLD WOOD

Founded 1926. War Memorial Institute, Gubbins Lane, later own premises in Queen's Park Road. Squirrels Heath District from 1946. Now 9<sup>th</sup> Squirrels Heath.

### 2nd HAROLD WOOD

Originally founded 1932 at Harold Court School. Reformed 1937 at Harold Wood Hall (an Essex County Council boys' home). The D.C. reported in 1942 "I found the boys in bed the last time I called officially". Reported as closed in 1944 "due to evacuation". Harold Wood Hall was destroyed by fire in the 'eighties and the shell converted into private dwellings. The Group would be in Romford District if it still existed.



### 3rd HAROLD WOOD

Harold Wood Methodist Church. Squirrels Heath district from 1946.



### 1st HAVERING

(Originally 1st Havering-atte-Bower (St. John's)).

Founded 1934 at the Parish Hall, Havering, then Calvary Mission Hall then Clockhouse Lane School, then own premises in Belle Vue Road (destroyed by fire 1980)

Closed Easter 1989.



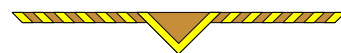
### 3rd HAVERING (ST. JAMES)

St. James Church, Chase Cross Road. Founded 1969. Existing 1997.



### 2nd HAVERING

Rise Park Junior School. Founded 1965. Existing 1997. A history of the Group to 1981, with photographs, is in the District archives.



### 4th HAVERING (Rise Park).

Havering Road Methodist Church. Founded 1977. Closed 1984.

### 1st UPMINSTER

In Romford District in 1921. Transferred to newly-formed Upminster District (later Hornchurch District) in 1933.

### 2nd UPMINSTER

Part of Romford District in 1926, when they took part in Romford District Sports. Transferred to Upminster District in 1933.



### 1st COLLIER ROW

Brookside Cafe, Collier Row Lane. Founded before 1934. Defunct by 1940.



### 2nd COLLIER ROW

#### (CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION)

Original registration 1941. Mr. J. Ling was G.S.M. at inception. The Troop then apparently lapsed (it was reported as having reopened in October 1949). Celebrated their 21st birthday in 1970, eight years late. Now at Worthington Hall, Collier Row Road. The Hall was opened on 17th April 1971 by W. Worthington, described on a plaque in the hall as Founder Scout Leader, but it is possible he actually joined in 1949, when they thought they had begun. Existing 1997.

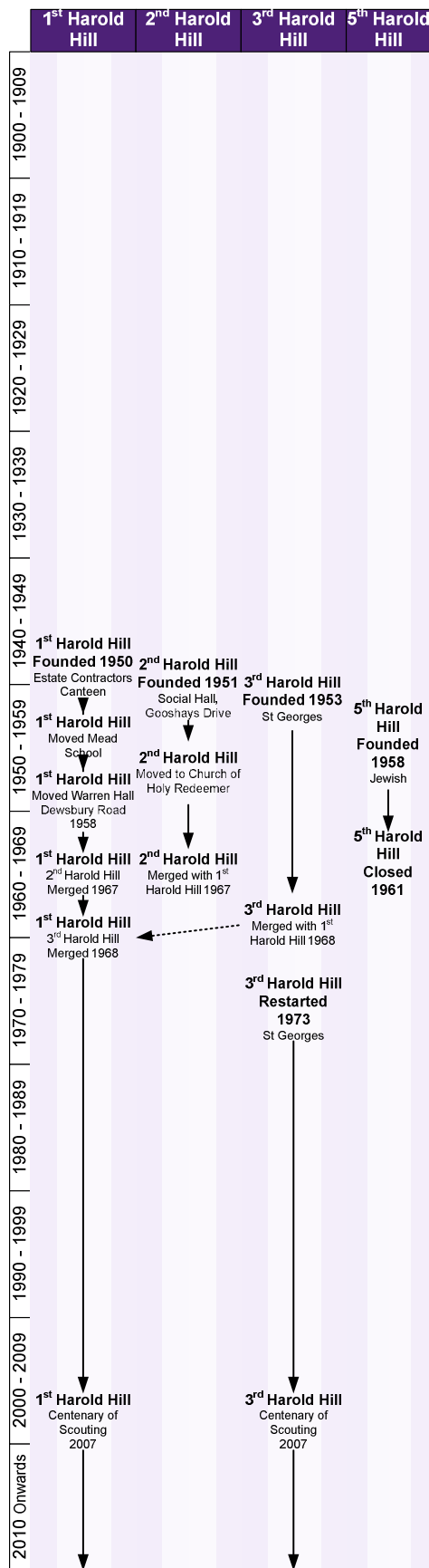


### 3rd COLLIER ROW

Founded as a lone Patrol in 1942. See Chapter on The Forties. Registered 1943. Clockhouse Lane School until 1966, then Lone Pine Lodge, Carter Drive. Existing 1997. For a large part of the Troop's history, see "A Very Ordinary Troop" by A. A. Reeve [Bower Publications 1992].

### 4th COLLIER ROW (CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH)

Founded 1975. Sponsored open Group. Existing 1997.



### 1st DAGENHAM

Probably part of Romford District 1913. Date of transfer not known.

### 1st CHADWELL HEATH

Probably part of Romford District 1915. Date of transfer not known.

### 1st HORNCHURCH (See 3rd Romford, ante)

### 5<sup>th</sup> HORNCHURCH (See 5th Romford, ante).

### 1st ARDLEIGH GREEN

Founded 1933 at Ardleigh Green Methodist Mission Hail, but by 1938 at Ardleigh Green School, possibly because they had outgrown the mission hail. Squirrels Heath District from 1946.

### 1st NAVESTOCKSIDE

Date of founding unknown. Transferred to Ongar District by 1942.

### 1st HAROLD HILL

Founded .1950, originally in the estate contractor's canteen, then at Mead School, then Warren Hail, Dewsbuiy Road from 1958. Existing 1997. [A detailed history of the Group to 1989 is in the District Archives]

### 2<sup>nd</sup> HAROLD HILL

### (CHURCH OF THE HOLY REDEEMER)

Founded 1951. Originally at the Social Hall, Gooshays Drive and sponsored by St. Edward's R.C. Church, Romford. Later at Church of the Holy Redeemer. Merged 1967 with 1st Harold Hill.

### 3rd HAROLD HILL

### (ST. GEORGES)

Founded 1953. Merged 1968 with 1st Harold Hill. Reopened 1973. Existing 1997.

### 4th HAROLD HILL

Title not used, to avoid confusion with 4th Gidea Park.

### 5th HAROLD HILL (JEWISH)

Founded 1958. Closed 1961 owing to insufficient Jewish boys on the estate.

### DISTRICT VENTURE UNIT

Only records at Headquarters are for 1981, 1982 and 1983, but not removed from District returns until 1995.

## EXPLORER SCOUT UNITS

Unlike Venture Scouts before them, Explorer Scout Units were always district based, even though meetings normally took place on group premises. The first District Explorer Scout meeting took place on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2002 and after that the units started meeting on a weekly basis. A joint summer camp was held at Kandersteg international Scout Centre in 2003 with members from all three active units in attendance.

### DISTRICT YOUNG LEADER UNIT

Founded January 2003. This unit set up to train Explorer Scouts who were helping run Colonies, packs and Troops started meeting bi-monthly at District Headquarters before switching to monthly and moving to the Rowsell Hall at St Michaels Church. By 2011 the unit had moved back to District Headquarters. In the early days attendance was somewhat erratic but by 2009 unit meetings were regularly attracting twenty or more Explorers with guest leaders being brought in to help run specific training modules. During 2012 and 2013 strategy for training young leaders changed with more of a focus on multi module days or weekends and less reliance on running regular monthly meetings.

### UNIT J

St. James Church, Chase Cross Road. Founded October 2002.



### UNIT M

St Michaels Church, Gidea Park. Founded October 2002 Closed September 2010.

Unit M won the County Endurance camp in 2004 and successfully defended the title in 2005. Less than three years after opening, in the spring of 2005 they had their first member participate in a practice Queens Scout Award Expedition. That year they also won the Ilford North Forest Boundary Hike, a title they defended successfully in 2006. Summer camp in 2006 was back at Kandersteg International Scout Centre but included a European tour lasting several days on the way back. By 2007 they had their first of many Queens Scout Awards. The Summer Expedition in 2009 was to Italy where several Explorer Belts were completed. The unit closed in September 2010.



### UNIT H

Founded September 2010 Warren Hail, Dewsbury Road.

### UNIT A

Founded September 2010 St. Albans Church, Princes Road



### UNIT E

Founded September 2012 Brownsea Hall III, Knighton Close, Romford



## NETWORK UNITS

### THE ROMFORD DISTRICT "VIKING" NETWORK

After two attempts at setting up a local Network the third attempt started in 2013 is showing more promise. The Viking network meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at District HQ.





## APPENDIX 2 - DISTRICT OFFICIALS

### PRESIDENTS

1913-1918	Lord O'Hagan. (But see note against Lord O'Hagan below)
1934-1943	L.G. Peake.
1943-1958	W. O. Russell, J.P., O.B.E.
1959-1961	F. Hay-Davies
1961-1965	The Mayor of Romford
1965-1967	H. H. Green, J.P.
1968-1977	E. H. Wall, J.P.
1978-1979	(Vacant)
1980-1983	Councillor W. Smith.
1984-1991	Councillor Norman Symonds
1991-.	H. Layer.
???? – 2011	Stan Hall



### DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

About 1912-1918	Rt. Hon. Lord O'Hagan (Mid-Essex and Romford) (Lord O'Hagan is variously described as District Commissioner and District President. It is likely that in early days the D.C.'s function was less executive than it is now, and that the two titles were inter-changeable)
1918 – 1920	J. O. Thompson (Acting D.C. Mid-Essex and Romford)
1920	Brigadier-General J.T. Wigan (Mid-Essex and Romford)
1920 – 1926	Brigadier-General C. H. de Rougemont (Mid-Essex and Romford to 1922, then Brentwood and Romford.) Each Local Association in this District apparently had its own A.D.C. who was effectively D.C.
1922 – 1925	Rev. Charles Steer M.C., Vicar of Hornchurch. (A.D.C. Romford)
1925 – 1927	Major Godfrey Pike. (Firstly A.D.C. Romford. From March 1926. Romford became a District in its own right and Major Pike became D.C.)
1927 – 1934	Lt. Col. A.M. Turner, DSO, DL.
1934 – 1940	F. W. Ashby
1940 – 1947	E. C. Crisp
1948 – 1967	W. G. Archer
1967 – 1971	P. Giles
1971 – 1982	W. J. Adams
1982 – 1989	H. R. Walker
1989 – 1998	David. Hart
1998 – 2009	Paul Leeper
2009 – 2014	Kieth Pethers
2014 -	Andrew Mann



LT. COL. A. M. TURNER, D.S.O., D.L  
DC Romford District 1927 – 34



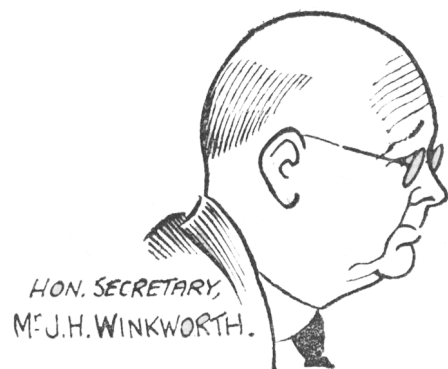
W.G. ARCHER (By Dick German of the Romford Recorder)  
DC Romford District 1948 – 67

## CHAIRMEN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

? - 1922	Rev. Canon G.M. Bell.
To 1934	G. de Ste. Croix
1934- 1939	The District Commissioner (Lt. Col. Turner/F.W.Ashby)
1939- 1943	J. Twiun,
1943- 1945	J. A. Button
1945- 1947	A. E. Occomore
1947- 1948	J. Bishop
1949- 1959	F. Hay-Davies
1959- 1968	E.H. Wall, J.P.
1969- 1970	C. Crutchley
1971- 1991	H. Laver
1991- 2004	Stan Hall
2004 - 2014	Geoff Hutton
2014 -	Kieth Pethers (Acting Chair)

## SECRETARIES

1912-1913	C. V. Dipnall.
1914-1916	P. Weston.
1917-1918	H.W.C. Muskett.
1919-1921	W. S. Knopp.
1922-1928	J. A. Budd
1929-1930	P.J. Millar
1931-1934	L. Wolsey
1935-1938	S. T. Milbourne
1938	H. Dunball
1938-1939	J. Parsons
1939-1941	S. R. Bragg.
1941-1942	Mrs. Bragg deputising for her husband, absent on war service.
1942-1943	J. N. Davey
1943	C. C. Card and Miss N. Millen briefly
1943- 1951	J.H.H. Winkworth.
1952-1954	Mrs. E. Gould.
1955-1956	J. Barrett
1957-1958	Miss M. J. Stebbings
1959	Mrs. E. Gould
1960-1962	P. Stebbings
1963-1972	C. Scanes.
1973-1977	D. Weller
1977- 1989	D. Hart
1989- 1994	Mrs. M. Rew
1994-	Mrs. H. Geach.



## APPENDIX 3 - THE STORY OF CROW CAMP

Until 1814, the land we now know as Crow Camp was part of Havering Common (shown as "Havering Plain" on some maps) which was an area of common land lying to the north of the Manors of Dagenhams and Gooshays, and north-east of the Royal Manor of Pyrgo. In 1814 an Act of Parliament, The Havering Enclosure Award (which can be seen in the Public Record Office) discontinued all "rights of common" which existed over Havering Plain and allocated definite pieces of land to the various commoners. The Award also provided, according to a history of the Parish of Havering-atte-Bower written in 1925, for the roadway from the blacksmith's forge (near the church) northwards to Stapleford to be gravelled out of the proceeds of the enclosure. The land we now know as Crow Camp, and another piece of land in Benskins Lane were reasonably rich in gravel (and might previously have been dug for *ad hoc* repairs of the roads) and were accordingly left without owners but were "for the use of the highway surveyor for the time being", the road to Stapleford no doubt being in mind.

The author of this history has seen correspondence, dated 1902, which confirmed that the land had once been used for gravel digging, but "not within living memory". This means that the last gravel was probably dug round about 1820-1830 (which would accord with the above), but it is still possible to see the gentle slope where the horses and carts were driven into and out of the large excavation in the middle of the site.

Thus, both pieces of land came, in due course, into the possession firstly of the Overseers of the Parish, then Romford Rural District Council, then in 1936 of Romford Borough Council, and finally in 1965 of Havering Borough Council, all of which acquired the duties of "highway surveyor" in turn. They did not, however, own the land: they only "had the use of it".

For some years from about 1904, Sir Thomas Neave, Lord of the Manor of Dagenhams (or Dagriarns as it is sometimes spelt) paid rent to the Council (Romford Rural) for shooting rights over the land. Possibly he allowed his farm-workers to use their guns here - as he had a right to do, since he was paying rent for the purpose - and this may have given rise to a local legend that he "gave the land to the Parish". This is not so: Sir Thomas owned much of the surrounding land, but not this piece, and could not therefore have given it away.

Shortly after the last war, around about 1948, Romford Scouts were looking for a camp site as a memorial to those members of the District who had given their lives in the war, and the Council

(Romford Borough Council by now) allowed us to have the use, on a year to year basis, of both pieces of land - i.e. Crow Camp and the Benskins Lane piece - and for fifteen years we paid them a nominal rent of one shilling (5p) per year! At this time we were using mostly the Benskins Lane bit, and occasionally Crow Camp - but the latter was very overgrown and had had a lot of rubbish dumped on it. And not a blade of grass! However, because we only had the pieces of land on a year to year arrangement we did not feel that we could spend any money or do too much hard work on them and so around 1964 we asked the Council if they would grant a lease of both pieces for 21 years. They could not do this straight away, however because, as stated above, they were not legally the owners.

Romford Council (Havering Council after 1965) therefore went to some trouble and expense to apply to the High Court for a legal title to the land: that is to say, they asked for a deed showing that the land, because of their many years' possession of it, was actually theirs.

Before the High Court would listen to the Council, however, the Council were required to advertise their intentions in the local papers and at this point a Mr. Taylor, a resident of Stapleford Abbots, came upon the scene and claimed that he had been using both pieces of land for many years (although in 15 years we had never seen him, or he us). The Council, therefore, "did a deal" with him. They agreed that they would give up their claim to one piece of land if he would give up his claim to the other. They asked us which piece we would prefer, and after looking at the cost of laying on water, and the fact that Crow Camp had a made-up road outside, we chose Crow Camp, and Mr. Taylor got the Benskins Lane piece. (The M25 motorway now runs right through it, so we would have lost our camp if we had chosen the other way round!)

The High Court agreed to this arrangement, but still the title was not "absolute", as it is called. The law requires another fourteen years of undisputed possession to pass before a claimant can actually say that the land is theirs. It was, however, enough for the Council to grant us a 21-year lease, which they did in 1966, and that was when work really began. An earth mover was brought in to clear the main paths around the perimeter of the site and he dumped his spoil in a hole which may not have been caused by gravel digging, but by a small bomb dropped from a German aircraft "on the run" from the London anti-aircraft defences during the 1939-45 war. Work also began on clearing

undergrowth, moving the rubbish into one of the holes and burying it, and encouraging grass to grow. The car park was also constructed.

Although we have referred all along to this land as "Crow Camp" it was only at this time that it got its name. It had previously been known as "the old gravel pits, Chequers Road" and it is still in the Council's records by this name. It was not a convenient name for a camp site and so the District sponsored a competition amongst local Scouts to design a badge and give the site a name. This was won by Rover Scout T. Burt of the 2nd Collier Row Group with his delightful stylised crow, which you can now buy as a badge. His prize was a ruc-sac given by Mr. Jim Beavon, a staunch friend of Crow Camp until his death, and so Crow Camp got its name.

Following the grant of the lease, Bunny Warren, G.S.L. 1st Harold Hill took on the responsibilities of Warden of the site, a position which he held for twenty-one years before handing over to Dennis Rolls, a member of Romford District Scout Fellowship and formerly G.S.L. 2nd Collier Row. Dennis, with members of the Fellowship as a

Service Team has greatly developed the site as present users will be aware.

In 1997 Havering Council finally granted us a 99-year lease on the land which means that we should be secure for the greater part of the next century. This followed a boundary revision along the line of the M25 motorway, which "moved" Crow Camp from Havering into Brentwood, although Havering continue to be the owners.

(it is not strictly part of the history of Crow Camp, but it is interesting to note that the road outside - officially Chequers Road - has been known locally as "Coffin Hill", it has been suggested to the writer that this may at some time have been the place where horses drawing coffins to the churchyards at either Noak Hill or South Weald were given a rest. Not to mention the mourners, who at funerals of poorer folk, were no doubt on foot. No-one has yet reported a ghost at Crow Camp. The site lies close to the line of an ancient pilgrim's road from St. Albans to Canterbury between the point where it is "lost" at Passingford to a point where it picks up again near South Weald.)

## APPENDIX 3 - DISTRICT COMPETITIONS AND TROPHIES

Thought its history the district has run competitions between troops, packs, colonies and even groups. Here are a selection of the longer standing tropes and winters.

### THE SWIMMING CUP FOR SCOUTS

Romford and District Scouts' Association Swimming Club

The Williams Trophy

Presented By Capt S.W.Williams. 1<sup>st</sup> Hornchurch Troop

To be Competed for Annually by Scout Troops In the

Romford District

#### Winners

1923 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Troop	1955 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1981 4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row (R.C.)
1924 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Troop	1956 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1982 4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row (R.C.)
1925 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1957 19 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1983 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop
1926 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1958 1 <sup>st</sup> Harold Hill Troop	1984 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1927 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1959 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park	1985 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering (St James)
1928 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	& 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1986 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1929 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1960 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	& 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering (St James)
1930 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1961 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row Troop	1987 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering (St James)
1931 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1962 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1988 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1932 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1963 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Troop	1989 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop
1933 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1964 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Troop	1990 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1934 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1965 8 <sup>th</sup> Romford (St Johns Troop)	1991 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1935 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1966 6 <sup>th</sup> Romford (St Edwards) R.C.	1992 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1936 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1967 6 <sup>th</sup> Romford (St Edwards) R.C.	1993 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1937 1 <sup>st</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1968 6 <sup>th</sup> Romford (St Edwards) R.C.	1994 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop
1938 1 <sup>st</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1969 1 <sup>st</sup> Havering	1995 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1942 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1970 2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering (Rise Park)	1996 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
1943 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1971 2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering (Rise Park)	1997 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
1944 7 <sup>th</sup> Romford Troop	1972 13 <sup>th</sup> Romford (Trinity)	1998 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
1947 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Troop	1973 13 <sup>th</sup> Romford (Trinity)	1999 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
1948 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Troop	1974 13 <sup>th</sup> Romford (Trinity)	2000 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
1949 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1975 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering (St James)	2001 2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering
1950 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1976 (13 <sup>th</sup> Romford)	2002 2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering
1951 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1977 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	2006 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1952 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1978 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	2012 1 <sup>st</sup> Romford
1953 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1979 2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering Troop .	2013 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1954 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Troop	1980 2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering Troop .	2014 1 <sup>st</sup> Romford

The Williams trophy is presented the Scout Troop who win the annual district swimming gala. The cup is an impressive hallmarked silver cup with base.



## CUBS FREESTYLE SWIM

### Romford Boy Scouts Association

#### The Roger Goody Cup

#### For Cubs Freestyle Swim

1964	E Corbett	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1965	J Corbett	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1966	G Corbett	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1967	G Corbett	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1968	M Ibbunson	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1969	P Gregory	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea park
1970	R Dawson	8 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1971	S Morris	18 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1972	C Suthenwood	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1973	J Alder	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1974	P Williamson	8 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1975	N Cline	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1976	G Richardson	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford A
1977	K Engstrom	2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering
1978	K Engstrom	2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering
1979	P Lane	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford A
1980	G Long	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford A
1981	M lane	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford B
1982	D Blake	Collier Row C
1983	R Oatham	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park B
1984	T Lawler	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1985	A Timcke	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row C
1987	G Francis	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1988	R Couchman	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row
1989	D Baker	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1990	G Leadsham	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1991	R Philpot	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1992	S Richardson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1993	S Richardson	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1994	T Martin	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row
1995	T Martin	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row
1996	N Abbot	3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
1997	C Seneviratne	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1998	M Pietkiewicz	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row
1999	J Marchant	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
2000		
2001		
2002	M Preston	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row
2006	T McKiernan	
2012	M Pearce	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Tigers
2013	A Marshal	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
2014	L Oatham	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park

**NOTE** R. Oatham (winner 1983) is the father of L. Oatham – winner 2014

## **THE CUB SWIMMING RUNNER UP SHIELD**

1976	11th Romford A Pack
1977	3rd Havering & 11th Romford A Pack
1978	11th Romford
1979	11th Romford
1980	3rd Gidea Park B Pack
1981	13th Romford
1982	3rd Havering & 6th Romford
1983	2nd Havering
1984	3rd Gidea Park B Pack
1985	10th Romford B Pack
1987	3rd Gidea Park B Pack
1988	10th Romford B Pack
1989	3rd Havering
1990	3rd Havering
1991	3rd Gidea Park
1992	3rd Havering
1993	19th Romford
1994	2nd Collier Row
1995	10th Romford
1996	3rd Havering
1999	3rd Collier Row
2000	3rd Gidea Park
2001	4th Collier Row
2002	3rd Gidea Park
2006	6th Romford
2012	3rd Havering
2013	?
2014	?

## **THE ANNUAL GROUP SWIMMING CHALLENGE**

1998	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1999	3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row
2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
2001	1 <sup>st</sup> Romford
2002	2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering
2006	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row
2013	1 <sup>st</sup> Romford
2014	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park

## THE CUB SCOUT QUIZ

This trophy comprises of a wooden shield with metallic shields engraved on it.

### Winners

1996	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2004	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1997	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row	2005	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1998	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row	2006	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row
1999	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2007	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
2000	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
2001	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row	2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park	2010	21 <sup>st</sup> Romford
2003	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row	2011	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park

## THE DISTRICT COOKING COMPETITION

This trophy comprises of a large wooden spoon. The trophy was retired between 1982 and 1994 as during this period the Portman cup was being awarded for camp cooking and it was felt two cooking competitions in the calendar was a bit much. Once the Portman cup (later replaced by the Roy Walker Cup) for camp cooking was incorporated as part of the Franklin Shield event the district cooking competition where teams cook on gas and host a dinner party with three course meal was re-instigated

### The District Cooking Competition

#### Winners

1976	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2002	Not Run?
1977	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2003	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1978	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2004	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1979	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row	2005	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1980	3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering	2006	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1981	1 <sup>st</sup> Romford	2007	3 <sup>rd</sup> Harold Hill
1995	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row	2008	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1996	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row	2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1997	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2010	21 <sup>st</sup> Romford
1998	3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row	2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1999	3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering	2012	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford
2000	3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row	2013	21 <sup>st</sup> Romford
2001	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford		

## THE RON BARTON CHALLENGE TROPHY

Awarded to the Winning Scout Team

At the Romford District Scouts Annual Hiking Competition

### Winners

1973: 1<sup>st</sup> Harold Hill, I. Reade P.L.  
 1974: 1<sup>st</sup> Harold Hill, P. Baxter P.L.  
 1975: 1<sup>st</sup> Harold Hill, A. Jones P.L.  
 1976: 8<sup>th</sup> Romford, B. Constable P.L.  
 1977: 6<sup>th</sup> Romford, I. Goddard P.L.  
 1978: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, Richard Tong P.L.  
 1979: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, Peter Mitchell P.L.  
 1980: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, Peter Mitchell P.L.  
 1981: 8<sup>th</sup> Romford, Andrew Notman P.L.  
 1982: 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering, Gary Cummins P.L.  
 1983: 1<sup>st</sup> Romford, Mat Jones P.L.  
 1984: 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering, Jason Wapling P.L.  
 1985: 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering, Jason Wapling P.L.  
 1986: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, Peter Fishliegh P.L.  
 1987: 1<sup>st</sup> Romford, Richard Connell P.L.  
 1988: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, Ben Guynan P.L.  
 1989: 3<sup>rd</sup> Collier Row, Damian Murray P.L.  
 1990: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, James Godden P.L.  
 1991: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, R. Booth P.L.  
 1992: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, J. Daltrey P.L.  
 1993: 19<sup>th</sup> Romford Tigers, D. Greenwood P.L.

1994: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, S. Tovell / I. Whitty  
 1995: 3<sup>rd</sup> Collier Row, P. Foster P.L.  
 1996: 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering, Tom Hammond P.L.  
 1997: [Joint] 19<sup>th</sup> Romford / 3<sup>rd</sup> Collier Row  
 1998: 19<sup>th</sup> Romford, C. Greenwood P.L.  
 1999: 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering, Graeme Charlton P.L.  
 2000: 11<sup>th</sup> Romford, Mark Clissold P.L.  
 2001: 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering, Jack Hammond P.L.  
 2002: 19<sup>th</sup> Romford, D. Smith P.L.  
 2003: 1<sup>st</sup> Romford, P. Webb P.L.  
 2004: 2<sup>nd</sup> Collier Row, Craig Markwick P.L.  
 2005: /  
 2006: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, Jamie Gildea P.L.  
 2007: /  
 2008: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, Tom Sandberg P.L.  
 2009: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, Tom Sandberg P.L.  
 2010: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, James Taylor P.L.  
 2011: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, Sammy Rees P.L.  
 2012: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, Robert Leeper P.L.  
 2013: 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford, Robert Leeper P.L.  
 2014: 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park, Isobel Martin P.L.

Table:

	Group	Wins
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford	9
2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park	8
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering	6
4	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford	4
5	1 <sup>st</sup> Harold Hill	3
5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row	3
6	8 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2
7	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1
7	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row	1

## **THE BILL ADAMS TROPHY**

Awarded to the Winning Scout Team

At the Romford District Scouts Annual Orienteering Competition

### **Winners**

1982 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering  
1983 6<sup>th</sup> Romford  
1984 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park  
1985 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park  
1986 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering  
1987 1<sup>st</sup> Romford  
1988 11<sup>th</sup> Romford  
1989 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering  
1990 11<sup>th</sup> Romford  
1991 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park  
1992 2<sup>nd</sup> Collier Row

1993 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford  
1994 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park  
1995 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park  
1996 19<sup>th</sup> Romford  
1997 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering  
1998 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering  
1999 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering  
2000 2<sup>nd</sup> Collier Row  
2001 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering  
2002 4<sup>th</sup> Collier Row  
2003 4<sup>th</sup> Collier Row

2004 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford  
2005 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park  
2006 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park

2010 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford  
2011 3<sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park  
2012 21<sup>st</sup> Romford  
2013 21<sup>st</sup> Romford  
2014 2<sup>nd</sup> Romford

It was contested 25 times between 1982 and 2006.

In 2005 the Romford Event was combined with a county event and the Bill Adams Trophy was presented to the top team from Romford which happened to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team from GLNE.

In 2006 the orienteering competition was run as the second day of the Barton Challenge Event however it was open to teams that didn't take part in the full Barton Challenge. In 2007 neither the Barton Challenge or the Orienteering took place and the Orienteering event didn't restart until 2010 when it continued in its original format as its own event.

## **THE CONNIE ADAMS TROPHY**

Awarded to the Winning Venture Scout or Explorer Scout Team

At the Romford District Scouts Annual Orienteering Competition

1991 13<sup>th</sup> Romford  
1992 R.V.U. (3rd G.P.)  
1993 ABBOTTS  
1994 R.V.U. (3rd G.P.)  
1995 R.V.U. (3rd G.P.)  
1997 V.U. 1<sup>st</sup> HH

1996 R.V.U. (3rd G.P.)  
1998 R.V.U. (3rd G.P.)  
1999 V.U. 1<sup>st</sup> HH  
2003 UNIT M  
2004 UNIT M  
2010 UNIT YL (3GP)

2011 UNIT A  
2013 UNIT E  
2014 UNIT J/UNIT E



## THE FRANKLIN SHIELD

The Franklin Challenge Shield is considered the premiere event for Scouts in Romford District. Many of the names on the trophy read like a who's who of Scouting in Romford.

Year	Group	SM/SL	Patrol	PL	APL
1921	1st Romford	DC Mackness			
1922	1st Romford	E Davies			
& 1922	2nd Romford	FW Ashby			
1924	2nd Romford (Newbury Park Section)	N Shelford			
1925	2nd Romford	FW Ashby			
1926	1st Romford	FH Davies			
& 1926	7th Romford (RLS)	SB Hartley			
1928	8th Romford	W Gable			
1929	9th Romford	SG Graham			
1930	1st Gidea Park	R.L. Eltham (SM)			
1931	1st Gidea Park	J.R. Poel (G.S.M.)			
1932	1st Gidea Park	J.H. Sharman (A.S.M)			
1933	1st Gidea Park	A.R. Tilston (A.S.M.)			
1934	8th Romford	F.E. Koester (G.S.M)			
1935	13th Romford	A. Cheetham (S.M.)			
1936	13th Romford	S. Bragg (A.S.M)			
1937	1st Gidea Park	A.R. Tilston (S.M.)			
1938	1st Gidea Park	F.T. Wenborn (A.S.M)			
1939	12th Romford (RLS)	J. Morley (S.M.)			
1942	1st Harold Wood	F.W. Edwards (A.S.M)			
1944	1st Harold Wood	F.W. Edwards (S.M)	Lion	C Davis	
1945	3rd Harold Wood	R.C. Vickers (G.S.M)			
1946	1st Emerson Park	A. Corben (S.M.)			
1948	1st Romford	E.C. Baskett (G.S.M)			
1949	7th Romford (RLS)	J.E. Moore (SM)			
1950	12th Romford (RLS)	J. Morley (S.M.)			
& 1950	10th Romford	J.V. Jones (S.M.)			
1951	2nd Romford	G. Clarke (A.S.M)			
1952	12th Romford (RLS)	J. Morley (S.M.)			
1953	1st Havering	J. Fogg (G.S.M)			
1955	7th Romford (RLS)	J.E. Moore (SM)	Woodpecker		
1956	2nd Romford	S. Feldwick (S.M)	Owl		
1958	3rd Collier Row	A.A. Reeve	Tiger		
1959	3rd Collier Row	A.A. Reeve	Rattlesnake		
1960	13th Romford	A. Peacock			
1961	3rd Collier Row	A.A. Reeve	Tiger		
1962	7th Romford (RLS)	J.C. Tarrant	Bulldog		
1963	2nd Romford	F. Potter (S.M)	Panther		
1964	2nd Collier Row	D.H. Rolls	B' Spring Patrol		
1965	10th Romford	R. Barton	Falcon		
1966	3rd Gidea Park	A.C.A Matthews (S.M.)	Falcon		
1967	8th Romford	B.A. Richards (S.L.)	Tiger		
1969	2nd Romford	W.J. Adams	Owl		
1970	8th Romford	D.C. Perry	Panther		
1971	8th Romford	D.C. Perry	Panther		
1972	8th Romford	R.J. Young	Stag		
1973	4th Gidea Park	R.J. Dansey (S.L)			
1974	1st Harold Hill	J.B. Warren (G.S.L.)		M. Smith	
1975	2nd Romford	T.J. Speller	Kestrels	A. Smith	
1978	2nd Collier Row	D.H. Rolls	Kestrels	C. Davies (A.P.L)	
1979	3rd Gidea Park	T. Lawrence (S.L)	Hawks	G. Edwards (P.L.)	
1980	2nd Collier Row	A.F. Geach (S.L.)	Kestrels	C. Davies (P.L)	
1981	2nd Romford	P. Leeper (S.L.)	Owl	A. Beaumont	
1982	6th Romford	J. Ellis	Lions		
1983	4th Collier Row		Hawk	A. Fearn	
1984	4th Collier Row		Lion	R. Green	
1985	3rd Havering		Bulldog	J. Wapling	
& 1985	2nd Romford		Owls	G. Simms	
1986	1st Romford		Otter	J. Graham	
1987	2nd Collier Row		Bulldog	P. Marshall	
1988	11th Romford		Kestrel	D. Smith	
1989	2nd Romford		Owl	J. Godden	
1990	2nd Romford		Owl	B. Guynan	
1991	2nd Romford		Eagle	J. Godden	
1992	2nd Romford		Eagle	J. Godden	
1993	19th Romford		Bulldog	K Greenwood	J. Farnes
1994	19th Romford		Wolves	R. Reeve	C.K. Watson
1995	2nd Romford		Eagle	S. Tovel	I Whitty

Year	Group	SM/SL	Patrol	PL	APL
1996	19th Romford		Cobra	G.Leadham	C.Keeble-Watson
1997	3rd Collier Row		Kestrels	M.Foster (S.P.L.)	
1998	19th Romford		Cobra	D.Rodgers	A.Masterson (A.P.L)
1999	3rd Havering	A.Mann	Lions	G.Charlton	
2000	2nd Romford		Eagles	D.Matson(S.P.L.)	R.Taylor (P.L)
2001	3rd Havering	A.J.Mann	Stags	D.Smith	
2002	3rd Havering	A.J.Mann	Stags	D.Smith	
2003	3rd Gidea Park		Ravens	S.Finch	M.Shanahan
2004	3rd Gidea Park		Cobra	V.Lunnon	J.Gildea
2005	3rd Gidea Park		Hawks	M.Isaacs	C.Bassett
2006	3rd Gidea Park		Hawks	M.Isaacs	T.Sandberg
2007	3rd Collier Row		Lions	Anna Skipworth	
2008	3rd Gidea Park		Wolves	C.Wren	C.King
2009	3rd Collier Row		Cobra	C.Merritt	J.Smith
2010	3rd Gidea Park		Meerkat	G.Swann	G.Eklund
2011	3rd Gidea Park		Dragon	G.Eklund	M.Reeve
2012	2nd Romford		Wood Eagle	R.Leeper	L.B.Raymont
			Owls		
2013	2nd Romford		Wood Eagle		
			Owls		
2014	21 <sup>st</sup> Romford				

## THE KIPLING SHIELD

The Kipling Shield is the Venture Scout and since the 2004 event Explorer Scouts equivalent of the Scout's Franklin Shield.

Year	Unit
1997	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Vanguard Venture Scout Unit
2001	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Rowswell Venture Unit
2002	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Rowswell Venture Unit
2004	Unit J Explorer Scout Unit
2005	Unit M Explorer Scout Unit
2006	Unit M Explorer Scout Unit
2007	Unit M Explorer Scout Unit
2008	Unit M Explorer Scout Unit
2010	Unit A Explorer Scout Unit
2011	Unit A Explorer Scout Unit
2012	Unit A Explorer Scout Unit
2013	
2014	Not contested.

## THE WALKER CUP

The Walker Cup replaced the Portman Cup and is awarded to the Scout team who does the best camp cooking during the course of the Franklin Shield event.

Year	Troop
2008	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
2009	3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row
2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
2012	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
2013	

## THE PORTMAN CUP

The Portman Building Society Trophy for Scouting Skills (Portman cup) was donated by the Portman Building Society and was originally awarded to the Scout Patrol who scored the most points at an annual camp cooking competition. At some stage (probably at about the time of the re-introduction of the regular cooking competition) this event was combined with the Franklin Shield and the Portman cup was then presented to the Scout Patrol who score the most points in the camp cooking elements of the Annual Franklin Shield competition.

1982 2nd Collier Row Lions	1990 Scouts Go For a Million	1999 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering Lions
1983 2nd Collier Row Beavers	1991 4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row Wolves	2000 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Eagles
1984 1st Harold Hill	1992 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford Eagles	2001 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering Stags
Woodpeckers	1993 19 <sup>th</sup> Romford Bulldogs	2002 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering Stags
1985 11th Romford Falcons	1994 4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row Lions	2003 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Ravens
1986 6th Romford Wolves	1995 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Kestrels	2004 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park Ravens
1987 3rd Havering Stags	1995 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford Eagles	2005 ? (2 <sup>nd</sup> R?)
1988 3rd Havering Tigers & Stags	1996 19 <sup>th</sup> Romford Cobras	2006 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park
1989 1st Romford Stags	1997 3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row Kestrels	2007 ? (3CR?)
	1998 19 <sup>th</sup> Romford Tigers	

## THE BEAVER SPORTS SHIELD

The Bill Archer Trophy

Beaver Scouts

District Sports

1991 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park	2010 TBC
1992 13 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2011 TBC
1993 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park	2012 TBC
1994 4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row	2013 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row
1995 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering	
1996 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford	
1997 2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford	
1998 3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row	
1999 6 <sup>th</sup> Romford	
2000 6 <sup>th</sup> Romford	
2001 ? Romford	
2002 1 <sup>st</sup> Romford	
2003 1 <sup>st</sup> Romford	
2004 2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering	
2006 4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row	
2007 TBC	
2008 TBC	
2009 TBC	

## THE ST. GEORGE'S COMPETITION RUNNERS-UP TROPHY

1952	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1983	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford 'B' Pack
1953	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1984	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park 'A' Pack
1954	3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row	1985	18 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1955	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford & 13 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1986	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row 'A' Pack
1956	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row	1987	6 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1957	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row	1988	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford 'B' Pack
1958	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1989	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1959	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford 'A' Pack	1990	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1960	1 <sup>st</sup> Romford	1991	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row 'A' Pack
1961	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford	1992	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1962	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford 'A' Pack	1993	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1963	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row 'B' Pack	1994	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1964	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford	1995	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1965	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Harold Hill	1996	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford & 11 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1966	3 <sup>rd</sup> Harold Hill	1997	19 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1967	8 <sup>th</sup> Romford & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Harold Hill	1998	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1968	3 <sup>rd</sup> Collier Row	1999	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row
1969	1 <sup>st</sup> Havering 'B' Pack	2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1970	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford 'A' Pack	2001	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1971	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row 'B' Pack	2002	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1972	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford	2003	3 <sup>rd</sup> Harold Hill
1973	1 <sup>st</sup> Romford	2004	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1974	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford 'B' Pack	2005	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1975	2 <sup>nd</sup> Havering	2006	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1976	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row 'B' Pack	2007	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1977	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering	2008	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1978	11 <sup>th</sup> Romford 'A'	2009	10 <sup>th</sup> Romford
1979	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2010	4 <sup>th</sup> Collier Row
1980	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row 'A' and 13 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> Romford
1981	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collier Row 'A'	2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> Havering
1982	13 <sup>th</sup> Romford	2013	
		2014	3 <sup>rd</sup> Gidea Park

## UPDATES & CORRECTIONS

08/09/2014     Ted Rose got in touch to point out that it was 3<sup>rd</sup> Havering who were the 6<sup>th</sup> troop who in 1967 attended the Greater London North-east Diamond Jubilee Camp at Schmitzburg, Germany but hadn't responded to Bunny's original request for information. This section was updated accordingly.