

## HISTORY OF 7<sup>TH</sup> WOKING (ST. MARY OF BETHANY) SCOUT GROUP

### KEY EVENTS

#### **1925**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Woking B.P. Scouts and Cubs (as the Group was originally called) was formed. The Vicar of St Mary of Bethany Church agreed with Parishioners Miss Beryl Tidd and Mr K J Irwin that they should take on the appointments of Akela and Scoutmaster and start Scouting in the church hall. St Mary of Bethany Church has continued as our Sponsoring Authority to this day.

#### **1926**

A 'Rover Crew' was formed for those having reached the maximum age for the Troop

#### **1927**

After two years the number of boys on the Group was 35

#### **1937**

The Troop, which consisted of 19 Scouts, received a serious set back when a difference of opinion between the leaders of the Troop and the Vicar resulted in the majority of Scouts, with their leaders, breaking away to form the 9<sup>th</sup> Woking Scout Troop. The Cub Pack carried on under Miss Tidd. The Troop quickly recovered its numbers

#### **1939**

World War II broke out and the adults were called to undertake war duties. The Cub Pack continued with four sixes but only a skeleton Troop remained without leaders but under the guidance of senior boys. This was not to last.

#### **1944**

The Troop closed due to the lack of leaders. Miss Tidd continued to run a full Cub Pack

#### **1950**

Miss Tidd stepped down after 25 years being Akela. The Troop was reformed with 3 boys and had grown to 12 by the end of the year.

#### **1952**

A 'Senior Scout' section was formed for the 15 – 18 age range

#### **1959**

At the end of the 50's there were over 70 boys in the Group and three sections – Cubs, the Troop and Senior Scouts

#### **1960 – 1970**

The pattern of activities appears to change and camping, canoeing, football and swimming became more prominent in the programmes. A number of successes were recorded at District competitions in all sections

#### **1970 – 1972**

To reflect the move towards more active scouting and the Association's changes in the uniforms and training programmes, the Group was renamed – 7<sup>th</sup> Woking (St Mary of Bethany) Scout Group

#### **1972**

A tea towel drying over the stove in the Kingsway Church Hall, fondly called the 'Tin Tab' (short for tabernacle) because of its corrugated iron cladding, caused the disastrous fire that left the Group without anywhere to meet. Most of the equipment and the records of the Group were destroyed. However, the Cubs continued to meet at St Mary's Church in York Road and the Troop met at the Goldsworth Road School

**1973**

A new Group Headquarters was completed at the Westfield Avenue site as it is today for the total cost of £2,600. The Parochial Church Council donated £1,000 and the balance was found from Group funds and much fund-raising!

**1975**

The official opening was undertaken by Lord Baden-Powell (the Founder's Grandson)

**1976**

The numbers of Cubs attending the meeting regularly were such that the Cub Pack was split into two – The Otters Pack and the Badgers Pack

**1977**

The first 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Scout Group Fete was held for the purpose of raising money and promoting family involvement. This event was held annually until approximately 2003

**1978**

The first Dads 'n Lads camp was held for the Troop and has continued ever since. Although it is now called Scouts +1 camp!

**1979**

Air rifle target shooting was commenced at the HQ and became a popular Group activity

**1980**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Venture Scout Unit was formed for those young people (male and female) between the ages of 16 and 21. The membership of the Group exceeded 100 for the first time

**1981**

For the first time, the Troop had in its programme a twice yearly expedition to the hills of the Lake District, Snowdonia or the Brecon Beacons. The Spring and Autumn Expos have been fairly constant items in the scouting calendar ever since.

**1984**

Scoutabout – a County event for Scouts and Guides attended every three years – the next one is 2011!

**1989**

The Group commenced bi-monthly Scouts Owns at the 7<sup>th</sup> HQ in lieu of Church Parades. In order to promote a more realistic income and to modernise its financial systems, the Group introduced subscriptions and did away with 'Subs' paid weekly by those boys attending meetings

**1990**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Beaver Scout Colony was formed and immediately attracted a waiting list to join

**1991**

Leader shortages led to the Otter and Badger Cubs reforming into a single Pack

**1994**

After various more local pack holidays over the years, the Cubs went on their first adventure experience to Yorkshire. This annual event is still a very popular annual event

**1996**

The Group had grown to over 130 young people

## 2000

The Westfield are suffered a great flood in the Autumn which meant that a new floor had to be laid in the 7<sup>th</sup> HQ

The new millennium arrives and 7<sup>th</sup> Woking celebrated 75 years young

## 2001

7<sup>th</sup> Woking Scout Group joined the County trip to Kanderstag

Four Queens Scout Awards in one year – Elly, Andrew, Nicola and Jeni. Continuing a trend that started in 1944

This year also saw a flurry of '7<sup>th</sup> Weddings'

Simon Lee (Akela) and Caroline Lee (Ast Cub Scout Leader)

Steve Britain (Ast Scout Leader) and Frances Goldstone (District Venture Leader)

Chris Marsh (former 7<sup>th</sup> Venture Leader) and Maria Abbondanolo (former 7<sup>th</sup> Beaver Scout helper)

All sections were represented at many different District events over the years and even one a few.

7<sup>th</sup> Woking Scouts become the first Woking District team to win the County Lightweight Competition

The whole structure of Scouting was reviewed and change with new sections being introduced. New uniforms were also introduced along with a new Awards system:

|               |                  |   |
|---------------|------------------|---|
| Beaver Scouts | 6 – 8 years      | Highest award – Bronze Chief Scout                          |
| Cub Scouts    | 8 – 10 1/2 years | Highest award – Silver Chief Scout                          |
| Scouts        | 10 – 14 years    | Highest award – Gold Chief Scout                            |
| Explorers     | 14 – 18 years    | Highest award – Platinum Chief Scout<br>Diamond Chief Scout |
| The Network   | 18 – 25 years    | Highest award – Queens Scout                                |

Explorers and the Network are District units

## 2003

Beaver Scouts attended the 1<sup>st</sup> County Fun Day – Bazzaz which now occurs every three years – next one 2012

## 2005

7<sup>th</sup> Woking Scout Group decides to admit girls for the first time and the 3 girls joined in the September of that year.

The Group completed the Environment Project at Hoe Valley and Barnsbury after two years.

Many received their Environment Badge having helped with 6 or more activities.

In Nov 2005 David Parker (Group Scout Leader) and Chris Trendall invested the first three girls into 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Scouts – Sarah, Lauren and Caroline.

Ian Webb, a Scout Leader from South Africa, joined the group for about a year in 2005/2006.

## 2007

The first girl to be invested into the 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Beaver Colony – Frances

Linda Pennells (Beaver Scout Leader) and Teresa Trendall "retired" from Beavers after 17 years.

Jan Parker (Beaver Scout Leader), Sarah Heisig (Ast. Beaver Scout Leader), Berangere Noyau

(Beaver Scout Sectional Assistant), Celeste Cranstone (Ast Beaver Scout Leader), Tania

Raysford (Beaver Scout Sectional Assistant) took over the running of Beavers and the meeting night moved to Thursdays at 5.30 – 6.30 pm.

## **2007**

In 2007 Scouting became 100 years old !!!

At 8 am on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007 the Summer Camp attendees celebrated the **Centenary Sunrise** on Hay Tor by renewing their Scout Promise led by Peter Duncan (Chief Scout 2004-2009) broadcasting on the radio from Brownsea Island.

They then cooked bacon butties before going letterboxing and climbing for the day and having birthday cake in the afternoon.

District Cub Centenary Camp. A weekend camp held at Walton Firs Camp site, with the usual mix of adventurous activities and the whole Cub District took part in the Promise Renewal Ceremony. The scouts entered Woking Bikeathon as a Team raising money for Leukaemia Research and won a prize.

## **2008**

The first girl to join 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Cubs moved up from Beavers – Frances

Dave Woodhams (Assistant Scout Leader) received his 20 years service certificate.

Scouts took part in the First Rotary Swimathon – 1 team of 6 swam 121 lengths and raised £576.85 towards local charities.

The challenge and award systems for all sections were changed making the path to achievement of Chief Scout awards clearer

## **2009**

Simon Lee received his 30 years service certificate and badge.

Chris and Teresa Trendall, Linda Pennells each received the Award of Merit in 2009.

5 scouts completed their Cooks Activity Badge by each cooking a three course meal at HQ and then serving it to their parents. There was no water in HQ that day (we “borrowed” from District HQ) but the scouts coped admirably !!!

During summer camp 2009 at Studland, everyone visited Brownsea Island for the day.

2 scout teams took part in the Second Woking Rotary Swimathon and raised £455.

Beaver Scouts held their first Pyjama party

## **2010**

Cubs raised £300 by a sponsored run, running laps of the 7<sup>th</sup> HQ Field and donated it to the Surrey Air Ambulance.

## 2005 - 2010

The Group as a whole were very busy during this period.

### **Fundraising activities**

Fundraising activities included Group Quiz nights, Sutton seeds catalogue selling, Car Washes at Morrisons Supermarket, Jumble Sales, Ink Cartridge recycling and the Group Fireworks evenings in November. We also collected Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers to obtain a wide variety of sports equipment for the Group.

### **Family Camps**

We had a number of yearly Family Camps where all sections and their families went to Birchmere for a fun weekend having a go at kayaking (at Send), climbing, abseiling, air rifle shooting, archery, aerial runway, high ropes course, backwoods cooking and other scouting activities. The Group AGM was included and the cooking done by parents on BBQ's. All Sections provided entertainment at the Group Campfire on the Saturday evenings. These Camps helped to bring more parents into the Group Exec and Leadership Teams and many Beavers gained their first Nights Away Badge Stage 1.

### **Acts of Worship**

The District St. George's Day Parades in Woking Town Centre and Remembrance Sundays at St. Mary's were well attended by all Sections.

St Mary's Vicar, Steve Beak, and his team have also helped 7<sup>th</sup> by leading Scouts Own at HQ and at Family Camp as well as including us in other Church Parades.

### **District Events**

All Sections attended many District Events including

Beavers - Fun Days and Science Days (with Leaders running bases)

Cubs - Back to Basics, Science Day (Run by Simon and Caroline Lee Cub Scout Leader and Assistant Cub Scout Leader), Chess Tournament, Sports activity evening, cooking competition, and handicraft.

Scouts - Night Hike (2<sup>nd</sup> in 2007), Football Tournaments (1<sup>st</sup> in 2006 and 2007), Lightweight Camping Competitions (1<sup>st</sup> in 2008, 2009, 2010) (2<sup>nd</sup> in 2008, 2009) (3<sup>rd</sup> in 2010)

Handicamp – A District event where older scouts buddy with children with special needs for a weekend of adventurous activities. 7<sup>th</sup> Woking Leaders and Young Leaders have also helped at this event.

Leaders - Chris and Teresa Trendall (Scout Leader and Assistant Scout Leader) joined the District Trip to Ypres, Belgium to take part in the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at the Menin Gate.

Leaders, and 2 scouts joined Maverick Explorers to go to France in December 2009 to look at the war fields and visit Menin Gate.

Cub Leaders attend District Leaders weekend camp at Broadstone Warren. A fun weekend of Leaders doing the activities they are normally putting on for the young people. A good team building weekend.

## County Events

All Sections attended many County Events including:

Beavers – Bazzaz 2003, 2006 & 2009

Cubs - Scram 2004, 2007 & 2010

Scouts – Scoutabout

Lightweight Competition (1<sup>st</sup> in 2008 and 2009), (3<sup>rd</sup> 2009),  
K9 in Kandersteg, Switzerland in 2009

Jamboree Selection Weekend – Lauren selected to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> World Jamboree in Hylands Park, England in August 2007.

Jamboree Selection weekend – Ruth and William were selected to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Jamboree in Sweden 2011 along with Dave Trendall (Assistant Scout Leader) as Unit Leader 2 and Kath Brown (a 7<sup>th</sup> parent with 3 children in three Sections and also Scout Leader at Sheerwater) as unit Leader 1.

2010 Leaders help out on the Mobile Display Unit at the Surrey County Show, Guildford to promote Scouting.

## International Events

2007 21<sup>st</sup> World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park, many members of 7<sup>th</sup> Woking visit as day attendees.

2009 Scouts took part in the 13th Jamboree on the Internet in October as part of the Global Challenge.

2010 Cubs took part in the 13<sup>th</sup> Jamboree on the Trail, another hike of 14Km and received an enormous badge each! As well as a Hikes Away badge.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Events / Camps

### Beavers

Beavers regularly visited Mizen Farm to have a ride on the Santa Railway in December. The Beavers and Cubs also went to the local Pantomime for many years.

### Cub Camps

In addition to the District / County Events Cubs also went to Scammonden, Yorkshire each year for 5 days after Easter to stay at the Activity Centre. They visited a variety of places including Eureka!, a steam train ride and Museum, Magna Steel Museum, a coal mine and various other active museums. Mid-week they do an all day hike of around 10 miles! over the South Pennines Moors.

### Scout Camps

In addition to the District / County events Scouts also went on Hike and Camps (Feb); Spring Expos to the Langdale area in the Lake District (May); Scouts plus One Camps where mums were also invited to attend from 2007 onwards (June); Summer Camps at the end July/August for a week; Autumn Expos staying at Coetmor Mill, Bethesda in Snowdonia in October; Surfing near Newquay in October 2006 – 9; Night Hikes on Whitmoor Common in Nov (except 2009 when too wet); Climbing weekends in Derbyshire (2009 – 10); Kayak weekend on the Thames (2010).

## **Chief Scout Awards**

### **Bronze Awards**

|      |            |
|------|------------|
| 2007 | 4 awarded  |
| 2008 | 6 awarded  |
| 2009 | 12 awarded |
| 2010 | 4 awarded  |

### **Silver Awards**

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 2006 | 9 awarded |
| 2007 | 1 awarded |
| 2008 | 1 awarded |
| 2009 | 2 awarded |

### **Gold Awards**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2005 | 4 awarded - Rob and 3 in July  |
| 2006 | 8 awarded – Luke, Mark, Tom, Kieran, Lee, Joshua, Lauren & Sarah     |
| 2007 | 9 awarded - Jamie, Frazer, Ben, Tom, Lex, Alex, Will, Charlie & Matt |
| 2008 | 2 awarded – Cameron & Caroline                                       |
| 2009 | 4 awarded - Daniel, William, Ben & Thomas                            |
| 2010 | 6 awarded - Ruth, Martin, Jack, Benjamin, Lucas & Ross               |