



4th Worcester Park Scout Group

Friends of the Fourth

Newsletter

Christmas Edition 2010

No. 26

Editorial

What a fabulous Friends' Reunion lunch we had! 43 of us, including partners, enjoyed an afternoon's chat, tour of the headquarters and buffet lunch together. We've had some letters concerning the event, one or two of which we'll reproduce later in the newsletter. The idea sprang from a comment made by Tony Hadfield which we published and which prompted support from Richard Duck and others. Tony unfortunately couldn't make this event, so perhaps we should organise another? Let us know your views.

We wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and health and prosperity in the New Year.

Reunion Lunch

You'll be pleased to know that the Reunion Lunch was highly successful in every respect. We had good support, and the small surplus made has been passed to the Group.

Those who attended were:

Richard & Barbara Duck
Arthur Simpson
Dennis & Jean Wheaton
Chris Parry
David & Marion Parsons
David & Christine Sweetland
Eric & Margret Wilkinson
Jeff & Jackie Vernon
Peter & Sheila Kinton

John & Joan Pryke
Jessie & Gordon English
Andrew Colquhoun
Ron Kinton
Andrew Sheerman-Chase
Tony Neal
Bob Prescott
Sally Washington
John Humberstone & daughter Christine

Jon & Sheena Jefferis
John & Jacquie Terry
Peter & Pamela West
Steve & Sally Western
John & Dorothy Baldwin
Michael Wellman
Pat & Jane Worrall
Les & Maureen Prescott

The afternoon started with a superb buffet lunch prepared by Sheila Kinton and Maureen Prescott. This was followed by tours around the headquarters which gave us the opportunity to show off all the recent and not so recent additions to the buildings and grounds. Many questions were asked about the history of the Group and Peter Kinton has written about this later in the newsletter.

Several members were unable to join us but sent their greetings:

Andrew Savage
Graham Stroud
Andrew Craton
Ellen Bolton

Dolly Would
Mike Shaw
Martin & Kay Olney
Tony Hadfield

Margaret Patch
Brian & Sheila Yearley
Sylvia Gray

In addition, our Group Scout Leader Paul Green and his wife Steph were unable to be with us as they were away on a Training Course, but sent their greetings. Following the event, Steve and Sally Western sent us a superb A4 size photograph of the assembled company and they wrote:

"We had a most enjoyable afternoon on Saturday. It was a lovely, relaxed, gentle, welcoming event - just a super ambience to chat and catch up. The idea of the conducted tour was just right - even though we knew the headquarters well, there were all sorts of little snippets we picked up to make it really interesting. We have forwarded a photograph with more to follow. Thank you for a super afternoon and please extend our thanks to everyone who contributed - lovely food, attractive tables and above all superb headquarters for an amazing Group of which we are all very proud. Keep up the good work!"

Steve and Sally's letter reflects the thoughts of many who wrote following the function, space preventing us from reproducing all of them, but we thought we would also include the letter from our old Rover Scout Leader John Humberstone, who writes:

"What a lovely day for our trip down "Memory Lane"! The reunion event for us "silver tops" was a great success at a wonderful venue in Worcester Park. My, how you have grown since my Rover Crew days and so nice to see the Rover Den so well cared for both inside and out. Bob Prescott was telling me that Rovers could be about to come back!!

My daughter Christine (Beanie) was only about 13 years of age when we moved to Kent but she too has many happy memories of her frequent visits to the 4th and in particular the "building" of the crew boat. My lovely wife Sheila died in 2004 so Beanie came to represent the better half of the family!

The 4th are so lucky to have been able to retain the services of the Kinton, Prescott and Sweetland families, such a power house of scouting talent! I am not forgetting Skipper Hutchinson and G.S.M. Fenner whose portrait I shot all those years ago, still hangs in one of your "offices." They were all so vital in establishing the 4th as one of the most successful Groups in Surrey.

Both Beanie and I were so delighted to see "Gungie" Parsons, Jeff Vernon, Andrew Sheerman-Chase, John Terry, John Baldwin and of course Bob and Les Prescott. Also of course Peter and Ron Kinton - I only hope I wear as well when I reach my 90's!!

So essential to the success of the 4th are of course the ladies, some in background support, and others more active. It was great to meet again Sheila Kinton and David Sweetland's good lady, Chris; neither seem to have given way to the passage of "Old Father Time".

Very sad that Paul Dovey, Barrie Spelling, Chris Willis and Chris Pardoe had passed away. Their parents were so supportive and it must be said the building of the Rover Den was considerably helped by the buying and technical skills of Chris's father Geoff Willis. My A.R.S.L Hugh Wiseman has "surfaced" in Australia and recently contributed to the Summer edition of the Newsletter.

Beanie and I thank the 4th again for a most enjoyable day and your ladies for providing a very tasty banquet. Every one of my old and now senile Rovers behaved as they would have done 50 years ago, they sneaked back for at least a second heaped plate of nosh! What's new!!

My fondest regards to everyone."

Also, we thought it appropriate to mention a few lines from John & Jacquie Terry's letter accepting the invitation to the dinner. They persuaded John's sister Jean Wheaton and her husband Dennis (also a 4th veteran) to attend:

"It was on the 14th January 1961 that Jacquie and I married in St Dunstan's Cheam and had our reception in the 4th Worcester Park HQ with Ron Kinton making the cake, his daughters being the bridesmaids, Mrs Salter doing the catering and John Humberstone doing the photos. As you will see by the date we are coming up to our Golden Wedding Anniversary. So in effect by attending the Reunion Lunch, it will be a sort of early anniversary of the occasion."

We therefore offer our congratulations to John and Jacquie for their Golden Wedding Anniversary in January!

News from the Group

Our Group Scout Leader writes an update about the Group development Plan:

As I am sure you will have seen, a lot of work has occurred at the Headquarters over the past few months. I am pleased to announce that several parts of our plan are now complete. These include: Electrical work and issue of safety certificate. This was completed at a cost of over £4000 by Green Earth Electrical. New Heating from AMBIRAD - the hall should be a lot warmer in the winter now. The new heaters are

very efficient and Tom Pennington spent days fitting these for us - Thank you Tom. Clearance of Grounds - the workshop has been cleared out by the Scout 4x4 team and much work clearing and tidying the Group's field and car park has been completed by the Scout Active Support Team. We have recruited new leaders to re-open our Birch Beaver Colony and the Colony re-opened in September 2010. Thank you to the new leaders for their support and I look forward to working with them. We have purchased some new catering equipment for camping and fundraising events - Roll up Roll Up - Hot jacket potatoes will now be available freshly cooked at our events!



Dorothy Salter

August 1913 - September 2010

It is with great regret that we report the death of "Akela" after a very active life in the Group and in the community. A guard of honour of David and Chris Sweetland, John Baldwin, Les Prescott and Sheila & Peter Kinton attended at the crematorium and they were joined by other members of the Group at the service at Cheam Baptist Church. The service sheet was illustrated with photos including one of Akela, with son Michael and daughter Rosemary, on a scout activity and a large floral "Gone home" sign was afterwards laid on the memorial in Cheam.



Doris Morgan

1916 - 2010

We regret to report the death of Doris Morgan, who was a great supporter of the Group, well remembered for the task of making the Group neckerchiefs for many years. We extend our sympathy to Melvyn and the family.

"Akela"

As reported above, Dorothy Salter died in September at the age of 97. She had been widowed more than 50 years ago and the stained glass window in the Den depicting the initials "RS" is dedicated to Dorothy's husband Ron who was also a Scouter in the Fourth. The initials "RS" as well as meaning "Ron Salter", were also, of course the initials of "Rover Scouts". Dorothy's daughter, Rosemary Beardmore, also a former Scouter with us, wrote following the funeral as follows:

"I thought I would let you know that we collected over £700 for the London City Mission. Please would you pass on my thanks to all at the 4th. Michael, Mum and myself have some very happy memories of the 4th dating back to the early 50's. I am sure Dorothy was an inspiration to lots of boys."

Group History

At the Reunion Lunch, members were interested in the history of the Group which was formed in 1933 as a result of the majority of the leaders in the 2nd Worcester Park, attached to St. Philips Church, deciding to form a new Group - the 4th. (The 3rd was at the Methodist Church and the 5th at the Roman Catholic Church). The Scout Leader together with most of the scouts remained with the 2nd until their leader, with most of the boys, also left due to the requirement to attend the church services. The 4th then met in the garages of leaders' houses and increased in size.

Sir Sidney Marshall, Charter Mayor of the Borough of Sutton & Cheam and former Scout Leader in London, advised the Group of the existence of the plot of land at the rear of Donnington Road which could not be developed because the only access was via two crossings of the Beverley Brook which ran through the land. The Group acquired the plot and later purchased a narrow strip of land from the owner of an adjoining property in Braemar Road which ultimately enabled services of gas, electricity, water and drainage to be provided and also good access to the land.

Whilst some building work proceeded, the war intervened and the ground was converted to allotments which were managed by the Ground Warden. The Group ceased to function until restarted after the war. During the war the scouts had joined the Forces and those who were killed were remembered by the planting of trees, one of which provided the wood for the bowl which was carved in their memory and is in the Den.

After the war the Group went from strength to strength with sections meeting in the local school, in garages of members and on the ground.

The existing HQ building was surplus to requirements at Kingston Gasworks and was obtained by Scout Leader Fred Hadfield in his capacity as surveyor. This is the main building which replaced the Harrison Hut which had been given to the Group by Colonel Harrison and had allowed meetings to be held at the HQ. This building was transported and re-erected at the Guide campsite at Heyswood in Surrey.

The Rover Crew with the help of fathers built the current Den and on completion the Senior Scouts decided to construct their own Den which is now used by the Explorer Unit.

The local Council had decided to pipe the Beverley Brook which enabled the ground to be extended, and access from Donnington Road closed and disposed of.

Further developments have followed with the construction of the toilet block with male and female provision and shower, quartermaster's store, print room, stores and office together with the hall - the Apeldoorn - named after our twinned Dutch group. The Chapel, i.e. the Den, contains memorabilia which revives memories and includes photographs, certificates and records and has the window provided by Dorothy Salter in memory of Ron, her husband, and a leader in the Group

The land adjoining the buildings is provided with electric points, campfire circle and parking for the vehicles.

The Group currently has three Beaver Colonies, three Cub Packs, two Scout Troops, the attached Explorer Unit, Scout Active Support Unit and 4x4 Unit whose members serve the Group and elsewhere, a strong Fund-Raising committee, Leaders and Group Executive Committee.

The Christmas Service will be held this year for Leaders former members and Service Team on Thursday 23rd December, at 7.30pm, (not, as previously, on Christmas Eve), when you will be very welcome.

Dennis Wheaton, joined in at the Reunion and is now a member of Friends of the Fourth.

Coming Events

You are cordially invited to attend all of these:

Sun 12 Dec	5.00pm	Scouts' Own	Sat 7 May	2.30pm	Jumble Sale
Thu 23 Dec	7.30pm	Christmas Eve Service	Sun 15 May	11.00am	Scouts' Own
Sun 30 Jan	11.00am	Scouts' Own	Sat 11 June	9.00am	Car Boot Sale
Sat 29 Jan	2.30pm	Jumble Sale	Wed 15 June	8.00pm	AGM
Sat 5 Feb	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Sat 2 July	12noon	Summer Fair
Sun 20 Mar	11.00am	Scouts' Own	Sun 10 July	11.00am	Scouts' Own
Sat 26 Mar	7.30pm	Race Night			

It's Your Newsletter...

Please write to either of us with contributions or news, or e-mail on: fotf@4wp.org.uk

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