

# The History of Scouting At Highbury

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## How it began

In Cheltenham, like many other places Scouting began when two boys started to follow 'Scouting for Boys' and the weekly journal edited by General Baden Powell. Their names were Frank Brailsford and Harold Jackson. They recruited other boys from the Grammar School and used the grounds of Ronley Manor for camps and exercises. Later they asked a master from the School to be Scoutmaster and the School Troop was formed. The Grammar School Troop wore green but two other troops which formed about the same time wore khaki.

By November 1909 a number of Troops had been formed in the area. A meeting was

called by the Mayor to form a central committee responsible for the control of these different bodies. The meeting was attended by Col. de Burgh, deputy Chief Scout commissioner in London. The report in the Gloucestershire Echo notes 'that the first man to obtain a regular warrant as a first-class scoutmaster is Mr. Joseland, who commands the 1st Troop of the Cheltenham Scouts'. Mr. Joseland received his warrant on the 6th November 1909. The local committee recorded that the 1st Troop was formed in March 1908. Their Group Scarf was orange. The Scouts met in the Highbury British School in Grosvenor Street. This was the original home of Highbury Congregational Church and was still owned by them and used for a wide variety of purposes. Mr. Joseland was a member of the Church and became a Deacon in April 1914. A warrant as Assistant Scoutmaster to the Troop was issued to W. B. Simpson in April 1911. In 1913 the Troop took part in the third Boy Scout's Exhibition and Rally in Birmingham. They received a certificate of commendation in the Patrol Cooking Competition. That year a new Minister arrived at Highbury. The Rev. Stanley Shrubsole became Chaplain to the Troop. In April 1914 he conducted a service for the Scouts of Cheltenham at the Winchoombe Street Church. Attended by 160 Scouts and their leaders it was the first time they had visited a Nonconformist Church.

In 1914 Mr. Joseland and Mr. Simpson left to serve in the War. The Rev. Shrubsole became acting Scoutmaster and Mr. Oscar Bloodworth, Assistant Scoutmaster. There were 4 Patrols and 20 Scouts. Highbury Records show that The Rev. Shrubsole was granted permission to use the hall on Wednesdays for games and a Wolf Cub Pack in March 1917. In July 1917 the Troop won a Challenge Trophy and later that year they went camping at Twynning Park with the 4<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham Troop. In 1919 the Cubs and Scouts met on Wednesdays. The Scouts used the Gymnasium on Thursdays and Fridays. There was Band Practice on Fridays and once a month the Patrol Leaders Association met on Thursdays. Several names are given as leading at this time. Miss Freda Bloodworth was running the Wolf Cubs, Mr. Gamick and Mr. Hider were leading the Scouts. At this time Mr. Shrubsole was in France with the YMCA and Mr. Joseland was not back in Cheltenham. By October 1919 the Scouts had given a Concert and won the Challenge Cup for the 3rd year in succession. The Rev. Shrubsole left Highbury in 1920. Oscar Bloodworth became Scoutmaster assisted by Leslie Iles.

It is not certain why the Cub Pack was disbanded on the 11th December 1923 and the Troop registration cancelled at the census on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1925. What is known is that Oscar Bloodworth died on March 7th 1924 aged 30. In 1932 the Church sold Winchoombe St. and Grosvenor St. The new Church opened in October 1932.

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**BE PREPARED**

# Only resting

## The 1st is reborn

In 1933 the Troop was re-formed. Mr. Ray Bloodworth, elder brother of Oscar was instrumental in this. He managed to persuade Headquarters to let them retain the title of 1st Cheltenham (Highbury). The only changes were the new meeting place and that the Group was now an open Group.

Ray became the Group Scout Master and ran the Cubs. Mr. Jim Jefferies was the Scout Master assisted by Leslie Bayliss. The Assistant Cub Mistress was Joyce Fletcher.

The Troop camped regularly at Cranham Woods. They undertook pioneering projects, swam, tracked, hiked, enjoyed campfires and Scout's Owns. They often had outdoor meetings on the Hill. For the King's Jubilee in 1936 they built a beacon on top of Leckhampton Hill.

By 1936, Leslie Bayliss had moved to London on getting married; Joyce Fletcher had married and gone to Canada and Jim Jeffries had moved from Cheltenham with his work. In October 1936 Mr. F. S. M. Wright had become Group Scoutmaster; Mr. A.W. Godfrey was Scoutmaster with Mr. A. Tosio as his assistant. This marked the beginning of probably the most stable period in the Troops history. In May 1936 three older members of the Troop formed a Rover Crew with 'Dan' Godfrey as Rover Mate, Two of the three, Charlie Coles and Bill Creed had gained their King's

Scout Award in 1935 and 1936 respectively. The third was Tom Barnfield. Their Log makes fascinating reading. They went on Camps and Hikes, learnt splicing and knots, sang, and discussed questions from Scouting for Boys. They attended Rover Council meetings and took part in a Scout Fair at which they did a display, "A day in Camp". They clearly had a den away from Highbury provided by the G.S.M.

In December 1936 Mr. Tosio informed the Church that he would like to restart the Cub Pack, which suggests there had been a few months break in this.

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**A SCOUT'S HONOUR IS TO BE TRUSTED**

# The War Years and after

Undaunted by the war, though not unaffected the Troop continued with its varied programme of activities. They continued Camping on a regular basis. Skills were taught and programmes arranged to reinforce the teaching. These included a Wide Game around the area with clues in Morse; stalking the leaders, collecting five articles on the way. Basketball was a frequent and popular game. The programme was usually put together by a Patrol Leader or a Patrol but the S.M. Was always prepared. Singing and entertainments were popular. In May 1939 the Troop won the Music Festival Camp Fire Scene Competition.

In January 1941 Baden-Powell 'went home'. The Troop paraded at Highbury at 9-30 in his honour, then cycled to the Grammar School. They left their bikes and walked to St. Matthew's for the 10 o'clock service. Later that year the Gloucestershire Echo noted that the Troop was meeting earlier on Monday evenings to miss the blackout. Tea was served followed by scoutcraft.

Older boys who had been Patrol Leaders were promoted to Troop Leader. A custom which continued into the 1950's. Sometimes the Troop Leader's and older Patrol Leader's formed a Rover Crew. The Patrol names were Kingfishers, Otters, Woodpeckers, Eagles, Squirrels and Bulldogs.

Boys from the Grammar School used to work on Farm Camps out at Notgrove to help with harvesting. Highbury Scout expertise was used to provide the catering for these Camps with the Scouts traveling out by train or bike each day.

In 1942 S.M. Godfrey joined the R.A.F. By the end of that year the Troop Log stops. A list of former members of the Troop who were serving in the forces was posted on the wall. The Troop continued with various leaders. They won the District Swimming Cup in 1943 and 1944. In 1945 the Water Relay team won the District Relay Cup. Camps were held each Easter and summer but under difficult conditions.

In 1946 'Dan' Godfrey returned from the Services and with G.S.M. Wright began to put life back into the Troop.

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**A SCOUT IS LOYAL ...**

## We're the boys of good old Cheltenham

So goes a line from a Campfire song popular with Highbury Scouts of the '40's and '50's. It continues

We're the boys of good old Cheltenham, Sending a cheer you can hear throughout the world!

Over the next thirty years Highbury was to have a Scout as part of the County World Jamboree contingent on many occasions. Together with camping in Ireland, Jersey and various parts of England & Wales Highbury Scouts have probably been heard throughout the world!

Proper Campfires had not been allowed throughout the war so there was much excitement when the 1<sup>st</sup> went to Camp at Monk's Ditch, Cranham at Easter 1946. The Log declares that the Campfire was the highlight being the first since the War. The site was decorated with lanterns. About 40 or 50 villagers attended and were treated to buns and cocoa. The Camp Warden was so impressed with their camping he awarded them the first of only six Camping Pennants he had to award in the year. This was also the first Camping Pennant of the new Camping Ground.

Cranham had been one of the camping places for the area for many years. In 1947 the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan came to open the new County Scout Headquarters and Training Ground. The Highbury Troop Leaders and Scouts responded to a call to prepare the site. They attended the opening Camp, celebrations, dedication and march past.

In 1947 Benjamin Lee went to the 6th World Scout Jamboree in France. He appears to have been the first from the Troop to go to a World Jamboree.

Who was Bertha Brock? Bertha was probably once a Badger. Her skull is mounted on a wooden plinth. Between 1950 and 1952 she was presented to a Patrol for a particular skill well done.

Three boys from the Troop were the first Queen's Scouts at Highbury. They travelled to London in June 1952, stayed a night on RRS Discovery before going to Mansion House. They were presented with their Queen's Scout Award by the Chief Scout and the Lord Mayor of London.

In 1957 'Dan' Godfrey left Cheltenham having given 21 years service as Scoutmaster. He was succeeded by John Leaver. John was assisted by Jim Copeland who had been a Scout and PL with the Troop. During August members of the Troop visited the World Jamboree held in Sutton Park, Birmingham held to mark the Centenary of the birth of Baden-Powell and 50 years of Scouting.

By the mid-60's the Troop was struggling. Mr Wright had retired as Group Scoutmaster in 1962 after 25 years service. John Leaver left and went in to the Anglican Ministry.

In 1966 Bill Donohoe moved to Cheltenham with three sons eager to join Scouts. The Troop was down to seven boys. Eventually Bill became Group Scout Leader with Ron Hill as Scout Leader. Cubs were under the leadership of Elizabeth Forbes, assisted by Jane & Bob Wilkinson.

The Cubs went on Pack Holiday in the autumn at Cranham, Longhope, Beckford Priory or Hackney, London. They were the first Pack in the District to go on regular Pack Holidays and Camp. Cub camping experience was first gained with Stratford District Camps. Later they would have a weeks camp following on from the Troop

camp.

In 1969 Bill negotiated an amalgamation with the 3rd Cheltenham Air Scout Group. This led to a revival in the Group's fortunes.

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**A SCOUT'S DUTY IS TO BE USEFUL AND TO HELP OTHERS**

## Old Gold becomes Sky Blue

The amalgamation agreement with the 3rd said the two Packs would continue, one at Highbury and one at St. Luke's Hall. There were 20 boys in each Pack with Liz

Forbes as Akela at Highbury and Judy Rendle running St. Luke's. The Troops would combine and meet at Highbury with boys able to choose whether to become Air Scouts on entry. The name of the 1st was retained but to preserve the memory of the 3<sup>rd</sup> the sky blue neckerchief of the 3<sup>rd</sup> was adopted for the Group. Norman

Elkins became the Group Scout Leader. Ron Hill ran the Troop. Mike Rainbow had come with the Air Scouts. There were 32 boys in the new Troop.

In 1968 it had been decided to form a Supporters Association of parents and local people with the main aim of raising funds. Jumble Sales, Whist Drives, Raffles, 100/200 Club, Sponsored events, Garden Fetes, Webb Ivory and Waste Paper collecting were all used. The piece de resistance was a Gymkhana and Fair in Cox's Meadow held for two years in succession. Over the years many of these supporters have been presented with Thanks Badges in recognition of their work on behalf of the Group. The Association was transformed in the late 1970's into a committee of the Executive under national restructuring.

In 1970 the Group AGM installed Mr. F.S.M. Wright as the first Group President. This was also the year of the famous Camp at Cwm Rhwyddfôr. Cader Idris may have been conquered by most of the Troop but when illness swept through the Camp it was the parents who came to the rescue with a mass evacuation.

In 1971 David Mills and John Allen joined to help with Scouts and it was possible to start a second Troop on a Friday at St. Luke's. Mike Rainbow led the Monday Troop until succeeded by Phil Paull. It was decided to look around for a building which could be used as an Activity Centre. Over the next few years several premises were rented by the Group.

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**A SCOUT IS A FRIEND TO ALL ...**

# A Brief History of the 3rd Cheltenham Group

The 3rd Cheltenham Air Scout Troop was formed in 1941 sponsored by the Cheltenham Aero Club. This was the year the Air Scout Branch was formed by

Imperial Headquarters. It was Royal Air Force Recognised Unit No. 37. To be an Air Scout Troop there must be qualified Air Instructors working with the Troop alongside the usual Scouters. To retain Air Scout recognition the Troop had to pass an annual inspection by the R.A.F. The Group met in the Civil Defence Building at the bottom of Monson Avenue until 1963 when the building was demolished for road widening. For a short while they met in Bennington Hall opposite the Black and White Coach Station before moving to St. John's Hall in Albion Street in 1965.

The Group had known mixed times but its time at St. John's Hall was a period of marked decline. Then in 1967 St. John's Church and Hall was acquired and demolished again for road widening. The Group moved to the old St. Luke's Hall in Bath Road, which was in its turn bought for demolition in 1967. There being no alternative accommodation the Group was almost at an end.

Mike Rainbow had joined the Troop in 1957 and attended with them the World Jamboree at Sutton Park. They took part in the Air Scout Display. In 1967 Mike was approached by Ron Hill of Highbury Scouts who offered the Group temporary accommodation at Highbury. Discussions followed between Norman Elkins of the 3rd and Bill Donohoe of the 1st and agreement was reached to amalgamate. At one time there were two Cub Packs with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Group, one of which met in Hatherley. In 1958 the Cub Mistress, Patricia White, decided to register the Hatherley Cubs as a separate Group. This Group was called the 1<sup>st</sup> Hatherley Group and wore a black neckerchief with a light blue border.

*Note: This was not the first 3rd Cheltenham Group. The original was the Grammar School Troop led in 1909 by E.F.Chaney and F.C.Broad and in 1914 by Mr. Leacey.*

In 1913 they attended the Birmingham Rally and were commended for an excellent display in an article in the Headquarters Gazette.

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**A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS**

## Venturing on

Having given up as G.S.L. Bill Donohoe continued with the Group as an Instructor for Sport. A team was set up which played in a Boys Brigade & Scout League. Football kit was bought for the Cubs. Mr James assisted with this.

The Friday Troop helped with Hackney Boys Adventure Club at Beckford and Monday Troop took part in a cycling event involving Map Reading and came 1st and 2nd.

In July 1972 'Gladys' joined the Group. 'Gladys' was a 29 seater OB Bed ford bus. Most of her cost was covered by the sale of Marmalade. David Goldsmith also joined as A.S.L. for the Monday Troop. Unlike Gladys David's scouting career has been ongoing. He is now Field Commissioner for Wales!

Norman Elkins decided to finish as G.S.L. but to continue as S.L. with Monday Troop. Plans were afoot to begin Air Scouting again with Friday Troop. Liz Forbes and Tony Veits took a party of Cubs to Gilwell for the day.

It was decided to build a Bunkhouse at Cranham for Cubs and Scouts. Each boy was asked to contribute to the cost. The PL's suggested a Beat the Bounds of Gloucestershire Bike Ride to raise the money.

A garage used by the Troop having been demolished they rented from the Council 12, St James's Street. However, it was decided to set up a Building Fund to raise money for an Activity Centre in the distant future as an additional facility to the church halls.

With the Troop and Packs running well it was decided to start a Venture Unit. Howard Bartlett became Venture Scout Leader in 1974. It was also agreed that a B-P Guild should be set up for over 18's to enable them to continue supporting the Group. This began in January 1975 and was the first Guild in the District.

National Scout 'Operation Lifeboat' was held on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> October. The Troop organised a 24 hour sponsored row around Pittville Lake and raised £300. They raised the largest sum in the District and were asked to attend the presentation of the National Cheque to the RNLI.

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## A SCOUT IS A FRIEND TO ANIMALS

# One hundred boys

David Mills became G.S.L. after Norman Elkins and John Allan S.L. of the Friday Troop assisted by Alan Chainey. Bob Wilkinson who, with his wife had been helping with Cubs became Monday S.L. Bill Richardson succeeded Liz Foibes as Monday Cub leader. Ann Haseler became Venture Scout Leader and during her time in the post it was run as a joint unit with the Rangers. Dave Sheen was appointed Quartermaster, to follow Mr. Oakey in which job he was assisted by Mr. Dibden. The B-P Guild closed in 1976 in a further restructuring.

As Dave Mills took over the Group there were a hundred Cubs, Scouts and Ventures. This all took tremendous organisation and needed much financial support To publicise the Groups activities Mr. Beddow was appointed Public Relations Officer

and a Group Newsletter was started entitled 'Focus'.

There were many Camps at Trigon, in Dorset and mid-Wales plus weekends at a log cabin at Staunton in the Forest of Dean. A Cotswold Hike of 40 miles overnight was undertaken.

One strong memory of David Mills's time is the Hike he organised for Spring Bank Holiday 1978. Seven Scouts hiked up the River Thames and along the Severn Central Canal to Lechlade.

Scouts and Ventures were having success in football, swimming and cooking competitions. The Group also assisted at Blood Donor Sessions by helping to make the tea. Some of the younger Scouts did a Good Turn by weeding at the Strickland Homes.

The latest version of 'Gladys' was used by the Group and by other organisations. Maintaining the bus and coaxing it through its M.O.T. was Dave Sheen's task.

In 1976 the Senior Air Scouts visited R.A.F. Lyneham. Where a tour of the base was followed by a hearty lunch. In the afternoon they were given a trip on a C- 130 Hercules transport aircraft, which proceeded to demonstrate over-shoots, flying low, and then a steep climb. Pity about lunch! In 1979 the Friday Troop lost its R.A.F. Recognition because there was no qualified Air Instructor.

In late 1978 Dave Mills relinquished the job of G.S.L. but continued as Scout Leader. Eventually in 1985 he retired and was presented with the Medal Of Merit by the County Commissioner, Bob Lyle.

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## A SCOUT OBEYS ORDERS ... WITHOUT QUESTION

# The Eighties

In 1979 Ann Haseler became Scouter-in-Charge and then Group Scout Leader. 1980 was another busy year with a 'Round Cheltenham' Hike; Youth Hostelling on bikes for the Ventures; Scouterama; buying chairs for Cranham; painting the fence at Highbury Manse and being given a boat.

David King took on the Monday Scouts and ran them for the next two or three years. Alan Chainey started to help the Friday Troop and later took over from John Allan. All Saints Scouts and Cubs joined with Highbury for a few weeks whilst waiting for their new premises to be ready.

The AGM agreed to drop plans for an activity centre. The money was to be used for an equipment store. A trip to Brownsea Island with a party of experienced Canoeists and Sailors was planned in 1982. A Group Picnic in Stratford Park, Stroud was a

success. A child-minding service for Christmas shoppers was not so successful.

In 1983 the Group celebrated 50 years of continuous Scouting. There was a dinner at St. Luke's and a service at Highbury. A commemorative woggle was produced.

Later that year Gary Stone died in an accident coming to Scouts on his bike. Trees were planted in his memory in Sandford Park. Money given by his parents enabled some Scouts to go to Gilwell.

A trip to Holland in 1985 followed a family camp. For Bob-a-Job Week the Cubs went to Fairford and cleaned a KC135 Tanker aircraft. It was the largest thing ever washed for Job Week. The Venture Unit closed during this year.

Over the next few years there was a lot of change in personnel. Brian Cooke became involved in the leadership. Using his blacksmithing skills he made two water hoppers and a barbecue. In 1980 Margaret Sheen took over Monday Cubs from Carol Dibden continuing until she became G.S.L. in 1989. Simon Mills ran Friday Cubs and Ray Herridge became Friday S.L. in 1985 until they closed in 1988. The Monday Cubs won the Knockout Cricket in 1986. Kevin Dibden and Michael Sheen who ran the Monday Troop had Baseball Caps made.

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## A SCOUT SMILES AND WHISTLES UNDER ALL DIFFICULTIES

### And so to the present

Margaret Sheen became G.S.L., Steve Howse and his sister took over Monday Cubs. The other Pack was now on a Wednesday at St. Luke's and run by Jane Cameron but closed in 1990. Alan Cadwgan joined to run the Troop with the help of Brian Cooke.

By 1991 Margaret had been made a District Cub Scout Leader, Teresa Middleton was Cub Scout Leader and David Sheen had offered to help run the Troop for awhile. Teresa was in need of help with the Pack Felicity Cleaves offered to become A.C.S.L. To accommodate her the Pack moved to meet on Wednesdays. Phil Paull offered to come back and help out with the Troop again When Teresa left Tony Come came along to help with the Pack. Graham Adams also became an A.C.S.L. Several students have given enthusiastic help.

The Cubs have been on weekend Camps every year. At first with the District Cubs but latterly as a Pack camp. This has been mostly at Cranham but one year the District Cub Camp was at Youlbury, Oxon. Several times they have been on trips organised by Stroud & Tetbury District to Portsmouth, Legoland and Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Museum.

Sport has been popular with regular participation in the District Football Tournament and Swimming Gala. A good effort has also been made in the Chess and Rounders.

The Group has had a presence regularly at the District Fete & Fun Day in Montpellier Gardens. For three years in a row they won the Cubs 'It's a Knockout' competition then the Troop thought it was their turn and won the Scout competition. Whist Drives and Jumble Sales also still continue to raise funds.

Amanda Sargeant is currently A.C.S.L and Mark Addington has joined the Group as Scout Leader. Felicity Cleaves has recently become G.S.L. whilst still running the Pack. More recently Paul Barnard has joined as A.S.L. and the group now has a web site.

Last year Cranham celebrated 50 years as the County Campsite and H.Q. An Inter-District Patrol competition was held at which four boys Highbury Troop represented the District. Cheltenham District won the competition and the boys were presented with their prize in front of Lord Rowallan's son and former members of the Highbury Troop who didn't recognise them because they had the wrong colour neckerchief.

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## A SCOUT IS THRIFTY

# Scouting is useful in any kind of life

Bill Creed was a Scout and Rover with the Troop in the 1930's. In 1939 he joined the Royal Air Force and became a Spitfire Pilot. He flew many times over Italy and France. He was shot down three times. Reflecting on his experiences in enemy held territory he told Mr. Wright that the skills he had learned as a Scout had been a great help to him. He recalled wide games on Leckhampton Hill and all the woodcraft techniques he had used as a Scout and he used them to good effect.

Andrew Burton had always been interested in entertaining and magic. Whilst a Scout he had many opportunities to practice his skills. He would perform magic tricks and sing along to his guitar at campfire. With Tim Darvill, another Scout he ran the Magic Potion Disco which was a popular choice for entertainment. One year the District held a Cub & Scout Circus in the Town Hall. Andrew had the job of Ringmaster. He now runs his own Theatre Group.

David Phipps joined Highbury because it had an Air Scout Troop. He had always wanted to get into Aeronautics and saw this as a way to learn something about the aeroplanes he loved. David now works for British Airways in Filton.

Stuart King became keen on boats during his time at Highbury Canoeing and sailing courses at South Cerney were the catalyst for the whole family to take up sailing as a regular pursuit. It was Stuart who developed his hobby into a career. When he left school he went to work in the Caribbean for a couple of years. He then decided to return and study at college. He is now a Naval Architect based at Falmouth.

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A SCOUT IS CLEAN IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED

# King's & Queen's Scouts

Charles Coles

Ernest 'Bill' Creed

A. Lyon

D. Hart

J. Hart

R. Dimery

Anthony Crocker

J. Williams

Sidney Clench

David Wills

Len Didcote

John Hammer

Graham Lodge

David Lee

David Phipps

Andrew Weaver

Tim Fitz

Stuart King

Roderick Hiorns

*Note: This is based on received and recorded information but may not be complete.*

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**IT IS SOMETHING TO *BE* GOOD, BUT IT IS FAR BETTER TO DO GOOD**

## Jamboree Representatives

Moisson, France 1947 - Benjamin Lee

Bad-Ischl, Austria 1951 - Sidney Clench

Niagara Falls, Canada 1955- David Robson

In 1957 several of the Scouts visited the Sutton Park, U.K. Centenary Jamboree.

Asagari Heights, Japan 1971 - Bill Donohoe

Lillehammer, Norway 1975- Graham Lodge

Maine, U.S.A. 1979\* - David Lee

Calgary, Alberta, Canada 1983 - Stuart King

\* This was an International Camp, one of several held that year because the planned World Jamboree in Iran could not be held.

*Note: This list is based on information collected but may not be complete.*

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## The early leaders

Arthur Joseland lived in St. Mark's, Cheltenham. He was a member of Highbury Congregational Church He acted as Secretary to the Juvenile Branch of the London Missionary Society at the Church. In May 1911 he was elected to the Diaconate. In 1914 he went off to the War. His name is on the Roll of Honour in Highbury as one who served. It is not known when he returned to Cheltenham. He moved to Weston-super-Mare and with his wife was received into membership of Boulevard Congregational Church in April 1920. He was elected Deacon there in 1922 and remained one until 1937. He was also Sunday School Superintendent, Building Warden and served on the Missionary Committee. He ran an Auctioneers and Estate Agents business in the town. He continued Scouting and became a Commissioner attending a Jamboree. It has not been possible to find out more about his Scouting achievements. He died in 1955.

The Bloodworth Family were closely associated with Highbury. Mr. A. Bloodworth was organist for many years. Ray, Oscar and Freda were brothers and sister who did

much for Scouting at Highbury. Oscar was a keen athlete and member of the Old Patesians Cricket and Rugby Clubs. When he died in March 1924 he had been connected with Highbury Troop for nine years and Scoutmaster for four years. Freda Bloodworth is the first recorded Cub Mistress of the Highbury Pack. Ray Bloodworth was instrumental in getting the Troop restarted in 1933.

A.W. Godfrey 'Dan' is known to have taken part in the Ralph Reader Gang Show in 1930. There seems to have been a lot of singing and entertainments by the Scouts and Rovers in his time. The log includes concert programmes and the particularly the record of their programme when they won the Music Festival Campfire Trophy. During the 2nd World War he served in the R.A.F. before returning to the Troop.

A. Tosio, 'Bob' was a Swiss. He had come to England to work as a chef in Brunners Café and Bakery in Clarence Street. He received his A.S.M's Warrant at a local Association meeting in 1939. In 1940 he was planning a trip home. He was assured by the Swiss Legation and his brother that it was all right to travel. Whilst at home in, Poschiavo, Switzerland France fell and there was no way back to England. 'Dan' Godfreys' note in the Troop Log says he joined the Swiss Army for the defence of his country, 'we hope he'll return when the war's over.

F.S.M. Wright, affectionately known as 'Bim' or 'Gerry' was Chemistry Master at the Grammar School. He was from a Scouting family. His father Joseph Francis Wright ran a Scout Troop in North London from 1908. The family were members of Fox Lane Congregational Church, Palmer's Green. The family house was opposite the Wood Green, Southgate and Friern Barnet Campsite which had many international visitors. Joseph Wright was awarded the Silver Wolf. This is in the unrestricted gift of the Chief scout and is awarded for service of the most exceptional nature. 'Gerry' Wright was keen on sketching and he also had a telescope to observe the stars and planets. He was a member of Highbury Congregational Church where he served on the Diaconate and acted as Deacons Minutes Secretary. He was awarded the Medal of Merit and Bar on the 24th May 1950 for twenty years of outstanding service to Scouting. In 1970 the Group made him their President.

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