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The hundreds of boys for looking in at the door, joining the 8th and making it all possible, and to those who took the trouble to write logs, notes and records, also to those with long memories who have passed on information verbally

My wife and family for their support

FOREWORD

By Les. Williamson

There are several reasons why a book should be written on the activities of a Scout Group which has enjoyed a continuous existence for 60 years and the boys who joined the Group in its early days and those who will join in 1975 will have an accurate record of its experience throughout the years.

When Mr. Frank Beadle asked me, in May 1973, to write an introduction to his book '60 Years with the 8th', I felt extremely honoured that he should consider me a suitable person to deal with it.

On second thoughts, however, I might be pardoned for thinking that my knowledge of the 8th Darlington Scouts qualifies me to write this introduction as I have been connected with the Troop from its inception.

I can clearly remember the night of 10th April, 1915, when perhaps a dozen Cockerton boys gathered in the old Wesleyan Schoolroom to form a troop of Boy Scouts. Mr. John B Lishman, who was a teacher in the Wesleyan Sunday School, had called the boys together and became our Founder Scout Master. At that time, World War I was raging and many of the young men of the village and some older men with sons had joined the forces. Mr. Lishman, I feel sure, considered that, by forming a Troop of Boy Scouts, he could help to guide the young boys of the village in those difficult times.

I think I ought to say, at this juncture, that Mr. Lishman, who was a Wesleyan Methodist of the highest religious principles, insisted that, although the Troop was associated with the Wesleyan Church, it should be 'open' to boys of any religious denomination and indeed to those of no denomination at all.

In other words, any boys of the village and surrounding districts were welcome to join and it can be said that many of the boys of no religious denomination found their way into the Methodist Church via the Scouts.

The 'Court of Honour' book, which is still in existence, records the names of the founder members on 10th April, 1915, and the 60 years that have passed have reduced the numbers until today there are perhaps only three of us left.

During those 60 years, many hundreds of boys have passed through the troop and all of them will have very pleasant memories of the happy times experienced with the 8th Darlington. Indeed, many of the boys have attained responsible positions in the professions and without exception, they attribute their success, in no small measure, to the way of life which they were encouraged to follow in the 8th.

Reverting to the early days, Mr. Lishman, in 1917, although well beyond the age limit for military service, joined the army and Mr. Percy Brigham took charge of the Troop.

He was a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and for some time before Mr. Lishman joined the army, had been instructing us in 'first-aid'. The seed of which Mr. Brigham sowed was reaped some years later when the 8th won the Vaux Ambulance Shield for all troops in the County of Durham.

When Mr. Lishman returned to us after the War, the troop concentrated on the Drum & Fife band under Danny Pawson as Bandmaster and he literally drove us to the Olympia World Jamboree of 1920 where we won the competition.

Immediately after the contest, we proceeded to Ostend in Belgium where we had our annual camp and visited various battlefields of World War I.

When Danny Pawson left the village to take up business appointment in the Midlands, the driving force behind the band went with him and gradually the enthusiasm was transferred in other directions.

We had always been considered as enthusiasts for outdoor activities being, in those days, virtually a village community and our annual camps were held in some of the most beautiful parts of the British Isles.

Mr. Lishman remained as Scout Master until 1926 and the warrant was then taken out by Ray Pawson who later became Group Scout Master until his death in 1940. Ray was assisted by three of the original founder members during these years until 1939 when World War Two broke out.

Due to pressure of work occasioned by the War, I, along with other seniors and older scouts, lost touch with the troop and I thought that I, presumably, had seen the end of my active interest with the 8th.

I knew that through the years 1939 to 1945 the troop had continued to operate under exceptionally trying circumstances. The Methodist Sunday School was no longer available to them, due to troops being billeted there and 'Black Out' requirements limited the use of other schools to the summer months. However, despite the many difficulties experienced, the 8th continued without a break during those troubled times and after the War, the troop assumed its normal position in Cockerton.

It would be in 1948 that I was approached by Mr. Frank Beadle to be once again concerned with the 8th. He explained that he was not of the required age to take out a warrant as Group Scout Master and that, in his opinion, it was imperative that someone should hold that office.

He had explained the list of boys who had passed through the troop and explained that the man he was seeking must comply with the following requirements:-

- (1) He must be an active member of the 8th
- (2) He must be a married man
- (3) He must have a car
- (4) He must be on the telephone

I could not agree that these conditions necessarily applied but, in due course, I accepted the position of 'Acting Group Scout Master' until Mr. Beadle reached the required age.

One of the first matters to receive attention was the formation of a 'Parents Committee' to assist in raising funds, etc., and, for my part, it gave me considerable pleasure to meet the parents of the boys.

This enthusiasm had to be seen to be believed and it was a continuous joy to work with them especially at events like the Annual Garden Fete, Jumble Sales, etc.

Some years later, an old property on the Green, belonging to Mr. Seymour, became available and he agreed to sell it to the 8th at a very reasonable price indeed. This property had a garden at the rear and a member of the Parents Committee immediately started making plans for building a Group Headquarters.

What we see today is the result of successive Group Committees, under the continuous guidance of Mr. Frank Beadle, with his team of uniformed Scouters, all working together to produce in 1975 something that was never even dreamed of in 1915 and I wish the Group every success for the future and if leaders of the calibre which the 8th has always had, can continue to serve the Group over the next 40 years, then I am sure that on 10th April, 2015, a celebration will be held in Cockerton to register the Centenary.

L D Williamson



COCKERTON IN 1915

The map opposite will give an indication of the size of the village of Cockerton in 1915. Essentially a village community at that time without the vast housing estates we know today, it had its own Council of eight elected members until 1915 when the village became part of Darlington. Those who served on this final village 'Parliament' were:-

Mr. Watson (clerk to Council)
Mr. R Gent
Mr. Wilkinson
Mr. D Geals

Mr. C Pawson
Mr. Sowerby-Brown
Mr. J Gent
Mr. M Wetherill

The centre of the Green was well built up at that time, with the Cockerton School as its centre piece, the Policeman's house at the western end of the School with a yew tree in its garden – this yew tree is still there today. The fountain had not yet been transferred from the Garden Centre where Pierremont Gardens houses now stand, but the village pump still supplied the needs of the community. At the eastern end of the School, a row of old cottages stretched to the road junction, as shown opposite.

One could hear the jingle of harness as the milkman went on his rounds from Johnson's Farm (now Westfields Old Persons' Home). A walk down past St. Mary's Church and a look over the West Bridge with its ford for carts, would reveal merely a lane where Newton Lane now is, with tarmacadam and with high hedges.

There were few houses at West Bridge corner, the area of the Parish Hall site being known as the Boggs. Walking up the north side of the Green, we would pass the former Newton Kyloe Inn (now our Scout HQ) which had closed its doors only 8 years ago and was now occupied by the Sleightholme family, who owned a traction engine and threshing box which could be frequently seen standing outside No 82. Next door, at No 76, Mr Fryer, the Undertaker, had his workshop and home. Further up the 'Hill', we would pass a whole community with cottages only several yards to the rear of those in front.

It is said that the coach from Barnard Castle would stop to change horses at the stables, where Father White's Presbytery now stands, before continuing the journey to Middlesborough. Many of the 1915 Scouts' addresses are shown in the first records as 'The Hill'.

A Georgian house stood where the new shops now start (the Bake and Take Shop on the actual site) with a picturesque row of cottages from there to Forcett Street, with Hopper's Post Office on the corner (now the Midland Bank); opposite was Old Mother Beeby's shop owned by two sisters who sold almost everything, a butchers shop, cottages and finally, on the corner of West Auckland Road, Bains, the Undertakers.

The Traveller's Rest Hotel was, at that time, an old Inn with high steps to enter. There were no houses or shops on that side to the north of this inn. West Auckland Road itself was a hard cart track, known as 'Coal Lane' where horse drawn coal carts plied from the northern collieries.

Brown's, the Blacksmith, whose premises were entered by the lane which exists today 50 yards up from the left corner of West Auckland Road, together with the blacksmiths at the corner of Staindrop Road and Woodlands Road, attended to all the needs of horses from nearby farms.

There was a field before the Alma Hotel, where the horses awaiting the Blacksmith, grazed.

Turning into Prior Street, there were only fields with a ford across West Beck. Newton Lane was then reached with Nickstream Lane branching off with its high hedges and cobbled track. The Farm on the rise of the lane was occupied by the Williamson family until about 1934.

The Cricket Ground was in regular use, but Cockerton Primary School was not built until much later. There were also many houses behind those facing the Green on the south side and Harrison's Laundry was functioning at that time, just to the rear of 41, Cockerton Green. The shop next door to No.39 sold various things, although was not the building we know of today. A row of cottages stretched almost to Staindrop Road, the Syntax Inn of Nos. 39 and 39a, as we know it today, had closed its doors many moons ago and is reputed to be 600 years old, the walls containing mud and straw as a form of mortar.

Cockerton Hall was indeed a Hall in its own grounds with a farm backing onto it (where Hinton's Supermarket now stands) a village cobbler also had his shop nearby. The Drover's Inn was originally the stopping place for cattle drovers from the north en route to market in Darlington.

Further afield, away from Cockerton, the Great War made an impact on the area even after one year. Hummersknott held a large army camp of bell tents. Schools such as Corporation Road, housed soldiers. Historical events still in mind at the time, would be the sinking of the Titanic 3 years ago, Captain Scott had reached the South Pole that same year, the Russian Revolution did not take place for two years hence, the Model 'T' Ford was almost the latest thing and only 7 years old, as was the Scout Movement, when the 8th was started in 1915 in Cockerton village.

It was only a few years since the Coronation with a very large bonfire on Sugar Hill fields, each year the fair would be in Cockerton for the occasion of Cockerton Feast, complete with traction engines which some of our Scouts can remember filling with water from the beck, to earn a free ride on the Noah's Ark. The greasy pole, on which a leg of pork was affixed, was one of the highlights of the week.

Such was the setting when John Lishman looked round at the boys whose fathers were away in the army and he decided to try to start a Scout Troop to occupy the boys' leisure time and put into practice the activities of the fortnightly parts of SCOUTING FOR BOYS.

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JOHN BENSON LISHMAN

1872—1936

Founder of the 8th Darlington Troop

Scoutmaster 1915—1924



PERCY WILLIAM BRIGHAM

1883—1953

Cubmaster 1916—1926

A.S.M. 1917—1929

CHAPTER I - THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

1915

The 8th Darlington Troop commenced on the 10th April, 1915. Mr. J B Lishman was asked to take charge of the Troop and he kindly agreed to do so. Lots were cast for Patrols, Patrol Leaders, etc., and the following were the results:-

Scoutmaster - J.B. Lishman

<u>1st Patrol (Tiger)</u>		<u>2nd Patrol (Swift)</u>	
Patrol Leader	R Harrison (Sec.)	Patrol Leader	R Oxley
Corporal	C D Pawson	Corporal	R Pawson
3	C Readman	3	L Williamson
4	W Harrison	4	F Readman
5	A Sturgeon	5	H Hopper
6	C Parker	6	A Foster

It was agreed that a band (fife) in connection with the Troop should be formed.

The above is an exact extract from the minutes of the very first Court of Honour, and bears John Lishman's signature.

It indicates a businesslike way in which the Troop got off to a start, with a fairly definite arrangement to form a Drum and Fife Band, even from this first meeting.

One should remember that this meeting took place in the brick built Sunday School, 50' x 25', situated where the Methodist Sunday School now stands. The Troop had only one Scouter, no equipment of any kind, no funds, no other section above or below it (Cubs and Rovers did not exist then), and of course wartime restrictions had to be contended with.

The Imperial Headquarters Registration number later in that year was, strangely enough, 1015!

As John Lishman could not yet test anyone for badges, Mr. Cox, of the 'Corporation Troop', tested the following and passed them for the Tenderfoot Badge of 28th April, 1915.

Daniel Pawson	Charles Parker
Charles Readman	Robert Harrison
Frederick Readman	

The following were subsequently tested – Leslie Williamson on 5th May, Patrol Leader Ray Oxley on 12th May with Ray Pawson and Arthur Sturgeon. Walter Harrison was tested on 2nd June and Harry Hopper on 14th June.

This occupied the first few weeks of the life of the 8th Troop, quite a normal start for boys who wished to become bona-fide members of a rapidly growing movement, and to gain their first badge.

On 10th June, a further meeting decided to approach Mr .Thomas Belt of Coalsides Farm, near Burtree Gate on the West Auckland Road, with a view to holding an Annual Camp there. This meeting also agreed that two pairs of Semaphore Signalling flags be bought and 12 pairs of shoulder knots too.

Twelve of the Troop piled into a spacious open charabanc tourer type car, known as the Bean, and set off up the lane; unfortunately, the car broke down at the junction of Faverdale Lane, whereupon the journey was continued on foot to Coalsides Farm to make the arrangements.

A further meeting held on 24th June, attended by six boys and the SM saw that Mr. Belt had agreed to allow the camp, stating a small fee for the use of the field. Mr. Cottain (Cartman, Darlington) was to be approached to transport the camp equipment; the bell tents were to be hired from Nichol & Co., Sunderland, through Mr. Dunning, the agent, for the sum of 4/6d. each - a lot of money in those days. The meeting also agreed that only Scouts who had joined the Troop at first were to attend the camp.

These were the general arrangements for the First Annual Camp, held at the first farm on the left after the Motorway intersection as we know it today. Incidentally, Mr. Belt lived to the grand old age of 94, and would probably have been about 45 years of age at that time. West Auckland Road was merely a cart track for coal carts from the collieries in those days; the few lorries in use then had solid rubber tyres on cast iron wheels, although Cottams had used horses and carts for some time before this.

The First Annual Camp of the 8th, therefore, took place only 3 miles from Darlington and was of seven days' duration. The kit was loaded onto a horse-drawn cart in Cockerton, while Mr. Lishman and the boys walked.

Three bell tents were used, one housed the Tiger Patrol, one the Swifts, the third was used as a store, whilst Mr Lishman had his own small white ridged tent. Cooking was to occupy most of the time - after all, it was the FIRST camp. A varied collection of utensils had been gathered, including household pans and a large round cauldron for soup. A semi-circular dixie was also amongst the cooking equipment, most of which was of cast iron. Mr Lishman provided a fire grid.

Signalling was a daily activity; one day was spent hiking to Gainford via Low Walworth to visit the 3rd Darlington Y.M.C.A. Troop in camp there and Mr. Alnwick, the SM of the

3rd, provided a meal on arrival for the eight boys who were on the hike. On the return journey, they got thoroughly soaked in a thunder storm before reaching Coalsides again.

The entire camp cost each boy about 5/- for this moderate but exciting start to the 8th Darlington. A final camp fire sing song, including such hits as 'Long way to Tipperary' and 'Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag' ended the camp when Saturday came all too soon and Mr. Cottam's cart arrived.

The camp was a success and the remainder of the year was spent badge swotting, as many boys had in fact progressed further by December.

On Christmas morning, the tiny band turned out to play carols around Cockerton village; this was surely a fine effort from small beginnings in a few months. Half the proceeds went to the Red Cross and half to Troop funds. This would be the first positive event to raise any funds, apart from weekly subscriptions.

So ended the first year of the 8th Darlington.

1916

Mr. Selwyn Austin was the Darlington and District Commissioner at this time. During January, a new ADC was appointed - he was Mr. Trevor Morris, who was to figure greatly in Darlington Scouting.

At this meeting in January, John Lishman was elected on to a committee to look into the examiners for badges. This is the first indication that any 8th Scouter attended a meeting of the District, most certainly the first to serve on a sub-committee.

One should remember that the periodicals were 'Scouting for Boys' in fortnightly parts at that time, also the 'IHQ Gazette', a publication for adult leaders.

At the Troop Meeting on 21st January, the following boys had passed the badges as listed below:-

D Pawson	Second Class & Cyclist
C Steadman	Second Class
R Oxley	Second Class
L Williamson	Second Class
A Sturgeon	Second Class & Laundryman
F Readman	Second Class & Musician

During the early part of the year, the District sent out a request for Scouts to join the Army as buglers, if they had any qualifications in that respect. Another request was for Coast Guard Duty. Patrol Leader Pawson accepted the duty and was sent off the following Monday, 24th January, for Redcar.

The Troop was now growing, with other activities outside their normal weekly meetings being undertaken. They helped at a Scout Guild function at Bondgate and other events.

At the Troop meeting on Wednesday, 29th January, a special evening was held when each Scout had to bring 'a quarter of a pound of something in the way of food'. This was given to the S.M for a Troop feed.

During March, the balance in hand in the Troop Funds was £1.7.9½. a princely sum! each Patrol Leader was provided with a book for subs. Three mouth organs were to be bought to augment the 'fifers' on route marches; if successful, pore would be bought. This indicates the real beginnings of the Drum and Fife Band.

However, those days were also hampered by wartime restrictions in many forms. The District was very short of adult Scouters, even during May, we read that 3 SMs, 3 ASMs, and 2 PLs went into the army, with the worst battles of the War still to be fought.

The District had 250 Scouts at this time (which also included Croft, Hurworth and Neasham); also, for the first time ever 16 Cubs were recorded on the approximate census. The Cub Section began in 1916 as a natural outcome of Scouting.

John Lishman was the first SM to give a Troop report of the 8th at the District A.G.M. on 16th May, 1916.

Back in the Troop, marks were awarded each week as follows:- 1 for being punctual, 2 for having uniform, 3 for good behaviour. A total of 5 marks per boy in the Inter-Patrol points awards.

Charles Alan was to report for War Service Scouting on Sundays to gain his 120 days' service and qualify for the badge.

The band went from strength to strength; two more mouth organs were purchased by John Lishman himself, and on 31st March, the band played at a Scout Guild Social at Bondgate, held by the 6th Bondgate Scouts. The band was very highly commended by various people, as well as by John Lishman, who played the base flute himself - it was the band's first public appearance under Danny Pawson as conductor.

Patrol Leader R Harrison had to offer his resignation to the Troop as he found it impossible to attend all the band practices, the spare tilde activity of the Troop now. PL Pawson replaced him as Secretary.

An attempt was made to start three patrols;- Tigers, Swifts and Owls, but on 10th April, 1916, they were again dissolved into only two - this time the Swifts and Owls.

The first anniversary of the Troop was celebrated by going to Gainford (on foot of course), have dinner, tea, then train home again. The band went, the records say, except for the Big Drum (for obvious reasons). Performances were given on the village green at Gainford - the residents buying the boys chocolate.

After this, the band had a few weeks' rest to allow badge testing and general Troop work - a healthy sign.

The Scout Association arranged for all Troops to deliver handbills (Yes! even in 1916) to collect medicine bottles for the Greenbank Hospital (then the General Hospital before the present Memorial Hospital was built). Each boy delivered two streets and collections were made on 20th May, a Saturday afternoon.

It should be noted that many bottles came in from 'the trade' and John Lishman bought all of these, giving the equivalent in cash before breaking up all the said bottles, before further use. The motor lorry scheduled to collect the bottles did not arrive at the right time, so they were stored until later.

There were several events during 1916 in which the 8th took part. The war was uppermost in everyone's mind - the Battle of the Somme took place on 1st July, the newspapers bore the sad account of 21,000 fatalities in the first 24 hours! Whilst the Somme offensive was still raging, Passchendaele began with equally savage slaughter on 1st July. On 4th August, a War Anniversary Service was held in the Market Place, Darlington, at 6.45 p.m.; most Scout Groups were represented on this Friday evening.

The Troop began to think about camp again, when Alnwick, of the 3rd (Y.M.C.A.) Troop, made us the generous offer to continue his Troop Camp for another week, allowing us to camp on the same field - we grabbed at the chance, they had tents and a small marquee - we did not.

Scouts Pawson, Readman and Parker cycled to camp on the Sunday to keep watch over the camp from dinnertime, when the 3rd Troop Camp ended. With John Lishman, they stayed overnight until the rest of the Troop arrived on Monday, 14th August, 1916, for the Second Annual Troop Camp at Gainford.

Other matters dealt with at that time by the Court of Honour were as follows:-

	s.d.
Repairing Side Drum with new skins, etc	19.3.
Mr. Cottam's charge for cartage to camp.	1.6
Repairing hole in Side Drum	1.4
 Expenditure for September	 £1.2.6

There were two gatherings in the town at which Baden Powell was present; one had an amusing incident for one of the 8th. This Rally in Feethams football and cricket field saw ranks of four in the rehearsals when countermarching was practised. On the actual evening, however, one diminutive Scout of the 3th was left marching at the rear of the line by himself. Baden Powell watched with keen interest every movement, then he came over to the part of the field allotted to the 8th in the North West corner of the Football field, patted the Scout on the back and said 'Well played, sonny, well played' - B.P. had just spoken to Scout Leslie D. Williamson, after which the Chief had several minutes' chat with John Lishman.

A similar rally took place in the South Park on 9th October when Baden Powell was again present and the proceeds went to wounded soldiers. This was a separate event from the Empire Day Celebrations held in the Park in May. Baden Powell took the opportunity to stress the need for Wolf Cub Packs, the first of which appeared at the end of the year.

It was arranged that new Bandsmen should practise on the older wooden fife, also that our new base fife (Key F) was tested by Mr. Bishop, whom Mr. Lishman had asked to write music. If this was possible, it would be played on the next march. The Band would now be taught the various fingerings for sharps and flats.

As the Troop had now procured some form of heating in their meeting hut for the winter, arrangements were made, as follows, for meetings:-

Scout Meeting 6.30 to 7.45 p.m. followed by Band practice 7.45 to 8.30 p.m., this would thereby save fuel.

The Baden Powell system of the Troop being run by the Court-of-Honour was very apparent in these early days. Three Scouts who had been absent for several weeks were sent for by the Court-of-Honour, only one could be found - he was brought before the Patrol Leaders - he said *he* helped his father at night AND was in need of fresh air! – well! He was fined 6d. and had to pay all of his back money. The other two could not be found that night. Such was an incident in the life of the 8th Darlington Troop.

Three new Fifes were bought during the Autumn at 4/6d. each. This type have only one key note (*D Sharp*), nevertheless they could play with more volume than the present ones.

As the Troop was pretty low on funds now, they thought of getting the Troop Secretary to write to I.H.Q. in London to ask about material for sketches (no Ralph Reader material then).

In December 1915, the Troop ventured out with its band again on the morning of Christmas Day; it was decided to do the same this year, with creditable results. Half the proceeds went to the Red Cross Society and half to the Band funds.

1917

The Darlington District A.G.M. was held on 23rd January in the Holy Trinity Girls' School. John Lishman was present and gave a report on the Troop. The District stated that there were now 405 Scouts in the town and 35 Cubs.

A concert was combined with the Methodist Sunday School as a joint performance took place on 11th March. It was so successful that repeat performances were given on the 17th and 18th too, proceeds being equally divided.

In April, the Troop was offered a garden to cultivate on spare ground to the rear of the Sunday School Meeting Room. A Garden Committee was elected to attend to this new venture, which also helped the war effort.

The Troop's second anniversary was celebrated as follows:

Gardening in the afternoon and part of the evening, then a pie and peas supper arranged by Danny Pawson, followed by a concert involving every member of the Troop. The records state that it was mentioned in a speech 'We hope this won't be our last anniversary!'

During April, Miss Bainbridge was approached to form a Cub Pack. Ray Pawson was transferred from the Troop to help, so that on 25th April the first ever Wolf Cub Pack meeting of the 8th took place.

We could now be termed a real Scout Group. The sum of 1d. per month was paid by Cubs as a subscription. A new Patrol Leader was put in place of P.L. Pawson.

Thoughts were now again directed towards the Annual Camp, with Low Row in Swaledale being prominent in the choice of site. Due to the wartime shortage of food it was agreed that each boy would put away 1 spoonful of sugar each week for camp.

On Tuesday, 29th May John Lishman, PL Danny Pawson and CM Ray Pawson cycled to Low Row in the evening (over 50 miles) to find a camp site, also if it was possible to take the Troop that far to camp - remembering they had to walk!

The Court of Honour agreed on the fee of 11/- per head for the camp, although it was only expected to cost 5/- each, with any camp fee left over being returned to the boys. The journey was to take two days, camping just beyond Richmond on the first day at Underbanks Farm, then trekking on to Swaledale the following day. Four of the smaller boys were to go by train to Richmond to join the Troop there, some of the heavier gear also went by train, a farm cart meeting the train to take the heavy equipment on to Low Row, just past Reeth. Such were the camp arrangements.

The Darlington and District Scoutmasters Meeting was held in the 8th H.Q. Clubroom on 17th July, 1917, it was attended by John Lishman, also Patrol Leaders Pawson, Readman and Harrison. This was the first time the 8th Darlington entertained the District meeting.

During July, a new face appeared on the scene of the 8th. Percy J. Bringham, as an ASM, all the work would not now rest on J B Lishman's shoulders. Percy Bringham also helped with the Cub Pack.

The 1917 Troop camp at Low Row was a great success, thanks due to Mr. Moreton of the 4th Darlington (St. John Evangelist) Troop for the loan of their trek cart for the camp.

During the year John Lishman thought it a good idea to have the Cubs in camp for a weekend, to give them an insight into Troop camping. Mrs. Walker, of Archdeacon Newton Farm, was asked for a field and the Troop were to erect the tents.

On 19th September, the Troop gathered waste paper for the war effort with the 3rd (Y.M.C.A.) Troop jointly. Two boys had a street between them, the effort helping funds of both Troops.

Several new instruments were purchased by the band which had played in surrounding villages at the Low Row Camp. The latest instrument was a new Mettle drum which Scout Parker would play.

The Pack had to be stood down for several months during the winter due to lack of a meeting place, but was to restart the full Pack meetings as soon as possible.

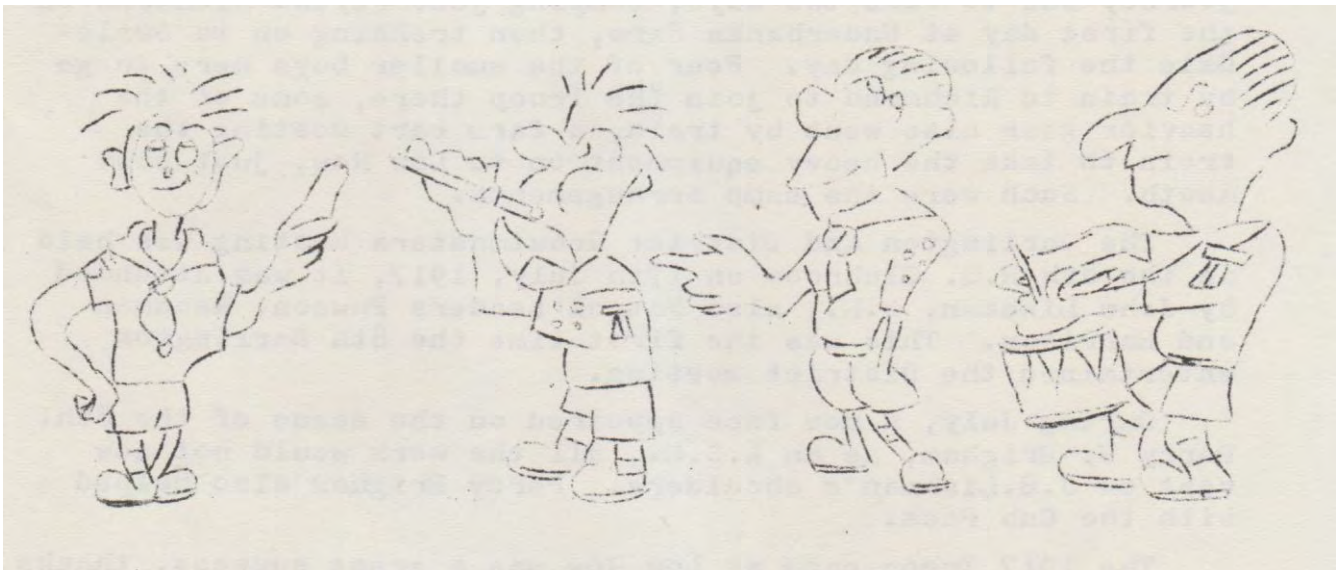
The Troop Court of Honour was instructed to obtain a load of manure for the Troop garden.

The usual Christmas Day band outing was agreed to and took place, half the proceeds going to the Red Cross.

During the early winter, some of the Troop attended the showing of the official Boy Scout film, on 29th October, at the Court Arcade Cinema in Skinnergate.

The Great War again made its presence felt in the Troop, when our SM was called up for service - this was a real blow. The ASM, P W Brigham, opened the meeting as usual though we knew it was our SM's last evening with us. There was a vague and restless feeling throughout the meeting as we felt we could not carry on without him.

After a small presentation of a pocket wallet, we watched as Lishman turned off the lights for the last time, lumps in our throats as we saw him depart - would he return? or death snatch him, as it had thousands before him?



1918

At the end of January, the Troop attended the funeral of Mr J B Lishman's father, whom we had known so well.

After our SM joined the army, the troop jogged along and we came to realise what a fine Leader we had in our ASM Mr. Brigham, who ran both the Scouts and the Cubs for some time. The Pack was well under way again by the early Spring, with renewed vigour, due to his efforts.

On 14th January, 10/- was contributed to the Scouts Over Seas Fund. On 19th February, the District A.G.M. took place. The district now had 15 Troops with 296 Scouts and 4 Packs with 43 Cubs - these were approximate figures in those days.

The Troop Annual Camp that year was again held in Swaledale at Low Row, almost the same pattern as 1918, and just as good.

A weekend camp for the Cub Pack was held at Blackwell, just at the bridge; it was a fine weekend and enjoyed by all. Mr. P W Brigham was the main organiser of both these events.

In July the District meeting was again held in our HQ when J B Lishman (on leave) attended, with P W Brigham and PLs A Sturgeon and D Pawson. A discussion took place at this meeting about the uniform of adult Leaders, there were few rules about this at the time.

The Troop garden did well this year, making a profit of 11/- as against 4/6d. last year. Another collection of -bottles was undertaken at this time too.

The most significant event towards the end of the year was the signing of Armistice on 11th November. Prayers were said in every heart for the end of this dreadful happening.

The Troop Drum and Fife Band headed the Cockertonian procession to fields known as Johnson's Flats (between the village and Staindrop road) where festivities to mark the end of the War were to take place.

The Troop Court of Honour Minutes book states: 'This, we hope, is the last illusion to this terrible War, we look forward to our camps and outings, without fear of us casting uncanny thoughts on the ages of our older Scouts.' There was no ceremony when our S.M. returned, just simple handshakes and the will to go on again.

So ended 1918.

1919

In May, the Patrols were re-arranged, the following list was the outcome at that date, 7th May, 1919:

TIGERS

C D Pawson PL
Ray Pawson Corporal
T Marsden
G Wilson
H White
F Hughes
N Spencer
B Wilson
J Spencer

SWIFTS

A Sturgeon PL
F Readmand Corporal
J Shutt
B Wilson
E Sturgeon
T Graham
B Nesling
T Curtis
O Park

OWLS

L Williamson PL
C Parker Corporal
A Lonsdale
W Spencer
E Shutt
R Jarvis
G Allan
W Coulthard
G Newton

As many of the Scouts were now older, especially in the Tiger Patrol, where some were over the age of 13 years, thoughts began to turn to Rover Scouts - a section of the movement which started in 1913 to cater for older chaps, though it was decided to leave this as they were at this time, to let the Troop and Pack get into gear again after the War.

At the District A.G.M., it was said that there were 12 Troops, with 22 Officers and 211 Scouts; also 10 Packs with 20 Officers and 110 Cubs.

The Court of Honour in July finalised the Annual Camp details. A more ambitious trek up Wensleydale and back over Swaledale was planned, after the success of the last two years.

The camp would take place from 1st to 9th August, the following is a summary of the route:-

Friday	train to Richmond - trek to Stainton
Saturday	trek to Carperby via Leyburn
Sunday	rest and attend Church
Monday	trek to Askrigg
Tuesday	visit to Lake Semmerwater
Wednesday	Trek to Hardraw Scarr, Hawes
Thursday	Trek over Butter Tubs Pass to Muker, Swaledale
Friday	Trek to Reeth
Saturday	Trek to Richmond, train home, but 8 stalwarts continued and trekked right home to Darlington

The programme was drawn up by the S.M. and the Court of Honour, 5/- to be provided by each boy. By all accounts, this was a great camp. Arriving at the village of Stainton for our first night's rest, then on to Carperby to a pre-arranged site, we attended Church at Aysgarth that evening. Then, after a shorter trek, the camp was pitched by the side of the river Ure at Bainbridge. J.B. Lishman had been round the route beforehand, visited every site and made arrangements for picking up stores at various places.

Railways could be relied upon in those days, as PL Williamson, along with two other Scouts, was instructed to take the trek cart to Askrigg Station to pick up a box. It contained foodstuff despatched from Darlington the previous day, so as to reach the Troop in fresh condition. This was just another instance which was taken as a matter of course at the time, bears out the work, dedication and efficiency of our Leaders.

Balance Sheet for 8th Darlington Boy Scouts Camp 1919

<u>Income</u>	<u>£.s.d.</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£.s.d.</u>
Scouts' subscriptions	3.5.0	Cooper's food	3.18.5 ½
SM and ASM	10.0	Lunch Richmond	5.3
Scouts – other	14.0	Food – Askrigg	13.5 ½
From Funds	4.19.6 ½	Food – Hawes	8.6
Credit – tins	2.0	Food – Muker	6.2
Mr Jarvis son's fare from Muker	4.6	Food – Low Row	3.0
		Meat/dripping (less food sold at end of camp for £1.16.3)	1.5.0
		Total	£5.3.7
		Carting & tip	4.0
		Trek Cart	7.0
		Luggage – Askrigg	10.5
		Luggage – Muker	4.10
		Carriage – empties	10.0
		Total	£1.7.1
		Rail fares	2.0
		(10 ½ to Richmond 9 ½ to Darlington)	£1.17.5 ½
		Hire of tents	10.6
		Admission – Hardraw Scarr	2.6
	£9.15.0 ½		£9.15.0 ½

It will be interesting to draw comparisons with this Balance Sheet and the Annual Camps of the early 1970's, later in this book.

One notes that Scout R Jarvis was transferred from the Y.M.C.A. Troop, which had been disbanded for the time being, though he in fact was allowed to attend the camp, the Court of Honour agreed a special extra fee due to his lack of subscriptions to the 8th.

During late August, several boys wished to go in for the Artist badge, though again the Court of Honour had to write to Headquarters to get permission to do this. The Court of Honour also made a point of writing (after every camp) to anyone who had helped in any way with the camp - an excellent point of training.

A report of the camp was sent to the column in the Northern Despatch; this column was written by 'Silver Wolf' at that time.

The fee for the trek cart was later put back into Troop funds, it had been offered to Mr. Sanderson's Troop, who loaned the trek cart, for wear and tear in the dales:

Other events were that on 24th October, C D Pawson became an Assistant Scoutmaster. The Troop ranks were rearranged and it was an encouraging sign that the Troop was beginning to produce its own Scouters.

The Cub Pack held another weekend camp during the summer at Blackwell, which again was a good weekend attended by many of the Scouts - the beginning of present day Group Camps?

The Pack was at present meeting on Fridays in the Sunday School and was now producing Cabs ready for the Troop. Two such boys entered the Troop on Wednesday, 10th December, 1919, they were H. Robson and D. Spence.

During the year, the first ever Vaux Ambulance Competition was competed for in Durham. It was won by the 6th Darlington Troop.

The Pack and Troop registers would no doubt be looked at for any slackers at the end of the year, though several Scouts were at the Technical College for evening classes. The Troop had its sights set on the World Band Contest in 1920 so band practices were again in full swing during the entire winter.

Perhaps a word about uniform may be appropriate here. All the Troop and Scouters wore the large 'Scout' hat, whilst scarves of royal blue (of course) were merely knotted at the neck, with no woggle. Most of the shirts were a darker rough serge material, though khaki drill was coming into its own. The 8th Darlington shoulder tapes were 6" long and about 1" deep with red titles, stockings and shorts were dark blue.

There was still the question of Scoutmasters' uniform which was left to individual discretion by and large, either a Scout Green or Troop Scarf could be worn, sometimes even a green tie as a choice.

The year was one of progress for scouting in general as well as the 8th Darlington. Gilwell Park was opened as a Scout Centre and Training Ground for Scout and Cub Masters.

More locally, during the year, P.W. Brigham had served on the badge Committee of the District, he had also attended no less than 9 of the monthly Scoutmasters' Meetings - we really had a keen Leader in Percy Brigham. These meetings were also attended by Patrol Leaders, such names as P.L. Arthur Sturgeon and Robert Oxley were a regular occurrence.

In June of 1919, Lord Barnard offered Raby Park as a week end camping area for Scouts. A County Jamboree was held at Durham in August, though no records show that the 8th went.

In June the first 'Relay Race' took place though it was revised fully later and we cannot say which Troop won.

At this time certain badges had to be re-passed annually to maintain efficiency, otherwise one had to hand in the badge. Such badges at that time were Cyclist, Fireman, Interpreter, Marksman, Pathfinder, Rescuer and Thriftyman.





8th CUBS AT BLACKWELL 1918

8th Pack and other Cubs: Some of those standing in background are Scouts E. Watts, Fred Hughes, Mrs. Brigham, Percy Brigham, Danny Pawson, Mr. J. Baker-Wheeler and Scout Tom Curtiss.



Annual Camp, Langstrath
Valley, Borrowdale 1929



8th Darlington Scout Troop Drum and Fife Band

Winners of the World Scout Band Contest, Olympia Jamboree, 1920

Back row: R. W. Harrison, R. Pawson, G. Newton, J. Shutt, John Lishman S.M.,
D. Pawson A.S.M., Percy Brigham A.S.M., C. Wilson, F. Readman, R. Jarvis, O.
Park.

Centre row: B. Wilson, T. Curtiss, E. T. Watts, L. D. Williamson, C. A. Parker, F. Huges, E.
Sturgeon, E. Shutt, R. Foster.

Seated: T. Graham, J. Spencer.

CHAPTER 2 - THE TWENTIES

1920

In February, the brother of P.W. Brigham gave a lantern lecture on 'Old Darlington' in our H.Q., other Troops in the town were invited and it appears a good evening was had by all.

The raising of money for the proposed camp that year was the foremost item on the Court of Honour meetings. Each boy had to find £2 which was a lot of money then. John Lishman and Percy Brigham set up a 'Work Bureau' for this purpose, to give each boy a chance to earn his share at a set hourly rate, each Saturday.

The odd Scout who slackened off band practices in that year was dealt with by the Court of Honour when fife, music and books had to be retrieved quickly for others to use.

The Christmas and New Year Carolling had been very good that year had raised over £9 for the camp funds. A Jumble Sale brought in more money, so things looked brighter.

For the first year ever, the Scout Association had asked all Troops to forward a properly audited Balance Sheet. At the monthly Scoutmasters and PL meeting, it was stated that the 8th Darlington had been so successful in raising funds that Mr. Brigham was asked to give an account of their methods! Note; the 8th Darlington is still successful in raising funds over 50 years later. At this meeting, Mr. Brigham gave a short account of Band Performances, Rummage Sales, etc. and no doubt, team-work.

On 21st January, the Drum and Fife Band gave a recital at the Salvation Army Citadel, in return for Mr. Alnwick's help with their recent Jumble Sale. The Band was very well received.

During early June, a County Jamboree and Scout Exhibition were held at Sunderland. The 6th were there in strength, where the band really put their backs into achieving the pitch to go to London in August. After being told by the Drum Major sent by the Durham Authorities that we were fit to go, we earned enough money by Open Air Concerts to cover the cost.

On Sunday, 27th June, a Drum Head Service (suggested by P.W. Brigham) took place on Mowden (then open parkland) which was combined with the Relay Mace, a new District venture. This consisted of a team of six from each Troop - 2 cyclists and 4 runners over a distance of 12 miles.

All during the early part of the year, Band Practices became frequent, regular and more important than other things, they had to! the Troop had set its sights on Olympia.

Partly to practise, though mainly to raise money, the band gave concerts in places such as Aldborough and Melsonby. These took the form of lunchtime concerts in the surrounding villages, with Fred Hughes' intervals of lightning sketches, complete with easel and charcoal, helped by Danny Pawson's good work on the violin too.

Played more often than not would be the test piece for Olympia; this was a fine tune 'Move On' which was practised until it reached a very fine pitch fit for competition presentation.

In July, the last four passport photographs were taken at Richardsons, of Bondgate, as Danny Pawson, Ray Dawson, Gordon Newton & Walter Harrison arrived there at 12.30 lunch-time, as the over 16s.

At this time, a scout needed what Baden Powell termed stickability to keep up the gathering speed of things. Not all Scouts, of course, were in the Band at this time but of the few who were not appeared to help in other ways.

On 1st August, 1920, the great day came as we stood on Bank Top Station just after midnight, as the Railway Company, the L.N.E.R., would not grant cheap fares on Bank Holiday Saturday. The Band played their test piece on the platform to set off in good style.

On arrival at Kings Cross at about 6.0 a.m., a short break at the coffee stall soon put us right after the journey. We moved off with our trek cart (which had been on the train) through an almost deserted Tottenham Court Road, thence through Piccadilly, a distance of about four miles to our destination.

We stayed at 494, Fulham Road, which was the HQ of the 33rd London Troop. Their Scoutmaster, Mr. H W V Smith, was very kind and a good host during our stay in London, of Monday and Tuesday.

The Troop HQ was a loft above several stables and a former Mews, now occupied by costers' horses and mules, which meant they were moving, about very early each morning.

After breakfast, we were honoured to see the 33rd London Troop Band, which included French Horns, on parade.

The following day we marched to Olympia to the First World Jamboree, at which Baden Powell was acclaimed THE CHIEF SCOUT OF THE WOLRD.

The contest lasted several days. Different judges appeared on various days, therefore no details are available as to how many Troops competed in each competition, also it

was not possible to obtain the facts from each judge separately, as none of them knew the name of the bands they judged. Thus Cockerton did not know what they had been up against.

Before the judges, the band played four hornpipes as directed, in addition to their own composition and the test piece 'Move On'.

However, in the various sections, the 33rd London won 1st Place in the 'Drums and Bugles' and the 8th Darlington 1st Place in the 'Drums and Fifes'. This was a fantastic achievement when one considers that there were representatives from all parts of the British Empire, the U.S.A and nearly all European Countries.

Durham County had, with the 8th Troop, achieved what no other County in England had, in taking three prizes at the contest.

The Troop attended the service at Westminster Cathedral Hall later that evening. The theme of the anthem being 'The Radiant morn has passed away' - it had - some of the 8th had fallen asleep from the strain of the past two days, though what days of memories they were.

Leaving London on Wednesday, by Friday, 6th August, the Troop was camping in Belgium near to Ostend, feeling fit again for any strange sights and adventures. The town at this time though was very terribly mutilated by the War, as were the surrounding areas.

The following day, the Troop trekked 15½ miles to Bruges, in very Belgian countryside, long straight roads with borders of trees on either side; all the trees had been severed about six feet from the ground and new foliage grew.

Bruges was one town that was not badly damaged by the War; there were a number of fine Catholic Churches in town, as well as a beautiful Town Hall.

On Sunday, 8th August, the Troop had a quiet day and went to an English Church with a Troop of Swansea Scouts, who became their companions throughout the tour.

On Monday, the 9th, they visited Ypres. All the names they had seen in the newspapers in recent years were vividly impressed upon them. As they stood at the crossroads at Dickebusche, with Mount Kemp to their left, Red mountain in front and Ypres behind them, they stood and surveyed the devastated, barren, uninhabited country about them. One could not help feeling proud of the noble men who had endured this, and worse, for our sake and the cause of Right. They felt they were in the midst of a wilderness, not even a bird sang, the sinister quietness struck them with awe.

The remainder of the camp was taken up by trips to various places such as Zeebrugge, where Captain Bradford of Darlington earned his V.C., also Newporte, a small town which was within the only part of Belgium not occupied by the Germans. Two of the Scouts took a flying trip to Antwerp to see some returned refugees once billeted in Darlington. Too soon

Friday, 13th, came and with it the departure, home again by Sunday, 15th August.

During September, I.H.Q. issued a ruling that Scouts should not be allowed to wear Wolf Cub Badges on their Scout shirts, though Cub Service Stars would be allowed.

On September 12th - 13th, a general District Camp was held at Low Coniscliffe - probably the first District Camp ever held.

A Cub Camp was held at Blackwell on 16th September.

On 16th October, the first Boy Scout and Wolf Cub Sports were in full swing, the District now catering for more boys. Results of these are not available.

On 21st October, at the District Meeting the District Commissioner congratulated the 8th on winning the World Drum and Fife Band contest. A social evening was held to celebrate this event and the fact that the 6th Bondgate had won the Vaux Ambulance Shield for the second year in succession. 250 people attended this event which took place on 27th November.

The Troop had a more local event in their own H.Q. with about 100 people present. Commencing with a concert by the Troop and other artistes (the Troop were very good at arranging concerts) although Scout Fred Hughes was well to the fore with his lightning sketches, Mr. Fred Stannard delighted the audience with his ventriloquist act. Two recitations were given Mr. J Alnwick of the 3rd Y.C.M.A. Troop, songs were sung by Miss H Earl and Miss G Williamson.

During the evening, the County Secretary, Captain Richardson, arrived to take the chair. He then presented each member of the Band who was in the contest in London with a neat little medal, to hang on a watch chain (people had them in those days). In his speech he said that the public at large had benefitted from the Jamboree as well as the Boy Scout Movement, hitherto they had accepted it to be of a militant character, instead of teaching a boy self-reliance and citizenship.

After Captain Richardson had spoken, Scoutmaster John Lishman, in a few genuine words, presented Bandmaster C D Pawson with a silver mounted baton in recognition of his work in connection with the 1920 World Scout Band Contest.

Mr. and Mrs .Brigham (married shortly after the camp that year) laid on a belated share of their marriage feast as a surprise for the Scouts, who showed their highest appreciation - by eating everything before them! So ended a great evening.

During the winter, Cookery classes had again started with 12 weekly sessions to complete the badge. These classes were run each winter by Miss A Lishman for any Scouts in the town.

Metalwork classes were also run by Mr. J Hebdon, Headmaster of Cockerton Church of England School. Most items made at these classes were camp utensils, incidentally.

1921

Though I.H.Q. had officially registered like sections of Cubs Scouts and Rovers, as a Group from 1919, it should be remembered that the first intention of Baden Powell was simply to start the Boy Scout Movement. This grew at the fantastic rate we now know, although younger brothers were not catered for in the form of Wolf Cubs until 1916, when our Pack started.

The Cubs at the time were not a Group or member of, but merely the 8th Scouts Cub Pack! Similarly, the Rover Section (which there were now badges for) had come about in the same fashion towards the end of 1913, though as from this year, as in other Troops, many PLs were over the age of 13 years and simply stayed on. We are told the 8th once had a PL of 21 years of age!

The Group (we can now call it) stood as follows during the early days of 1921:-

Cubmaster:	Percy W Brigham	Pack No.479
Assistant	C D Pawson	
Instructor	Fred Hughes	
<u>GREEN SIX</u>	<u>KHAKI SIX</u>	<u>GREY SIX</u>
M Brown	G Marrs	T Jarvis
P G Brigham	D Mordue	J Allen
W Parker	A Graham	R Jameson
W Graham	W Jennings	R Sturgeon
V Snailham	J Spensley	O Spencer
J Lipton	J Baldwin	W Craggs

Scoutmaster	John B Lishman	Troop No.1015
Assistant	P W Brigham	
Assistant	C D Pawson	
<u>TIGER PATROL</u>	<u>SWIFT PATROL</u>	<u>OWL PATROL</u>
R Pawson PL	F Readman PL	L Williamson PL
G Wilson Cpl	J Shutt Cpl	C Parker Cpl
F Hughes	E Shutt	B Watts
B Wilson	J Watson	J Park
E Sturgeon	R Watson	C Wilson
T Curtis	J Spencer	W Watson
W Spencer	F Peacock	N Spencer

ROVERS (attached to the Troop)

R W Harrison
G Newton
O Park
A Sturgeon

It will be noticed that any younger brothers had in fact now joined the Cubs, though the Leaders seemed to work very hard in both sections.

Again it should be remembered that there were no experienced adults, with many years in Scouting, simply waiting to take Troops in those days, many Troops had not even started.

The Metalwork classes were going well with 36 boys attending at each class. Miss Lishman's Cookery Class was also well supported. The fee was 1/- for the course in each case.

In March 1921, on the 17th, the 8th was again host for the District meeting in their H.Q. Mr. Brigham and PLs Pawson and F Readman attending. At the following meeting, held elsewhere, we saw Rovers present for the first time ever.

A Cub Outing and meeting was held at Stapleton on 23rd April and appears to have been successful. Whilst another Drumhead Service was held at Mowden Park on 26th June. P W Brigham was on the organising committee.

The Troop subscriptions at this time were still 1d. Per week.

On Saturday, 16th July, the Scout Sports were held, but again there is no list of results available from any records.

The District Scout Sports held in July had entries from the 3th in every event, some of the wins and placings are given here.

100 yards under 16	Ray Pawson 3 rd
Long Jump over 16	Ossie Park 1 st 15'8"
High Jump over 16	Ossie Park 1 st 1'8"
¼ mile under 16	Jimmy Shutt 1 st
Cubs Boat Race	8 th Pack 2 nd

The Group attended a Rally at Durham during the summer at which they again met Baden Powell, although there is no list of Scout names, the officers below organised the 8th contingent:

P W Brigham	Ray Pawson	B Wilson	Les Williamson	Walter Harrison	Fred Readman
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The Tug of Jar Team entered in the events was narrowly beaten by the 2nd Darlington Troop, our team consisted of:-

R Pawson	J Watson	L Williamson	T Graham
B Wilson	B Watts	C Wilson	N Spencer

In the tent pitching competition, the Troop had much better luck and won this event, this team consisting of (as far as can be recalled):

Les Williamson	Bunny Watts	Tommy Curtis	Jack Spencer
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The 7th Annual Camp was held in the Lake District, after the first overseas camp last year. The Troop pushed the trek carts to North Road Station and entrained on the L.N.E.R., changing to the M.R. at Penrith, before alighting at Clifton Junction, the trek carts having been taken in the guards van. Each boy was allowed only one kitbag for this camp, as everything had to be pushed. This could present problems when one considers that things were not lightweight as nowadays and each boy had heavy woollen blankets.

The first day was spent in trekking to Ullswater in pouring rain; on arrival the Troop slept in a hut near to Kira Force Waterfall, next morning trekking over via Troutbeck and Threlkeld to Keswick, where a splendid site was found for the night on the edge of Derwentwater. This field today is two fields on the right past the mini roundabout going out of Keswick up Borrowdale, between the road and Friars Crag.

Two more nights were spent there, the Troop climbing Skiddaw one day and Cat Bells the following day. On the Wednesday morning, a full day's trek brought them via Rydal Water over to Ambleside. They took part in the open events of the Grasmere Games on the Thursday. It had rained most of the actual trekking time so far.

The following day they trekked up Kirkstone Pass on the first really fine hot day; everyone had bare backs with the royal blue scarf to ward off sunstroke - what a splendid sight this must have looked to the very infrequent car driver.

The Troop stayed overnight at Roundhill Farm up Kirkstone Pass where they had a Patrol tent pitching competition - they were using ridge tents at this time, of course.

The following day saw them stage a fell race over Wansfell Pike - what fellows these were for energy in 1921!

Back to Aira Force to camp the following night and then on to Clifton Junction for the train after a total of 10 days camping and trekking. If one cares to total the mileage for the camp it will be found to be over 70 miles without allowing for any gradients or climbing of peaks such as Skiddaw.

So ended an enjoyable and real scouty camp.

It will again be interesting to compare the Annual Camp balance sheet with similar events, both earlier and later years.

8th Darlington Troop BP Scouts

INCOME

Officers' subs	2.10.0
Rover Scouts subs	4.17.0
Visitors' share of expenses	1.9.2
Value of food transferred to Cubs' Camp	3.9
Balance of food sold	7.4
Return deposits – biscuit tins	3.0
Taken from Scout funds	14.4.6
	£23.14.9

Camp Balance Sheet 2021

EXPENDITURE

Food – Coopers, D'ton	4.11.9 ½
Food – Meat – D'ton	1.2.0
Food purchased en route	7.13.3 ½
Oil, Meths, candles	3.11 ½
Hire of tents	1.0.0
Bathing Club fees – Keswick	12.0
Carriage on goods	1.4.5
Carriage on trek carts	1.5.9
Railway fares	5.19.6
Sundries	2.0 ½
	£23.14.9

It should be noted that the Troop still had no tents of their own at this time and considered it cheaper to hire than buy.

However, a Cub Camp was held during 1921 when the policy was to have at least one Cub weekend camp each year. These were held in various places fairly near to Cockerton. The 1921 camp had as its officers and cubs the following:-

P W Brigham (CM)	T Spencer	W Parker
O Spencer	V Snailham	W Jennings
Lloyd Williamson	J Allen	R Harrison
G Marrs	R Jameson	K Downing
G Harrison	R Jarvis	

On 5th September, John Lishman announced to the Troop that he would not be able to come to meetings until Christmas due to pressure of work. He did loan the Troop his bagatelle table for club nights during the winter. It was also noted at the end of September that the Troop funds stood at 2/6d.

Ambulance classes and metalwork classes began again in the town for the winter period. Also a Church Parade was held at the St. Mathew's Church on 6th November. There was no particular church parade annually at this time, all Troops and packs attended at their own church as and when they wished, extending invitations to others from time to time, apart from Mayor's Sunday which took place on 13th November.

1922

At a Court of Honour in February of this year, most of the agenda appears to have been taken up with 'Delinquents', the terms of reference given to Scouts who missed several meetings. Night School classes did hamper attendance at meetings, obviously in a Troop whose ages ranged from 11 to 18 years. At this meeting alone, 8 boys were reviewed for missing occasional meetings.

During February, a friend of the Troop had volunteered to celebrate HER birthday with the lads. A charge of 6d. for Scouts and 1/- for others was made and P.L. Pawson organised the evening, the profits going to camp funds - never an opportunity missed: The friend was none other than Mrs. Pawson.

On 15th March, a Jumble Sale was held to help Troop funds and a lantern lecture on photography was given by Mr. Richardson. At a meeting in March it was agreed that the Troop send £2 towards help for the 'Russian Famine Fund'.

The St. George's Day Parade was significant in the fact that it was held at St. Mary's Church in Cockerton that year, when all Troops marched from the Covered Market to Cockerton.

In early spring, thoughts again turned to camp and the Channel Islands were suggested, though turned down on enquiry into the train fare costs. There was at that time in May £37 in the Troop funds. At subsequent meetings, some thought the Lakes again for the Annual Camp; however, the eventual location was to be near Berwick or the Lowlands of Scotland some 4 miles south of Berwick.

Only Cub Camp of the season, all nicely packed and young Smith disappears!?



Later in May, the District had a combined cycle run to Leyburn also a Course, attended by 22 boys, was under way for the badge known as the Marksman.

The Eighth Annual Troop Camp was held at Scremiston, just south of Berwick, at the side of a road off the A1 which led down to the sea.

J.B. Lishman organised the camp in his usual efficient manner and quite good weather prevailed throughout. One of the main highlights was a visit to Holy Island.

On another day, 8 of the Troop walked to Dunbar via Cocksburnpath, quite a way for a day's walk. However, an American staying at the Inn at Cocksburnpath gave them a feed as a treat, which they accepted.

The camp was again a good one, remembered for the way that all 8th camps were remembered, the companionship, the day to day events, the funny incidents, the joy of boyhood.

Those who attended this camp were:-

B Wilson	F Hughes	G Wilson	T Curtis
E Sturgeon	F Readman	E Shutt	J Shutt
R Watson	C Wilson	W Watson	J Watson
L Williamson	T Graham	B Watts	C Parker
J Spencer	J B Lishman	F Peacock	M Abbott
R Pawson			

Mayor's Sunday was held at St. George's Church on 12th November though seating was limited on this occasion.

Later that month Percy Brigham again served on the Socials Committee to organise the now Annual District Social in the New Year.

1923

At a District Meeting in January, Percy Brigham asked about the age ruling of transfer of Cubs to Scouts - the District could, in fact, find no ruling about this at all, though it was generally thought to be on the boy's 11th birthday. It should be remembered that Cubs attended the District Annual General Meeting at that time.

Troops in the town seemed to change their number, location and scarf colour fairly often. Late last year, the 9th (Harrogate Hill Wesleyan) Troop had changed their scarf colour; a 'new' Troop was the 4th (St. John's) although the original was obviously started before the 8th.

The Whitsuntide Troop camp was held at Robin Gate, beyond Reeth in Swaledale, it seems the 8th could not keep away from its favourite dale. Those who attended the camp were:-

John B Lishman	M Brown	Visitors or part time:
P W Brigham	R Sturgeon	C Parker
M Abbott	D Stainsby	T Graham
G Marrs	G Goodyear	B Wilson
P G Brigham	F Peacock	B Watts
E Shutt	C Wilson	F Reedman
O Spencer	K Downing	L Williamson
		F Hughes
		B Sewell
		J Shutt

This was quite a contingent for a Whitsuntide Camp, also quite a reasonable distance to go at Whitsuntide too.

During May, Percy Brigham served on the District Sports Sub-Committee, what a prodigious amount of work this man did; he was active as a Scouter in both the 8th Troop and Pack, was on several District Committees over the years, as well as an ardent worker in the Methodist Sunday School as Superintendent.

During May, Fred Hughes received his official warrant as ACM though he had been doing the job for some time now.

The District Commissioner opened the June meeting by congratulating the 8th on opening their new HQ! - the 8th is still consistent in its habits over 50 years later. The new HQ was a hut of 40 feet by 20 feet bought from the Royal Flying Corps, the fore-runner of the R.A.F. formed in 1912. The hut was brought from Catterick and several helpers of the Group built brick piers on what was formerly the Troop Garden during the War. The hut was adjacent to the Methodist Sunday School Hut used by the Troop for most of the time since 1915 - it should be remembered that the present Methodist Schoolrooms and halls were not built at that time.

One can see a real mark of progress as the 8th had the official opening of their new premises, in which they could display charts and other Scouty items. Much work and preparation resulted in this building being opened in June, and about 150 people attended the evening, with no doubt a small concert to mark the occasion.

During the year, the 3rd (YMCA) Troop, whose HQ was on High Row, were allowed to change their scarf colour to light and dark blue, from orange with green border. The 8th still remained Royal Blue as from 1915.

A Rover Camp was held in Wales, the furthest any of the Troop had been since 1920. This was a new venture and was in keeping with the 8th a trekking camp. Taking the train from Darlington to Conway bay, the Rovers trekked to a site where they stayed on Saturday and Sunday, they again trekked via Llandudno and Bangor, spending a night in Llanberis, where they slept in a henhouse - of all places, perhaps the usual occupants were not at home!

Wednesday was spent climbing Mount Snowdon, then on Thursday, they trekked to Betws-y-Coed in atrocious wet weather, finally trekking back to Conway where they slept for the night in a quarry en route. This was adventure with a capital 'A' and just the thing for enterprising Rover Scouts in the early twenties.

The return train was taken via Manchester, though four of the party stayed a further week and then returned to Cockerton.

The Rovers who took part were: -

C D Pawson	C Parker	L D Williamson	F Hughes
T Graham	Ben Wilson	T Curtis	

About the same time, the 9th Annual Cap took place at a farm called East Moors, not far from Hemsley in Yorkshire and it marked the break into new camping country to the south east of Darlington for a change. The site was just over the hill from Farndale which is renowned for its show of daffodils in the Spring.

A lot of new youngsters attended this camp to enjoy their first taste of a standing camp, still the main highlight of the year in the 8th. They took the train to Helmsley and then the bus, although Les. Williamson and Ben Wilson cycled to Helmsley and met the contingent there.

Hikes in the surrounding area covered the main part of the programme including one to Rievaulx Abbey.

It was always the policy at the time to have at least one Cub weekend camp during the year. Such a camp took place on the 12th/13th August, when the following Cubs attended the camp at Stapleton:

Tom Harrison	William Parker	Lloyd Williamson	J Downing	Vincent Snailham
J Woodhall	George Kelsey	C Parvin	Eric Snailham	R Relton

Each boy brought 1 large loaf of bread, 1 teacake, 12 tarts, 2 oz. butter and 1/4lb. of sugar.

On 1st September, advantage was taken of the offer to camp at Raby Park; the following attended a weekend camp there although they seem to be a mixture of Cubs and Scouts:

L D Williamson	J Allan	J B Lishman	W Spencer	P W Brigham
D Stainsby	K Downing	G Marrs	E Copping	

During September, Percy Brigham presided at the monthly meeting held in the 5th (Holy Trinity) Troop H.Q.

The year ended with no doubt another Jumble collection and a host of other things as well as the normal Troop meetings.

More industry came to the area with the opening of Faverdale Wagon Works on what had until then been farmland.

1924

Information regarding the first half of the year, is very very sketchy indeed, both oral and recordwise, apart from the attendance and subscription register, which always seems to be in good shape in Percy Brigham's handwriting. It appears that at the time there was a change of Court of Honour Secretary, hence omissions of minutes.

The District Social took place and 111 Scouts with 110 Guides attended it - who was the odd man out? At the same function, there were also 128 Cubs, 16 Officers and 16 guests. Perhaps we could take a page out of the leisure time activities in these days of potted entertainment.

Our friends of the 3rd Darlington (YMCA) Troop were disbanded during the early part of the year, due to being unable to keep the H.Q. (which was on High Row) a going concern.

In April, the first Officers' good Badge Training Course was to be held at High Coniscliffe, a mark of progress indeed.

It was also decided that one Troop would be called the 7th Darlington with a green scarf bordered with red, though originally the 7th (North Road Wesleyan) was started in 1913. Another astounding factor is that there was to be another Troop situated at Cockerton, formed by Messrs. Townsend (Assistant Head) and Hebdon, to be called the 14th Darlington and to wear Blue coloured scarves. Further, still a new Troop to replace the disbanded 3rd (YMCA) would be the 3rd (St. James) Troop, wearing plain yellow scarves.

During July, the senior Relay was contested, the results were 16th, 5th and 1st in that order.

In the 8th Pack, many new names had appeared on the register whom we see were subsequently in the Troop later. The still attached Rover Crew seemed to be growing rapidly under the leadership of Les Williamson since early last year.

The tenth Annual Camp was as good as ever and the site chosen was at Robin Gate, Swaledale, just beyond the bridge past Helaugh. This area is now merely marsh, the river having changed the fields about it since then. No details are available of this camp, but one can imagine it has all the earmarks of another splendid seven day adventure.

A sad blow struck the Troop in September, the following being an extract from the Court of Honour minutes:-

'At this juncture, it may be stated that Mr. Lishman decided that he could not carry on with the Troop as he should do, and with increasing business responsibilities, he was forced to resign. He asked Raymond Pawson to take the position (as SM) and Raymond after receiving assurance of help from the other Senior Scouts decided to do so.

A Banquet was held in the hut when everyone expressed their regret, then wished Mr. Pawson success in his undertaking.

From then on, Ray Pawson became SM., although Percy Brigham was still the ASM helped, of course, by the band of stalwarts that the 8th always seems to have had since its inception.

In October, the following were present on the 10th of the month at the first Court of Honour after Mr. Lishman's resignation:- SM Pawson, ASM Brigham, L D Williamson, B Wilson, T Graham, E Shutt, J Spencer, F Peacock, G Marrs, and R Sturgeon.

It was unanimously decided to form a committee to organise a suitable presentation for John B Lishman in recognition of his 9 1/2 years' service with our Troop. Five of those present were elected to serve on it.

In recent months, the Cub Pack had grown larger, so Mr. Brigham asked for further help from the 'Senior' members of the Troop (presumably the Rovers).

The Pack met on Monday evenings in the Scout Hut and was a healthy looking Pack at that time. A new position of Librarian was created, Ted Copping being elected for the job, with Fred Peacock as his aide.

Preparations were also made to get the band under way again in the winter, and most of the fives could be located the meeting was told.

Rover's subs. were raised to 2d. per week (the highest ever), a Jumble Sale and Concert were under review. John B Lishman had certainly started something in 1915 - least of all enthusiasm.

During September several changes in ranks took place, as this was always found to be the most convenient time to do this, in both the Pack and Troop. More Cubs came up to the Troop before Christmas that year - the surname of Mais enters into the attendance books frequently.

During November, the District ran a tracking game, organised by another town Troop, at which 7 Troops enjoyed themselves.

1925

The new Troop in Cockerton was run by Mr. Hebdon and came to be known as the 'Cockerton School' Troop, which was, of course, its H.Q. It is said their scarves were white and yellow halves.

Information is again rather brief regarding the first half of this year too. Though from attendance records, there were 32 in the Scout Troop, and 26 in the Cub Pack, with the usual Rovers still attached to the Troop.

On 1st July, the Railway Carnival took place and Scouts lined the streets for the procession. The Carnival, in those days, was quite a sizeable event in the town, finishing at the South Park. Harry Wetherill and Fred Peacock travelled in the procession on a tram representing the 8th Troop.

Preparations for the Annual Camp got under way again; this year the camp was held at Sandsend, just at the top of Lythe Bank. This was a camp of one week's duration, it was blessed with reasonable weather, just the thing for a seaside camp.

Transport to and from the camp was by train, with further transport at the other end in the way of trek carts or farm carts.

Well remembered days of the camp were the walk to Runswick Bay and the time spent there around the cliffs. Another day took them into Whitby where they visited the Abbey and bought presents to take home.

Troop equipment was getting better each year, with tinned steel and tinplate utensils; of course, these too quite a lot of cleaning as they could not be left wet or damp when stored away as aluminium billies can. Each boy still had an individual groundsheet of about 6' x 2' to put under his bed. At one time the Troop owned nearly 40 of these, though an annual stocktaking always resulted in a few left somewhere and new ones being bought. The folded groundsheet made a useful cape in wet weather too.

Those who attended this camp were:-

D Longstaff	D Stainsby	W Spencer	H Retalick
E Copping	J Webster	W Young	W Parker
G Marrs	A Glendenning	T Graham Rover	Har. Wetherill
E Pearson	B Wilson Rover	Hub. Wetherill	F Peacock
E Shutt	R Sturgeon	T Harrison	P W Brigham CM
R Pawson SM	M Brown	C A Parker	L Williamson Rover

The District Relay Race was held early in July and won by the 8th Darlington who were very pleased about this, naturally!

We see that this race was discussed at the Scouters' Meeting in the District. They decided that in future cyclists would dismount before handing over the neckerchief!

The Cub Pack held a camp at Stapleton from 4th - 6th July, those at the camp were:-
Percy W Bringham, Charles Parker and George Marrs as the Staff.

Lloyd Williamson	R Watson	G Parker	F Bells
V Snailham	W Harwood	F Bell	A Ianson
M Mais	H Scuton	E Walker	J Harwood
S Warne			

Each Cub took the following in his haversack:- 1 large loaf of bread, 1 teacake, 2 slices of bacon, 6 potatoes.

The team which won the Scout delay Race in 1925 were:-

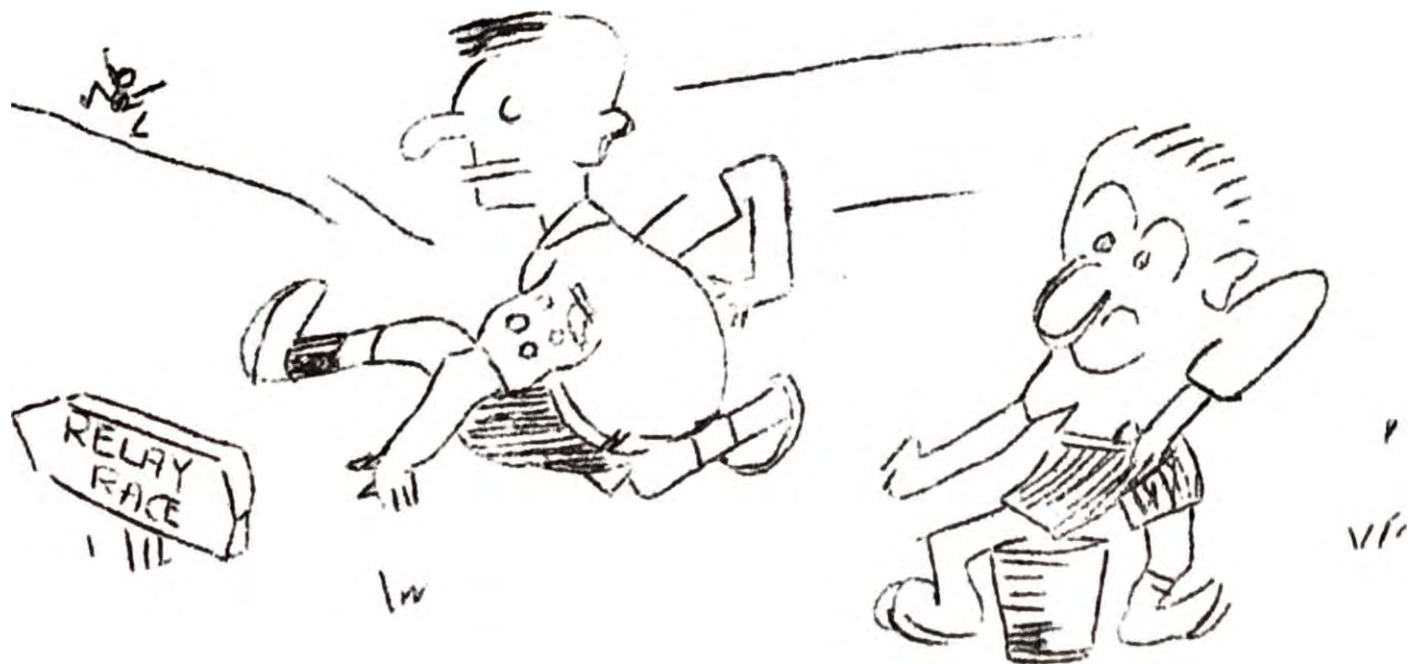
George Marrs	D Mattinson	Ted Copping	D Stainsby
Hubert Wetherill	E Pearson	Harold Wetherill	Reserve

Census forms from the District were to hand again in September although there was no capitation fee in those days.

Mayor's Sunday was held on 15th November that year, but one should remember that Church Parades were held by the Troop and Pack frequently during the year.

Although an 'Open' Troop, the Troop and Pack were in fact very closely associated with the Methodist Church and considered part of the Church. Many of the members of the Pack and Troop were Methodists though there were Anglican and A.C. boys within the ranks too.

On 12th November, the 14th Darlington Troop, situated in Cockerton School in the centre of the Green, was disbanded, and it was suggested that the entire Troop (we assume with liabilities and impedimenta - the minutes say) were transferred into the 8th Darlington; this was in fact done.



1926

The Band had not made sufficient progress to play during the Christmas period, although band practices were in full swing to attain a higher standard.

A Jumble Sale took place on Wednesday, 24th February, to augment Troop funds.

At a Court of Honour in January, typical of the Troop, there were five boys summoned to appear, as decided at the previous meeting. Reasons for not attending regularly at Scout Meetings were (a) Helped his father in the shop (b) ran messages as it was his father's pay night (c) no reason - told to leave the Troop (d and e) said they were waking late: they were told to appear before the Court of Honour when they returned to normal hours!

All boys were placed on probation when they applied to join the 8th; this period lasted for at least four weeks, during which they were not a member of a Patrol at all. When the probation period ended the Court of Honour reviewed the recruits and decided whether they could join the Troop. This strict discipline did ensure it to be a privilege to be even in the Troop.

During early 1926, we read that the Troop had grown with an average attendance of 26. It was agreed to let it become larger still (over 38 members) with a limit at 40, though no 'town' boys were to be admitted! This was a ruling at the time as it was first and foremost a Cockerton Troop. A waiting list was kept.

On 11th March, 1926, it was decided that the Troop could not meet successfully in the hut (the Headquarters) so it was agreed to apply to use the Methodist Sunday School again. The application was to meet on Thursday evenings at 7.0 p.m.

The membership of the Troop now stood as follows, if one looks carefully through the list, names which become prominent later appear for the first time

Officers:

Ray Pawson SM

P W Brigham ASM

L D Williamson Rover

C A Parker QM

Tom Graham

OWL PATROL

SWIFT PATROL

TIGER PATROL

Fred Peacock PL

Walter Spencer PL

Ernest Shutt PL

Eddie Pearson Corp.

George Marrs

Ted Copping

J Hildreth

Har. Wetherill

D Stainsby

W Parker

H Retalick

J Webster

Jack Scott

Dennis Longstaff

Hubert Wetherill

J Middleton

Eric Marton

Laurie Case

O Sewell

Vincent Snailham

J Hovington

Colin Wedge

Harry Fisher

E Hunter

Frank Bellis

Tom Harrison

D Prest

George Parker

E Watts

Maurice Clayton

Colin Scoles

Ian Williamson

Wesley Peacock

P G Brigham

G Robinson

Sid Mais

Leslie Myers

This then is the situation during 1926, the year of the General Strike. NB this list includes probationers in the Troop.

A Jumble Sale was held on 19th April, and made £26. These sales were run in the same manner as today. 600 handbills were printed for a particular sale, the handbill bore the date of the sale, time and admission fee, etc.

During March, Mr. Lishman came up for a few evenings to help to get the band up to standard again. The Court of Honour had a concert in mind for the near future too.

On 20th May, the Relay Race for Cubs and Scouts was held at Low Coniscliffe, although no mention is made of an 8th win.

There was a great need for a trek cart at this time too. When the Troop had trekked, they always borrowed one from another Troop, or elsewhere. New ones were expensive so a second hand cart was to be looked for. The Troop had a certain amount of gear in the way of dixies at the time, but virtually no tents, which was surprising in a Troop of this size. Most of the funds went on the band, its music and constant camps.

A weekend camp was held on 5th/6th June, at Stapleton on Mr. Mounsey's farm near to the Tees on the east bank opposite the village.

The Troop held a parents' evening too in April which was a great success, the programme given was as follows:-

The Band (6 players)
The 8th Dramatic Society
Les Williamson
Ray Pawson SM

March 'Move on'
Sketch 'A generous Impulse'
Lantern Lecture: Tour of Belgium
Lantern Lecture: Camps in the Lakes

To cope with the badgework in the now very large Troop a new scheme was adopted by S.M. Ray Pawson: Charles Parker to be responsible for Ambulance work, Tommy Graham for Signalling, Leslie Williamson Surveying, Ray Pawson the Fifers and Swimmers.

Each gave a lecture to the Troop to whet their appetites for the badge. Charlie Parker's lecture was on 'Circulation of the Blood'

It was also decided that Scouts (those old enough) should not smoke openly at Troop meetings!

The Troop Annual Camp for 1926 was held at Sandsend again, a repeat of last year due to the good time had there in 1925.

Things must have been difficult to organise from the food point of view when it is remembered that the country was in the grip of a General Strike at this time. This again was a well attended camp and enjoyed by all.

On 25th September, the Relay races were held from Cockerton to the Baydale Beck, at 3.0 p.m. The race was won by the 8th - hardly surprising with George Marrs (cycle), Dennis Longstaff, Hubert Wetherill, William Parker, Ted Hunter and Vincent Snailham as runners.

1927

The year got under way with the District Scout and Guide Social on the 7th and 8th January; this year the Cubs had separate arrangements. There were obviously more Cubs and Scouts than in earlier years.

Early in March, the Troop Court of Honour discussed the Patrol system, the Vaux Challenge Shield for Ambulance work, the Annual Camp, and a rummage sale which was to be held on 31st March, this time to have a pre-circulation of 1,000 handbills - things were growing!

Some re-arrangements of ranks took place in Patrols to facilitate the Inter Patrol Competition - the 8th never let the value of a competitive spirit wane at Camp, or in the Troop room. As well as the usual marks for punctuality, uniform, etc., the following marks were to be awarded for badgework:-

Tenderfoot - 5 marks, Second Class - 8marks, First Class - 50 King's Scout - 25 Musicians - 20

It should be noted that the emphasis was placed on the First Class badge, a difficult badge in those days. The latter badge was to carry 20 marks to encourage the band, with Mr. R Scarr.

The following is a quotation from the Minutes at that time:-

'The Patrol with the highest possible percentage of marks at every quarter total, (the marks gained during that period) will receive the 'Interpatrol Competition Cup' which was most kindly presented to our Troop about Christmas 1926 by Mr. D Pawson, now Scoutmaster of the 167th Birmingham B.S. Troop. They will hold the Cup in their possession as long as they hold top position in the competition. To signify which Patrol possesses the Cup, a ribbon representing the Patrol will be shown with it'.

So the C D Pawson Inter Patrol Challenge Cup came into being in 1926, presented by Danny Pawson, who now lived in Birmingham and was in Scouting there, too.

Ambulance work was now a very important part of the 8th, so on Saturday, 26th March, in the Commercial Schools, Corporation Road, the preliminary rounds for the Vaux Ambulance Shield were judged by Dr. W. Forsyth. The 8th team won this area preliminary round to go on to the final. Our team was trained by Charlie Parker, and included Dennis Longstaff, Ernest Thompson, Jack Scott, Hubert Wetherill, George Parker (patient), with Ian Williamson and Harry Fisher as reserves. The 8th had made their mark in the field of ambulance work.

The Jumble Sale at the end of March made less than last year, fluctuating as Jumble Sales do, of course.

Another one of those mysterious 'Quarter Pound' evenings took place of 14th April with reasonable success and culminating in the usual feed.

During June, the Relay Races took place again, but, alas, the 6th won the Junior and the Senior Races.

On 16th June, the 8th were again hosts to the District monthly meeting when Percy W Brigham took the chair. Ray Pawson and Ernest Thompson represented the 8th.

The 13th Annual Camp took place from 13th to 20th August. It was at Side Farm, Patterdale and 30 attended, including the Rev. E D Prentice. The camp was to have a fair amount of rain during the 7 days. Grisedale Pike was climbed during one day. Boating and bathing occupied many odd days though fell walking was the chief occupation.

Later in August, it was proposed that the Seniors and Officers should have a Club yet work in co-relation with the Troop. The beginnings of an entirely separate Rover Crew? After all, there were now 44 in the Troop, including the Officers.

The Troop and Pack settled down to the winter evenings at the end of another great-and memorable year in which Cockerton was again extended with the opening of the Chemical Works on West Auckland Road.

1928

One of the points discussed at District Meetings during the early part of the year was the standardisation of the Scout Uniform - this was so vague that advice was sought for this at I.H.Q. in London.

During July, the obvious thing happened - that of creating four Patrols instead of three and in that year, the OTTERS came into being. The Troop was now as follows:-

OWLS

Harold Wetherill PL
Jack Scott Sec.
Tom Harrison
Laurie Case
Sid Warne
Ian Williamson
Jack Harwood
Mark Mais
Frank Bellis

SWIFTS

Ken Collingwood PL
Dennis Longstaff Sec.
George Parker
Tom Noddings
Vincent Snailham
Eric Snailham
Tom Watson
Jack Jobling
Tom Binks

TIGERS

Ernest Thompson PL
Hubert Wetherill Sec.
Sid Mais
Harry Fisher
Joe Marek
Walter Gosling
Ray Edmunds
Harold Tiplady
Reg Watson

OTTERS

William Parker PL
Ted Hunter
Chas. Hancock
Jim Philips
Harry Brown
Maurice Nicholson
William Harwood
C Grieveson
N Millar

Officers and Helpers

Ray Pawson SM
Percy Brigham
Leslie Williamson Instr.
Charles Parker Instr.

Tom Graham Instr.
George Marrs Instr.
Ted Copping Instr.
P G Brigham Badge Secretary

During this year, a '21st Birthday Gift for Scouting' from 1907 was presented to Baden Powell, Chief Scout of the World. Collections were started for this when each boy was asked to contribute 1d.

In April, the St. George's Day Parade was held at St. George's Church and attended by 400 Scouts and Guides.

On 31st March, 133 Scouts, including some of the 8th, took part in a large scale tracking game organised by the 4th Darlington.

On Saturday, 24th March, the preliminary rounds for the County Vaux Ambulance Shield took place in the Commercial Schools (next Central Schools). The 8th team won again, the 7th being second and the 5th third.

The following is a copy of the notice of the 14th Annual Troop Camp in 1928, at Bloewick Bay.

8TH DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) TROOP OF BOYSCOUTS

14TH ANNUAL CAMP

PATTERDALE - ON - ULLSWATER

1928

The train will leave Bank Top Station at 6.50 a.m. on Saturday, 4th August.

In addition to the undermentioned, 5/- is payable to the funds for train fare, etc.

The following eatables must be brought to the Scouts' Hut at 6pm on Friday night, 3rd August

1 large loaf	2 oz tea	5 rashers of bacon	Potherbs
2 teacakes	¼ lb sugar	¼ stone potatoes	¼ lb rice
1 cabbage	¼ lb butter	Cakes for Sunday tea	

The following articles must be packed in a kit-bag and brought to the Hut on Friday night, 3rd August.

2 blankets	Complete change of clothes (uniform if possible)	1 spare pair of boots or shoes
Toothbrush	Knife, fork and spoon	Enamel mug and plate
Brush and comb	Towel and soap	Bootbrush and polish
Bathing pants	Overcoat	

EACH SCOUT MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT FOOD IN HIS HAVERSACK TO LAST UNTIL SATURDAY TEA-TIME.

ALL KITBAGS MUST BE SECURELY FASTENED AND BEAR THE LABEL - '8TH DARLINGTON SCOUTS TO PATTERDALE'

This was typical of the typed notice given out at that time to give written instructions to scouts about the Annual Camp. One will notice that a 'change of uniform' was asked for if possible.

On the 8th July, the Ambulance team went to Durham for the Vaux Competition. That a disappointing day - they lost by only 2 points. However, the Court of Honour decided that the Ambulance Competition medals would be inscribed at Harrisons (the jewellers) bearing the words '8th July, 1928, the Troop paying.

They were 2nd in the Railway Carnival, being beaten by the 1st Hurworth Troop.

During this month Patrol Flags appeared, possibly for the first time. Also, the C D Pawson Competition was to be competed for bi-annually, in December and after the Summer Camp.

Just before the summer camp, 6 new groundsheets were bought and a new 'kettle' too.

On returning from camp, a dreadful catastrophe struck the Troop. Les Williamson had an accident on his motor cycle near Brough, he was admitted to hospital and was in a very grave condition indeed. The Troop sympathised with his family and forwarded all the camp photographs as soon as they were available.

During July, the 8th Pack had not been left out of the limelight as they won the Cubs Relay Race, this was another highlight of the year. The Pack was in good stead.

In the Autumn, football usually came to the fore, the troop using fields belonging to Bottom House Farm and another field near to the farm in Nickstream Lane (situated near the rise, adjacent to where the shops now stand). The 19th were played on several occasions on this field.

District meetings were well attended by the 8th. Such names as George Marrs, Harold Wetherill, Sid Mais, Ray Pawson, Percy Brigham appear regularly. Percy Brigham was again on the Socials Committee in November, when it was decided that Scouts would not in future take staves on Church Parades and into Church - they had taken this essential part of uniform into church until then.

On 10th November, only two teams entered the Relay Race, the 6th and the 8th, the 6th winning by a very, very close finish indeed.

1929

Scouting in the town was growing very quickly now, there were just under 700 of all ranks, the 22nd Darlington (St. Stanilaus) Troop being started. The usual Scout and Guide Social was attended by nearly 200, the separate Cub social by over 100 Cubs.

Uniform in the Troop was now much more 'uniform' with standard and slightly smaller '8th Darlington' tapes in the usual red. The Patrol colours were much larger than in later years, so a custom was to tuck the Patrol Knot down under

the Group Title, the latter being worn on both shoulders. At this time, too, the woggle was coming into its own, whereas the loose knot at the neck was now going out. There were still plenty of scout belts with the brass buckle at this time and of course everyone did wear a lanyard and the large Scout hat.

By early February, Les Williamson was back in harness, and the usual things like Jumble Sales took place.

The site selected for the 1929 Camp was in the Langstrath Valley in Borrowdale.

Much attention was again paid to equipment and during the few months preceding the camp such items as spades, axes, with a lot of first aid gear, were purchased. The camp tools, candles, hurricane lamps, etc. were all bought at Lishman's shop, which was in Bondgate just opposite the Odeon - which was not there in 1929 as a row of large terrace houses occupied the site.

In April, the 8th began to really get to the fore in its ambulance work, when Charlie Parker put polish into their performance and they won the preliminary round of the Vaux contest, the 7th being runners up, the 1st Evenwood Troop coming third in the S.W. Durham area rounds.

Not to be left out, the Cub Pack again won the Relay races for Cubs on 11th May, with the 1st Pack as runners up. This was a great boost for the Troop and Pack, though the Troop did not gain anything in their races.

An open air scouts Own Service was held on Feethams Football field on 14th July, to the accompaniment of a harmonium, of all things.

At last the date for the 15th Annual Camp arrived and the lads left Cockerton again for Borrowdale. The site was just below Stonethwaite village in the Langstrath Valley, a venue favoured by the 8th today for a good camp right in the heart of the Lake District.

The actual site was several fields down towards Eagle Crag in the field just before the confluence of the Langstrath Beck and Greenup Gill, directly under Bull Crag. During some very wet weather, the younger chaps used the stone but which still stands on the track side and now belongs to a Mountaineering Club.

One of the more strenuous days was to climb Scafell Pike and those at the same will remember the SM's cakes, which he looked forward to eating on Scafell but could not! The Troop used bell tents and ridge tents at this well-attended camp.

Yet another day took the form of a walk via Greenup Edge to Grasmere, no doubt with some peat bog jumping on the way.

Altogether a fairly wet camp, although full of those glorious memories that linger in one's mind for ever.

In October, one the largest events Darlington has ever organised took place from the 20th to 27th. It was a combined

Scout and Guide Jamboree, Exhibition and Sale of Work. The entire programme undertaken was as follows:-

Sunday, 20th October

Scouts and Guides marched via Northgate, High Row and Horsemarket to St. Cuthbert's for a combined service, conducted by the Vicar of Darlington, Rev. R.F. Drury.

Tuesday and all the remaining weekdays

Exhibition and Sale of Work in Bondgate Memorial Hall, opened by the Marquis of Londonderry on the First Day, with two Concerts per night by Guides and Scouts.

Saturday, 26th Oct

Grand Spectacular Rally in Hummersknott Park from 3.0 p.m. with all kinds of Scout work and displays. Grand Camp fire 6.0 p.m. Special buses from the Market Place.

Sunday, 27th Oct

Scout and Guide Parade and Service in the North Road Wesleyan Church took place, the service conducted by Rev. T E May.

In addition to this, a 52 page illustrated programme was printed to advertise the week of activities.

From August to December of that year things were very difficult for the 8th Troop accommodation wise. The Methodist Sunday School was being built, the foundation stones having been laid in July. The Troop and Pack were virtually without a meeting place just when they were in the middle of a lot of ambulance work, though this was presumably done in someone's home. Mr. Jameson (who owned the farm where Hinton's shop now stands) loaned the Troop a barn and yard for the period, but accommodating the Pack was very difficult.

The building work involved removing the Troop H.Q. but which was situated on the land where the Sunday School now stands.

Further accommodation was loaned by the Rev. Williams of the Cockerton Church of England School in the centre of the Green where we used the Primary Department for several months. At other times, the barn at Williamson's Farm was put to use.

On 26th October, the 8th achieved one of its greatest victories in winning the coveted Vaux Ambulance Shield Competition at the Durham centres. The Troop had 88 1/2 points out of 100, runners up were the 16th Gateshead with 76 points - comfortable win for the following, who composed team:-

Charles Parker (Instructor)
Ernest Thompson (Captain)
William Parker

Ken Collingwood
George Parker
Jack Scott
Harry Fisher (reserve)

A letter was received from the District congratulating the 8th on their win; medals were presented to the team.

Other events of the year were that the 6th Darlington won the Dryburn Cup Camping Competition to give the town another

good feather in its cap.

The 1929 Arrowe Park Jamboree was held at Birkenhead when 50,000 Scouts from all over the world camped.

Another blow to the Troop and Pack at that time was the resignation of Percy W Brigham. His outstanding service had started in July 1917, when he had helped to run the Pack and the Troop ever since. Appropriate presentations were made to Brigham which included an inscribed photograph of the Ambulance team he had so encouraged.

The Cub Pack had to be temporarily disbanded during the winter due solely to lack of premises.

Yet another great victory was the winning of the Senior Relay Cup, the team being composed of Les Williamson, Harold Wetherill, Charles Parker and Ray Pawson - a very manly team.

The last Balance Sheet made out to the 31st August by Percy Brigham, when he handed over to Charles Parker as Treasurer:

8TH DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) TROOP
BALANCE SHEET 1929

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Balance from 1928	8.17.11	Subscription to Trustees	2.0.0
Weekly Subs Officers and Scouts	7.18.7	1928 Camp paid to Patterdale Hotel	3.3.9
Transferred from Pack Funds (temp.dis)	1.4.6	Troop Insurance	2.1
Jumble Sale net takings	13.17.0 ½	Sub to local Assn	5.1
Subs to Camp Fund	8.1.8	Supper expenses	10.0
Equipment badges sold	1.18.6	Two wreaths less individual contr.	3.6
Net Concert proceeds	3.11.0	Ambulance team – photos	14.0
Donation to Troop	2.6	Ambulance team exp.	1.4.4
Bank interest	4.4	Equipment etc	4.17.10½
		1929 Camp fares	11.15.7
		Other expenses	12.14.7½
		Balance at Bank	6.18.7
		Cash in hand	1.6.8 ½
	£45.16.0½		£45.16.0½

P W Brigham
Treasurer to 31.8.29

C A Parker
Treasurer

Signed Ray Pawson SM

CHAPTER 3 – THE THIRTIES

1930

After a busy year last year the 8th looked forward to one just as full in 1930.

There were some P.O.R. rules relating to the First Class tests changed during the early part of the year.

Busy rehearsing their ambulance work, the Troop team took part in the Preliminary rounds on Saturday, 3rd May, and won again, with the 24th Darlington second and the 6th Darlington third. They looked forward to the County Competition.

The Relay Races were postponed this year due to lack of entries.

At a meeting on 24th May, it was decided to form a Rover Crew, with Leslie Williamson as 'Rover Mate'. At the same meeting, plans were made for the Annual Camp in Ireland, although we see that there was a sudden discovery of a drastic shortage of tent pegs – a normal complaint in the 8th!

Football matches, which had been held from time to time during each winter, were again in session with a match against the St. Paul's Troop and the Hurworth Troop.

Meanwhile, the Pack was well under way again after limited activities during the winter.

During a subsequent Court of Honour in May, it was suggested that a large box be made or bought, to carry almost all the camp gear and yet serve as a table at camp. One hears that this box was so large and so heavy that it was almost impossible to lift it, but those of the era will know the full story!

A set of tent poles for a Patrol tent were purchased at Durham Scout and Guide Shop, at a cost of 8/- carriage paid! Another question at that time was the serious shortage of groundsheets, these were of the individual 2' x 6' size. The Troop should have had nearly 40 in actual fact, although they had a habit of getting left at home or lost.

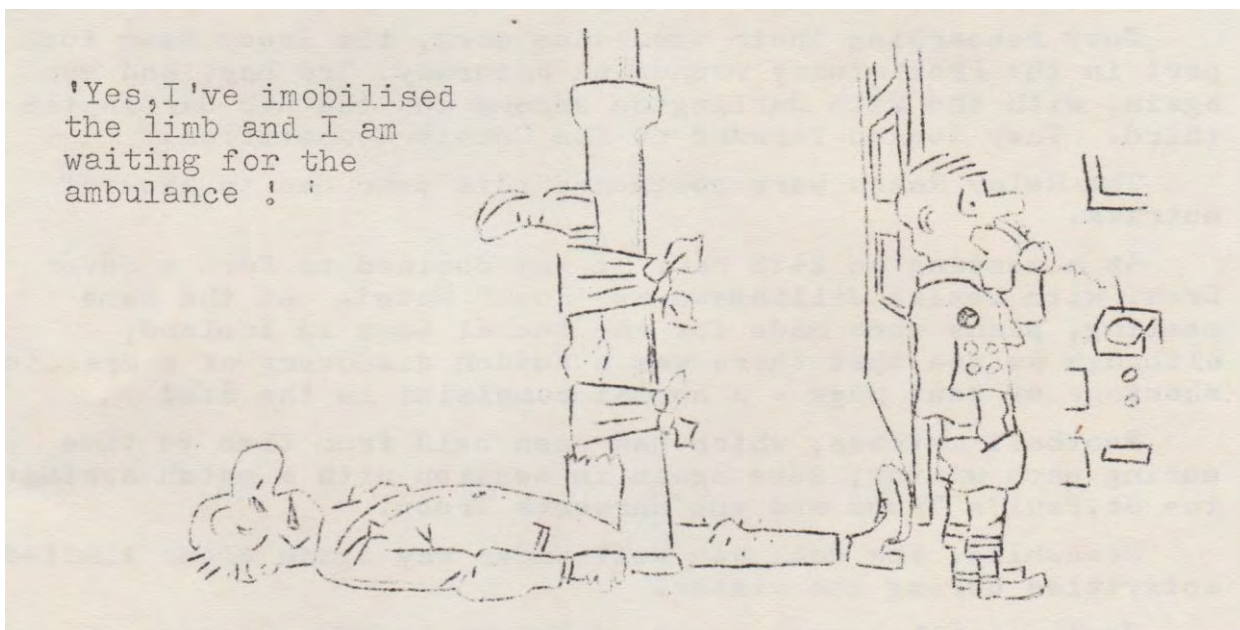
The leading lights in the Troop were at this time: Chas. Parker, (Chairman), Harold Wetherill, William Parker, George Marrs, Chas. Hancock, Bob Mais, Laurie Case, Les Williamson, Ken Collingwood, Jack Harwood, Sid Mais, Tom Harrison with Ray Pawson as SM.

At the end of May, a sort of feast took place to celebrate the Ambulance team's victory in the preliminary competition. The 8th seems to use any occasion to have a feast, but this was a special one, as the team were allowed to go to the summer camp at a cost of only £1 – for a week in Ireland too!

The Whitsuntide camp was held at Robin Gate and proved to be rather wet, something must be done about tentage soon, we note.

The Ambulance Competition for the County Vaux Shield took place in July at Durham. The 8th were winners again in this very difficult competition. The team was composed of Chas. Parker (Instructor), Ernest G Thompson (Captain), George Parker, Jack Scott, William Parker, Jimmy Phillips, Ken Collingwood, with Harry Fisher as reserve.

The team also won the Darlington Railwaymen's Carnival Competition held in the South Park, in connection with the Railwaymen's efforts to raise money for the Memorial Hospital (not yet built) as a memorial to those of the Great War.



On the 25th July, 1930, the Troop set off for its 16th Annual Camp at Cushendall, County Antrim, in Northern Ireland. Leaving Darlington Station at 5.50 p.m. they went via Heysham to Belfast, then on Saturday, 26th, a distance of about 50 miles by bus to complete the journey to Cushendall.

No food was taken at all to this Camp, everything being purchased in Ireland and, of course, en route.

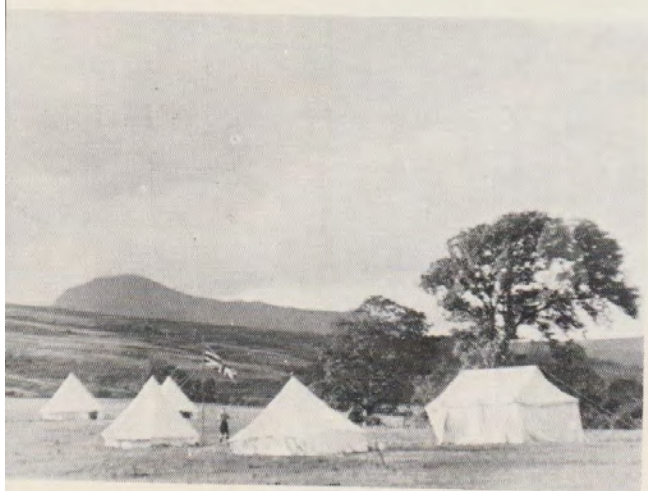
After hopes of a great camp in unfamiliar country in Ireland, the camp turned out to be one of the wettest the Troop has ever had in 60 years – it just rained and rained. The site, having been allocated through the Co. Antrim DC.,



ANNUAL CAMP IRELAND 1930

The 8th Darlington Troop taken on church parade at Cushendall, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

From right to left: Raymond Pawson S.M., Bill Harwood, Reg Watson, Eric Williamson, Eric Walker, Douglas Toes, Joe Marrek, Earnest Abel, Frank Bellis, Albert Smith, George Parker, Walter Thirkell, Jack Harwood, Alf Common, Jimmy Philips, Harry Fisher, Mark Mais, William Parker, Earnest Thompson, Syd Mais, Harry Guy, George Marrs, Charles Parker, Leslie Williamson, Percy W. Brigham.



Annual Camp Isle of Arran 1934



8th Darlington Troop Ambulance Team

Winners of the 'Vaux' County Ambulance Shield:
and Darlington Railwaymen's Carnival Competition 1930

H. Fisher
(reserve)

C. A. Parker
(instructor)

K. Collingwood

J. Phillips G. Parker

. Thompson
(capt.)

J. Scott W. Parker

turned out to be situated on boggy land, too, so after a few days it was simply a quagmire; no doubt the comment was made when the DC of Antrim paid his visit.

One memorable day was spent hiking in the valleys of Antrim, during which the hill of Lurgaden was climbed. Other hikes displayed the varied greens which the Irish countryside has to offer.

The DC loaned the Troop a boat to use on the Irish Sea and a bus was hired to transport the Troop to and from the Giants Causeway.

On arrival at the boat, it was found to be quite full of water and had to be bailed out, until one bright spark suggested that the plug should be pulled out!

The Camp will hold memories of tea at Portree, the new scenery, the windy wet crossing by boat; although a wet camp, the Cushendall camp bore many great times.

On November 2nd, Mayor's Sunday took place.

Earlier in the year, Ray Pawson sat on a special committee to enquire into the showing of the 1929 Arrowe Park Jamboree Film.

What a magnificent year for the 8th. Two Ambulance Trophies and a camp, the furthest away since 1920. No doubt, the Camp was a drain on the funds, and measures were taken to offset this deficit as soon as the Troop returned from camp, when the Court of Honour usually held an inquest on the state of finances.

1931

One of salient points about 1931 is that the Troop purchased a new Bell Tent and Groundsheet to fit at £10. The tent in actual fact was £8.5.0. and the Groundsheet 18/-, the remainder being carriage from Durham. It should be remembered that hardly anyone had a car in those days to collect such items, and, in any case, it was a long way to go in the car.

In May, three of the Court of Honour had a trip up to Berwick and the surrounding countryside to look for a possible Annual Camp site.

During the early part of the year, the District had the use of a weekend camp site offered at Dinsdale (near to the Golf Club) and not far from the present day Group Hunger Hill site.

At last an official list of badge examiners was to hand to each Troop. Previously, all badge requests were made to the District Secretary, who then made the necessary arrangements.

On 26th April, a St. George's Day Parade was held at Holy Trinity Church, and also during April, the First Scouters' Preliminary Training Course was held in the town.

In May, a very young and newer team, though still with Ernest Thompson – this time as trainer, came 2nd in the Preliminary rounds at Darlington for the Vaux Ambulance Trophy – one cannot win every year! They were defeated by 5 points, the 24th (East Road Methodist) Troop winning, the 6th being third. George Parker was our captain.

At this time, Ken Collingwood was helping with the Cub Pack which had taken on a keen interest in playing other Packs at football. Unfortunately, Ken had had a bad accident when he played for the New Church League 11 and was in hospital, so we had to find others to organise the Cub Football matches until Ken's return to health. The Troop also played other Troops at football in friendly matches, usually on a field in Nickstream Lane.

The 1931 Annual Camp took place at Embleton, Northumberland. All foodstuffs were brought down and packed on Friday 24th July, in the Methodist Schoolroom, ready for the start on the 25th July.

Again, the Troop went by train to a beautiful (and new) site near the village of Newton, Embleton, on the Northumberland coast.

The Camp was an enjoyable holiday which, due to the long stretch of sand and the absence of visitors, made it like living on a desert island. Outings took place to Seahouses, Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh Castles, but not the least the Farne Islands, where the ruins of the Abbey were visited.

The Camp Church parade was at Embleton Church with the Embleton Troop, just before their departure for their summer camp to Berwick-on-Tweed. Their camp witnessed an unfortunate tragedy – two scouts and their Scoutmaster were drowned. Both the Scouts were from Craster – William Butters, aged 14, and Alfred Butters, aged 11. Their SM, Percy Adams, who hailed from Derbyshire, had made a very gallant attempt at rescue. About 50 of the 8th Troop attended the funerals at Embleton.

The Social was a great success, the 'big hit' of the evening being a charade which got at least one encore.

During the Autumn, a new rule came from I.H.Q. relating to the uniform of Lady Cub Masters; up to that time, there had not been any ruling. The 8th, however, had all male Cub Leaders.

1932

Again relating to funds, a Jumble Sale was planned for March; leaflets were printed and distributed in February. Tom Harrison was appointed Camp Fund Treasurer and got contribution cards under way in March again.

The Jumble Sale (held early in March) made a very good profit and, as usual, that great friend of the Troop, Mrs. Pawson, had helped to make it a success.

Another new Bell Tent was bought in April at a cost of £8. 5. 0., including the round groundsheet. This would help at Camp to save borrowing every time.

'Scouting for Boys' was first published as a book early in 1932.

St. George's Day was to take place on 24th April, at Bondgate Methodist Church.

A Tracking game run by the District only attracted six Troops at this time.

The Whitsuntide Camp was held at a site near the Tees, just opposite Wycliffe Hall. The Camp fee was 1/- for those under 16 and 1/6d. for those over 16 for the three day camp.

At the Court of Honour on 27th May, 1932, those present were :- Ray Pawson, SM, Chas. Parker, Les Williamson, Laurie Case, Jack Harwood, Mark Mais and Tom Harrison. The following is minuted:

It was proposed that we should buy through the Scout County Association, a marquee, which would undoubtedly prove of great use to the Troop in case of wet weather at camp. The dimensions of the marquee are such that all the Troop could be easily accommodated for meals. This point is quite enough to justify the purchase of same, when one considers the inconvenience of cooking under very bad conditions. The secondhand marquees are said to be as good as new by the Commissioner, Capt. Richardson.

After debating the point on all sides, it was proposed and seconded that we should purchase the marquee as everyone was convinced that such an article would prove a real asset to the camping equipment of the Troop.

The reason why this extract from the Minutes is put into this book in detail is that this marquee (presumably secondhand in 1932) is still in regular use in 1975 – 43 years later, and, apart from being stowed away from September 1939 until after the war in 1945, has been in constant use.

A fine tribute to the quartermasters of the 8th Darlington. This round ended white marquee had a floor area of 24' x 12'.

Scouts helped again the Flower Day in connection with the St. Agnes Home Appeal, organised in the area of Cockerton by Mrs. Pawson, who also ran a Cookery Instruction class for Scouts in her home. What would the 8th do without Lay helpers?

At the end of May, another church parade was held during the Church Anniversary Sunday, when nearly all Cubs and Scouts were on parade. The Pack and Troop were now meeting regularly in the Methodist Schoolrooms.

During May, the first parchment Camping Standards certificates for Annual Camps were issued by I.H.Q. though it is doubtful if the 8th had one that year. The 8th camped in the Troop system of cooking, occasionally having more than one fire. Nearly all the utensils available at that time were 3 gallon dixies and cast iron kettles and frying pans. Tinned steel was coming on to the market for ladles and other cooking gear, though all jugs, buckets and such like containers were in white enamel which was very susceptible to chipping if bent or mis-used.

The 18th Annual Camp was held at Stonethwaite in Borrowdale in the Lake District. On 23rd July, the Troop assembled at Bank Top Station at 6.50 a.m., again an early start from a still unawakened Cockerton. Each boy had brought the usual things to the HQ the evening before: 1 large loaf, 2 teacakes, 2 cabbages, ½ lb. butter, 1lb. bacon, ¼ stone potatoes, 3.4 lb. tea and a plum pudding. Cakes for Sunday tea were also brought and one packed meal.

This was one of those great camps and a huge success, made even better by the fact that the Troop Marquee was the main focal point of the camp area for the first time – it had arrived just before the camp. The camp was (as usual in the Lakes) rather wet, though this was outweighed by that spacious luxury – the Marquee. Visits were paid to Grasmere on the Tuesday and to Keswick on the Wednesday.

On August Bank Holiday Monday 1st, – they arrived back at Bank Top Station on the 6.53 p.m. train. The cost of the camp per boy was 7/6d.

On the end of the camp notice sent out in July was the statement:

‘We wish to draw your attention to the fact that we run a CHRISTMAS CLUB for CHOCOLATES, CIGARETTES and FANCY GOODS. We have spent a large sum of money on tents and ground sheets during the current year and hope that our friends will support this effort.

Only the best brands are sold’

So early in September the Christmas Club got under way again with a zealous work of Tommy Harrison and others.

On 1st October, the Scout Relay took place, each team to consist of 5 Scouts – 4 under 16 running and 1 over 16 cycling, the course being mainly cross country and of about 12 miles, with various obstacles. The 8th were triumphant again to win this relay with Harry Guy, M Mais, W Wilson and Harold Etherill.

On the September Census, the District reached 1,000 members in all Packs and Troops and Rover Crew – still separate sections at this time, and registered separately.

Luck was not with the Troop Ambulance team in the Railwaymen’s Carnival Competition, they were beaten again by 10 points by the 24th Troop in the South Park in July.

More equipment in the form of tea chests was obtained for the summer camp and a meatsafe was made and a stove box. The Troop now had several primus stoves including a four burner – still in use today.

During July, the Cub Pack (now well under way again) held a camp for the weekend at Raby Park.

A ping pong tournament was arranged and held on 12th September and made a small profit. A Social was held on 20th October in aid of funds but other means of raising money were needed. Thus we come to the ‘8th Chocolate Club’. This idea was to pay by instalments and receive the goods towards Christmas. Mais was the main instigator of the Club which

was to be in operation for many years.

A Church Parade was held in September too and polish put on the Troop Semaphore signalling team. Unfortunately, the competition for the Signalling team was cancelled due to lack of entries, so they may possibly have won had it taken place.

In December the Troop held an enjoyable evening with the St. Mary's Guide Company; the games were organised by Miss Sadie Allport, Guide Captain, and Ray Pawson. Shadow shows were given by the Scouts and sketches by the Guides, followed by a hearty meal.

Accounts were now kept to the end of the year (instead of to 31st August as before). The Troop had a balance of £4 at the end its spending spree on tentage in 1932.

1933

The Troop was meeting on Thursday evenings at present and several of the older boys attended evening classes on that night.

The usual Jumble collection was planned for February and the actual night early in March. Again it was a success to pull the Troop out of the red.

At this time there were so many in the Troop that it was the custom to alternate Patrol Leaders. Mark Mais and Harry Fisher stood down at the end of March whilst Reg Hudson and Sid. Warne took their places in the OWLS and SWIFTS respectively. Seconds appointed to the two Patrols were Eric Walker and Harry Mais.

At a Meeting in March the problem was discussed as to how to cater for North Road Railway Shops etc., who had a particular week and also the schoolboys starting their summer holiday; the former week was held late July. This problem was solved and the first 'fortnight camp' of the Troop was planned for 1933, to overlap the holidays.

In the District (which was growing rapidly) the new 27th Harrogate Hill Methodist Troop was started that year. Rules governing services stars were brought out from London H.Q. The District issued separate badge test lists for Cubs and Scouts for the first time.

St. George's Day was held at St. Luke's Church on 23rd April.

The 8th's run on Ambulance work had fallen away and they did not get into the first three in the Preliminary rounds for the Vaux Shield Competition that year. There was very strong competition at the time in these area semi-finals – the 1st Stockton won it that year, with the 1st Merrington 2nd and the 6th, 24th and 26th (Croft) Troops following.

In the Troop, Albert Smith became Camp Fund Treasurer for the year and Les Williamson had been round the Semmerwater area for a summer camp site, although the Northumberland Coast was again thought of as a place to spend 15 days or so.

The Whitsuntide Camp was again held at Wycliffe, nearly all of the Troop went at 1/- for under 16s and 1/6d. for those over.

This lovely site in beautiful surroundings on the banks of the Tees, was directly opposite Wycliffe Hall though reached from the Winston Road. It was another glorious camp boxing providing interludes when Laurie Case could find plenty of willing sparring partners.

The Troop 19th Annual Camp was again held at Newton-in-the-Sea, near Embleton, the local Commissioner visiting the camp and being satisfied with the high standard of camping.

The camp ran from 15th July to 29th July, the cost for those under 16 being 5/- per week and 7/6d. for those over 16.

In September, Charlie Parker plainly said that the Troop was not very well off, as usual. The Chocolate Club was put under way again by Sid Mais and his associates.

The 8th had no success in the Relay Race that year.

There was, at that time, great influence by Scout Leaders to find jobs for their members on leaving school at 14. Remembering that there were no careers or any other guidance given, and after all, the Scoutmaster knew a boy's capabilities – no welfare state then!.

1934

A Guide Company was now running at the Cockerton Methodist Church – the 26th Company. A joint Church Parade took place on 11th February, accompanied by Cockerton Silver Band, Rover C Parker reading the lesson. Things were certainly done in style. The service also was to mark the visit of the Rev. Whitmore, who had helped the Troop very much.

After collecting jumble, the Sale took place on 22nd March and, with the kind help of Mrs. Pawson, the sale stood the funds in good stead again.

For many years now, the Troop had had an up and coming boxer in its ranks, Laurie Case. During April, Laurie was in Budapest to compete in the European Championships, so a supper was held at the end of April to welcome him back home again.

The Camp Fund this year was under the supervision of Tommy Harrison and at a meeting in May, Charles Parker suggested that the camp be held in the Isle of Arran so arrangements were made with this in view.

The suggestion of purchasing a pyramid tent for extra gear, as well as two more bell tents, was left for a while.

Due to transport difficulties, the Whitsuntide camp was not to be held this year. Mr. Cottam had usually transported all the equipment and boys to the Whitsuntide Camp, but could not do the same this year.

Another Church Parade was held on 8th April, and some of the Scouts helped Mrs. Pawson in yet another collection for the National Children's Home, with yet a further Church Parade at the end of June.

During the summer, the equipment was aired on the green to repair any defects in readiness for the summer camp.

By 14th July, all those intending to go had paid £1 (a vast sum) to attend the camp, and all was ready to start off on 21st July. The pyramid tend (which is still in use today and easily the most spacious and best designed tent ever) did arrive in time for the 1934 Annual Camp. This fine tent had a floor area of 12 ft. square with 2'6" walls.

The train journey was via Edinburgh, where a day was spent, thence by train to Glasgow and on to Ardrossan, to embark and arrive at Brodick about 4.30 p.m. after a long but pleasant journey.

During the Camp, the Troop visited every part of the Island apart from the S.W. corner, and climbed Goat Fell, the highest peak on Arran (2860 ft.) Sea trips were taken to Ailsa Crag and Whiting Bay. Though last but not least is that the Troop played and defeated Glasgow Boys' Brigade at both football and cricket.

The end of the camp was very wet and on their return on 6th August, they had to dry the tents on the Green, after a great 15-day camp.

At a meeting two days later, the Troop were as usual short of funds, so the Chocolate Club was again started with Tom Harrison in charge this time.

Meetings were always held every week during the winter and summer, there were no 'off' weeks apart from the Annual Camp – the 8th Troop was a way of life not just a meeting of blokes.

There were some changes in the ranks of the 8th during 1935. Ray Pawson relinquished his office as S.M. and became Group Scoutmaster. Mark Mais had taken the post as Act. CM and Charles Parker was the Chairman of the Troop Court of Honour, with other men such as Les Williamson, Laurie Case, Tom Harrison and others.

A Church Parade was held on Sunday, 12th September.

Efforts were made to form an ambulance team again for the Vaux Shield next year, Mark Mais being the instructor.

The 8th did not figure in any of the District competitions to win during the year. Ray Pawson, however, was elected to the Selwyn Austin Committee for a year. This dealt with the main Scout Competition involving everything from meetings to records and included the Annual District Camping Competition.

The Group rounded the year off with another parade on 16th December and in the tradition of the 8th, a grand pie and pea supper on the 20th, the evening closing with an impromptu sing-song, in which all took part.

The Troop congratulated George Parker on his entrance to Leeds University that year.

1935

January started well with Court of Honour meetings on two occasions. It was marred by the unfortunate illness of

SM Lishman, however. Nevertheless, invitations were delivered for the Old Folk's Treat in Cockerton and preparations for the Troop Jumble Sale, on which, the meeting found, Mrs. Pawson had already started work.

The Sale as usual had a very good result, a Church Parade being held on 10th March, too, with the District St. George's Day Parade, assembling on Cockerton Green on Sunday, 28th April, at 3.20 p.m. and parading to St. Mary's Church with the 8th in force.

One of the greatest honours of the Troop was to have one of its members as The British Amateur Bantam Weight Champion, the one and only Laurie Case. To celebrate this honour, the Group held a supper on 11th April to share the victory with Laurie of whom they were all so proud.

Further Church Parades were held on 14th April and 12 May, too.

On 23rd May, the Preliminary Rounds for the Vaux Shield took place in St. George's Hall, the 8th just being beaten by our friends, the 6th Darlington, though our young team gained some useful experience in competition work.

No Whitsuntide Camp was held that year, though some of the chaps journeyed to Scotland to find an Annual Camp site for the year. They found a suitable site near Cocksburnpath on the East Coast. It should be noted that this year the quest was by car, Charlie Parker's new car!

Other events during June were that Laurie Case was invited to America with the A.B.A. team.

The Troop delivered envelopes in connection with the Railwaymen's Carnival Appeal on a house to house basis.

Bob Mais, one of our Rovers, was elected onto the District Relay Committee for that year.

The tents were again aired on Cockerton Green and a further Church Parade held on 30th June.

The 21st Annual Troop Camp took place from 20th July to 5th August (17 days) at Linhead, Cocksburnpath, Scotland. Transport was by train and the Troop had more equipment now. The fees for the camp were – over 16s 15/- and for under 16s. 10/- each – amazing! Kit list issued to all at the time:-

2 blankets	Complete change of clothes
Spare pair of boots	(change of uniform if possible)
Toothbrush and paste	Knife, fork and spoon
Brush and comb	ENAMEL mug and plate
Bathing costume	Towel and soap
Boot brush and polish	Sand shoes
Football boots & shin guards	

All kit was packed in kitbags, there were no such luxuries as goosedown sleeping bags in those days. The normal procedure to pack a kit bag, as taught in the Troop, was – plate at the base, then fill up from there, finish with your other plate at the top.

Many of the Troop used Railway privilege tickets to travel to and from camp at this time. Darlington was

predominantly a railway town, of course.

The Camp enjoyed visit to Edinburgh Zoo, Dunbar caves and other places of interest. They also renewed friendship with the Durham County School Campers, whom they had previously met at Seahouses in 1933.

August (as has been stated before) was not a 'dead' month in the 8th, so on 24th August, a Field Day was held in the field behind Auckland Oval, between the Coal Merchants and the Oval. At this enjoyable function, a suitably inscribed photograph of the Troop was presented to Laurie Case and another to a great friend and helper, Mrs. Pawson. The day was completed with a grand sing-song and camp fire. The 8th were ones for having a good time and keeping the Group in the public eye, too.

A sad blow struck the Troop when Albert Smith, one of the keen scouts, died in the Memorial Hospital (recently opened). The sorrowful procession attended the funeral at St. Mary's Church with members of the Troop acting as bearers, right to the West Cemetery, with the entire group.

On 19th September, 8 Troops competed in the Junior Relay, which was held at Croft; the 8th came third with a new young team composed of Les. Driver, Gordon Milburn, Norman Harland and Charles Greenhaulgh.

In the camping theme again, the 8th were beaten by only two points by the 5th (Holy Trinity) Troop in the Selwyn Austin Camping Competition at Raby Park on 14th/15th September. The team was made up of Gordon Milburn, Norman Harland, Dennis Longstaff, Les Charlton and Frank Simmons. A splendid effort.

At this time in the District, there were six 'Open' Groups, the 1st, 8th, 12th, 13th, 18th and 26th, though the 8th could be termed an Open Sponsored Group with its strong association to the Methodist Church, although boys of all faiths were welcome into its ranks.

Scouts assisted in the collection of produce for the Harvest Festival of the Methodist Church.

Good Turns were also carried out for others, a flag day for the blind received a letter of thanks from the Newcastle H.Q. at that time. Another good turn was to make a notice board for Cleasby Church – this time was done by Lloyd Williamson and Sid. Warne.

Laurie Case had been busy again at this time, too, not content with his victories in the U.S.A., he succeeded in more boxing honours in both Norway and Sweden with the A.B.A. team.

A Church Parade was held on 10th November, and many of the members of the Troop, mainly composed of people over the age of 21 at this time, gave talks on various subjects during the winter, all enjoyed – all good to promote speaking styles.

Again, closely associated with the Methodist Church, £25 was made on the Troop stall at the Church Bazaar in November, and later in the year, several older Scouts helped to control 300 children at a Sunday School Festival in Cockerton.

The District year ended with a good note and a not so good one, the former being further arrangements for the Northern Counties Jamboree to be held next year, the later with some precautions on 'Air Raids' ! Yes – only 17 years after the last war.

On 20th December, the Group held its usual 'feed' and sing-song, to round off another great year, although the residents of Cockerton who were not so well off were not forgotten as the sum of £1.4.6. was collected at the party to buy and distribute 'Christmas fare' to them.

The Chocolate Club run by Tommy Harrison since the Annual Camp culminated in the delivery of £56 worth of Christmas presents to those who had contributed. Tom did a fine job in this field, as did his various 'Scout Salesmen'.

The 3rd St. Mary's Troop was now running well and the 8th gave all the support they could, the feeling was reciprocal, of course. Frank Bellis of the 8th became an ASM.

1936

The Group had reached many peaks during its 60 years' history, but this year must rate as one of them, perhaps the busiest in its 21 years, certainly a year packed with enthusiasm and real scouty activity.

On 10th January, special Mission Notices were distributed and later, the Old Folks' Treat Invitations – 200 of each. At the same time, a Court of Honour was held attended by 14 of the Officers and Officials of the Group, at which they debated whether they could afford a 17 day camp as well as the Jamboree from 1st – 9th August. The decision was made to have the Troop Annual camp from 18th July to August Bank Holiday Monday (17 days) then go to the Jamboree belated from Tuesday, 4th, to Friday, 7th August (4 days) a total of 21 days in camp!

The agenda for the meeting read as follows:-

1. A 17 day camp (not 10 days)
2. Raby Park Jamboree expenses
3. Magazine
4. Jumble sale
5. Cub fees
6. Re: Scout Balance Sheet Audit
7. Appointment Cub and Scout Officers
8. Tents and equipment

On item 3, Ray Pawson, the SM, proposed the following: 'The cyclostyling of a quarterly magazine at 2d. per copy. A machine was available for use of the Group, and there would, he suggested, be ample scope for such media to express in words, the activities of the Group during the previous quarter – the one immediately following the publication'. Four shopkeepers, Mr. Piggford, Coun. R Luck, Miss Jameson and Mr. J B Lishman, had offered to contribute 1/2d/ for a ¼ page advertisement."

Seconded by Les Williamson, the motion was carried. Such was the beginning of yet another mark of progress and another pillar in the strength of the 8th Scout Troop.

On 16th January, the District Scouters' Meeting of 30 people representing 14 Groups were entertained to supper. Ray Pawson had now been elected to the District Executive for the ensuing year.

The following evening, at the next Court of Honour, several new Officers were elected to various jobs within the Group.

Eric Waler and Harry Mais became Cub Leaders. Mark Mais SM and George Marrs ASM of the Juniors. Ray Pawson was still GSM with Charles Parker as Chairman of the Group plus 14 Rovers led by Les Williamson.

The Group had now grown to a fantastic size. There were 48 on the Troop roll, consisting of 26 Juniors from 11 to 16, and 22 Seniors (including the 14 Rovers) aged from 16 to ad infinitum. Many of these were over the age of 21.

There were also 26 Cubs in the Pack at that time, making the Group total almost 80 during early 1936.

With very much enthusiastic hard work, the first issue of the '8th Mag.' was published during January and sold 148 copies as soon as it came out. It was 8" x 6" in sizes, with a green cover and ran to 20 sides of Group news; it contained 8 advertisements of ¼ page each from the following donors:-

Inside front cover: T.W. Overton (General Furnishers)
Cockerton
Luck & Sons (High Row)
A. Williamson (Butcher, 8, Cockerton Green)
Lishman's (Ironmongers) Bondgate
Inside back cover: Piggfords (Grocers) Cockerton
Anderson's (Fish & Chips) Cockerton
Cockerton Boot Repair Services
Jameson's (Cockerton Dairy)



Adverts were only 1/- each, although the purchase price was 3d, when the actual magazine was ready for issue. Stencils was 1/2d. each and 100 double sheets of duplicating paper 1/3d.

The magazine was 1/-, post free, annually, which gives an idea of the far sighted determination at the outset of the project.

On 19th January, a Parade was held at the Methodist Church, in the morning. The G A West took the service, Tommy Harrison was the Chairman, Laurie Case was the Reader, Mark Mais led the prayers, Ray Pawson was the organist.

At this time, Charles Parker was actually the Group Quarter-Master, as well as Chairman, so naturally the equipment was almost his second job in life. He would organise all the camping gear and food for each camp – never a thing was missing, down to the last grain of salt, Charles was very efficient. He proposed that the Troop sell their present 6 Bell Tents and Marquee which would bring in about £35, then restock with all new green rot-proofed Bell Tents, a larger marquee and another pyramid (one pyramid to be retained). The total cost to by ALL 6 Bells and a marquee new was catalogued at £60 at that time. The matter was left in abeyance.

During January, King George V died and the Troop stood in silence for a moment in respect of the Royal Family.

On 23 January, a spacious cupboard was presented to the Group by Mrs. Mountford (this cupboard is still in use in the present Group H.Q.) It was to be put in the Troop Room to store Group equipment.

It is interesting to note the intellectual porings of the 8th Seniors (really Rovers) at that time. Towards the end of 1935 there were some varied talks given by members, all of which were recorded in the first issue of the new quarterly magazine.

Talks were given by those mentioned on the following subjects:

George Parker: The third side of the Alcohol question.

Les Williamson: On 21 Annual Camps.

Laurie Case: His travels in Boxing.

Tommy Harrison: Introspection.

Sid Mais: The Science of Water Production.

Jack Harwood: The Fundamentals of Electricity.

Charles Parker: Aspects of War – the Irish Rebellion.

Such were the possibilities of narration within the 8th Group.

The 'Scout' Weekly was now read regularly by the Group, also the 'Boys' Own Paper at 3d. and 6d. respectively. In the District, there were no entries for the Vaux Ambulance Shield from the town (not even the 8th), for the first time for many years.

The remainder of the busy month of January as a start to the busy year, was concluded with Charles Parker giving a talk on 'Naval Warfare' and Sid Mais on 'Lawrence of Arabia' – how versatile these chaps were! All these talks were well

thought out, well presented and obviously well received, otherwise they would have ceased or the speaker would have been dismissed!

Arrangements were now being made for the 21st Birthday celebrations of the Group, to take place in April. The date decided on was to be the 17th. Much activity to better the Group now took place, sub books of a new type were issued by I.H.Q. and used to help the Patrol Leaders of the Junior Troop and the Cub Pack Leaders. The new cupboard was painted, locks put on and a place for the Patrol Cup to be shown mounted on a plinth.

The Magazine kept people busy and missionary boxes were regularly taken by several of the Scouts.

The Typing for the first magazine was carried out by Miss M Marveil and Mr. John Pattison, with W. Philips, one of the Scouts, who helped tremendously on the first efforts, Miss Jennie Vickers drew the humorous sketches for the magazine.

Still the Group grew in size, 9 new boys applied to join the Troop in the first 6 weeks of the year, a similar number applied without success to join the Pack.

Plans were made for the 1936 Annual Camp to be held in the Lake District.

During February, rehearsals were under way for the Reunion Anniversary Evening which had now been changed to 3rd April. Preparations, even amongst all this, were made for the Annual Jumble Sale to be held in March.

It was decided that the magazine would be easier to publish if we had our own duplicator. A Machine was bought for the sum of £8.8.0.; it was a 'Lion' Rotary duplicator on which all subsequent magazines were produced. This machine was still in use until just after the end of World War II.

The doubts and certainties, the pleasures and sorrows, the hopes and disappointments of the first 21 years of the 8th had its testimony on Friday, 3rd April, 1936, when over 200 people enjoyed a unique evening, as the DC, Mr. Trevor Morris, said that night.

Percy Brigham took the Chair for the evening – he, as one of the former Scouters, was in his element in this capacity. John B Lishman gave an address, Danny Pawson (former ASM) and many other stalwarts of former days gave stirring speeches which it was a pleasure to hear.

The orchestra was composed of present and past members and a few other helpers, to give a splendid start to the evening. Robert Forster entertained on the piano accordion, there was a silver quartet rehearsed by Mr. Cecil Shutt (who trained the band to counter march back in 1920). An amazing item was that members of the band played 'four tunes' without any rehearsal other than their memories of sixteen years earlier.

Four junior Scouts gave an amusing sketch. Tom Harrison wrote, produced and took part in a clever farce with Syd. Warne and Laurie Case, entitled 'The Romance in Cockerton'.

This was a real masterpiece, which got many encores; the Group were very proud of their Rover Producer.

George Parker had slides made at Leeds University, these were shown for the first time at the Anniversary evening. They were suitably commented upon by George and Les. Williamson.

After this, a hearty Scout supper was served by Mrs. Pawson and other lady helpers as usual, who always did the Group proud on these occasions.

Speeches were made to close the meeting by John B Lishman, the Founder of the Troop, the Rev. G A West, the Group Chaplain, Mr. Percy W Brigham, Trevor Morris, DC, Mr. Baker Wheeler, Charles Parker and Ray Pawson, GSM.

Jack Harwood's realistic Camp Fire and Miss Bessie King's solos ended a magnificent evening to celebrate 21 years with the 8th.

A Souvenir programme was produced for the occasion by the boys themselves, this programme was illustrated and carried a foreword by Lord Barnard, the County Commissioner.

On 26th April, the Group paraded for St. George's Day at the St. George's Church in Chesnut Street.

In May, the Group attended an Empire Day Service at Cockerton Methodist Church with Rovers, Scouts and Cubs of the Group, together with the 26th Guides and Brownies.

Also in that month, they learnt of the B.A.B.A. Golden Gloves Contest in London, in which Laurie Case (now recovered from his recent injury) defeated George Boyle, his American opponent. They were very proud of Laurie Case and his honour to the Troop once again.

During May, the obvious thing occurred, the Juniors and Seniors just had to meet on separate evenings – there were too many to get into the Schoolroom. Meanwhile, the older chaps contented themselves by producing the third issue of the Magazine.

New officials of the magazine were now elected as follows:

Editor	-	Les Williamson
Sub Editor	-	Tom Harrsion
Sales Manager	-	Syd Mais
Advertising Managers	-	Harry and Bob Mais

The membership of the two parts of the Troop during 1936 was as follows, although the 'Senior' part could be justly termed a full and active Rover Crew at the division, brought about solely by limited accommodation and the numbers in the Troop:-

Raymond Pawson - GSM



Cubs hiking near Marske,
Swaledale 1936



LAURIE CASE, A.S.M.
British Amateur Bantam
Weight Champion 1935-36

Troop at Dunstanburgh
Castle 1933 Annual Camp



Annual Camp at Cocksburn-
path, Line head, Scotland
1935





8th DARLINGTON SCOUTS 1936

This photograph shows the Officers, Rovers and older members of the Group, there were 25 'juniors' not shown here, who were members also.

Top row: Reginald Watson, H. Hammond, William Harwood, Eric Walker A.C.M., Gordon Milburn, Harry Mais A.C.M., Syd Warne, Leslie Driver.

Third row: Jack Newton, Robert Mais, Mark Mais S.M., Jimmy Phillips, Reginald Hudson, Eric Snailham, Wilfred Longstaff, Harry Fisher.

Seated: Jack Harwood, Tommy Harrison, Laurie Case A.S.M., Charles Parker, Raymond Pawson G.S.M., Leslie Williamson R.S.L., George Marrs A.S.M., George Parker, Syd Mais.

Bottom row: Norman Harland P.L., Leslie Charlton P.L., Frank Simmons P.L., Harry Warne, William Hudson, Eric Wakefield.

SENIORS

Leslie D Williamson RSL
Tom Harrison
Charles Parker Chairman & QM
Mark Mais – also SM
George Marrs – also ASM
Laurie Case – also ASM
Harry Mais – also ACM
Eric Walker – also ACM
Jack Harwood
Sid Mais
William Harwood
Sid Warne
Eric Williamson
Robert Mais
Wilfred Longstaff
Harry Fisher
Reginald Watson
Reginald Hudson
James Philips
Eric Snailham
William Wilson
John A Raper
James Colebrook
George Parker

These names are as at the beginning of August
1936

JUNIORS

Norman Harland PL
William Hudson
Frank Simmons PL
Arnold Watson PL
Thomas Kirkoride
Lawrence Charlton PL
Thomas Barker
Alfred Richardson
Gordon Milburn
Stanley Williams
Charles Greenhaulgh
Erik Wakefield
John Myers
Dennis Longstaff
Charles Able
Harry Warne
William Richardson
Terry Grimes
Dennis Williamson
Lawrence Robinson
George Lees
Walter Philips
Coatsworth Dene
Walter Thirkwell
Leslie Driver
Stanley Robinson
Donald McLuire
Colin Gibson
William Nicholson
Eric P Smith
William Scullion

It is a pity that there is no record of the names of the Cubs at this time. The Pack was strong and healthy, having its general programme centred around plenty of short hikes and, of course, the Cub weekend Camp.

The District Cub Competition was held on Saturday, 9th May, on Hummersknott Park. Seven Packs entered and the Trophy was won by the 1st Pack.

Other problems of membership were that in May 3 new 'boys' applied to join the Troop; all three were over 18 years of age and no doubt they would be placed on the probations' list and entry considered at the next meeting.

On Saturday, 30th May, nearly all the Group attended the funeral of George Oxley, the Caretaker's son, after a tragic death.

The same weekend, seven Seniors went by car to the Lakes and camped in the Langdale Valley.

At the end of June, the Troop camped at Marske in Swaledale for their three day Whitsuntide Camp. Under the leadership of Mark Mais, SM, they had a splendid weekend although rather wet. 26 of the Troop attended this camp the same weekend to look around for the Annual Camp site.

Most of the time during May was devoted to the Friday evening printing programme when the Seniors were busy producing the 8th magazine which was now quarto size and ran to 22 sides. There was, in the early stages, much trouble in getting the magazine out properly. All were new to the printing game – pages were put in upside down, stencils were spoilt or printed in reverse, etc. The entire job could only have been carried on by so many older chaps in the Troop otherwise it would never have got off the ground.

During early June, a green canvas 'cube' shaped tent with a wooden folding frame was purchased for the figure of £2. Those in the Troop at that time, as well as during the war and up to about 1960, will remember this excellent useful tent of 6' x 6' x 6'6" x 6'6" bought in 1936 for cooking purposes.

In the District, preparations were quickening for the forthcoming Jamboree in Raby Park. The 8th were very involved here in supplying Rover Scouts to work almost every weekend from the beginning of June. 30 Rovers went to Raby by lorry each weekend to prepare the site and roads.

The first week in June involved drying out tents on the Green from the wet camp at Marske.

Many of the Scouts were also collecting for St. Agnes' Home during this week, too, and the sum of £1.16.2. was raised.

Attendance was not too good straight after camp (as it sometimes is in Troops). Perhaps the light evenings were to blame, but gradually it began to pick up when the Friday evening after, swimming in the river Tees was announced!

At the end of June, another collection for Life Boat Day took place round the Green and further afield.

Much of the Troop badgework at this time was for the First Class badge. These sessions were run by Mark Mais whilst the 'Seniors' still carried on with their printing problems, and further preparations for the Troop Annual Camp and Jamboree.

The Annual Camp kit was packed on Friday, 17th July, and on the following morning at 9.45 the train left Bank Top Station for the 22nd Annual Camp. 33 attended this great camp in the Lakes.

The cost per boy was as follows:-

Under 16s
10/- per fortnight
7/6d. week
16 to 21s
15/- per fortnight
10/- week
Over 21s
£1 per fortnight
12/6. week

These was a charge of 1/6, 2/6 and 4/- respectively for those who wished to hire a boat, most of whom did, of course.

The camp site was at Beckside Farm, Sandwick, Nr. Howtown, on Lake Ullswater. Again, most of the organising should give the usual credit to Charles Parker and Ray Pawson.

Accommodation included 5 Bell Tents, the marquee, the new Cook's tent, the Pyramid and a modern home made canteen system.

During the camp, however, on the barren shores of Ullswater, the new cooking tent surrendered to the elements, but not the Bell tents. These stalwarts of the 8th Annual camps take a lot of beating when it comes to bad weather.

To list the details of this camp would fill several more pages though, briefly, the Troop held a Scouts' Own during camp and attended service at Martindale Church conducted by the Bishop of Carlisle. The bad storm did not deter the spirits of the 8th who met a Dumfries Troop in the locality.

Places of interest visited included Aira Force, a hike of about 15 miles from the camp, Helvellyn, which the Seniors approached from Grisedale and Dollywagon whilst the Juniors made a more reasonable attack from Striding Edge.

Much hiking was done during the camp, with dinner being during the evening and lunch at midday to allow for this. People with blisters had time to nurse their feet during preparations for the evening meal, by those who were fitter.

Sports helped to offset the lack of cash which most younger Scouts always experience during the midweek of a long camp, the usual races being undertaken. An asset to this camp was Morris Cowley car owned by Les Williamson, painted bright yellow and known as the 'Yellow Peril'. It was probably the first time the 8th used a car most of its time was spent picking up the fallen with blistered feet.

After 17 glorious days, the camp ended at 7.0 p.m. at Bank Top Station on 3rd August, where Mr. Cottam's lorry awaited to pick up the equipment and kit. This was Bank Holiday Monday, and after re-organising gear on the Tuesday, 24 of the Troop set off for Raby Park for the Northern Counties Jamboree two days later on 5th August.

The Jamboree had actually started on 1st August when we were in camp at Ullswater. The Troop were soon in the mood of the Jamboree.

Wednesday at the Jamboree was a grand fine day and it appeared that the Troop were to enjoy better weather than their Annual Camp in the Lake until two days ago. Many parents and friends visited the Troop in camp on their first day with the evening settling in to a fine night, fires twinkling all over Raby Park where 6,000 Scouts were camping.

Alas, for good intentions, Thursday was one long downpour and it was the most important day of the Jamboree when the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden Powell, would be visiting. It was impossible to hold all the events and displays intended, so most of these were postponed until the Friday, but the Chief's very warm, lighthearted address to many thousands of Scouts, Guides, Rovers, Cubs and Visitors made a real tonic against the poor weather conditions.

The 8th Cub Pack had been taken up for the day and heard BP speak. These youngsters realised what a great movement they were privileged to belong to.

The 8th Group Chaplain, the Rev. G A West, also stayed overnight from Wednesday until Thursday and all too soon the Northern Counties Jamboree came to a close on Sunday, 9th August, after a prolonged downpour which made Raby Park a vast quagmire.

Packing away gear on Sunday, the 8th had been in camp for 24 days since the 18th July, apart from 1 day at home.

1936 was a great year but also one full of sad events, for the Troop were to learn of the death of John B Lishman on Monday, 17th August. All past and present members of the Group felt they had lost a sincere friend, his life was one of real inspiration to dozens of boys, least of all those who were in his Troop from 1915 to 1924 when he was SM he was a personal example to all, fitting his life round the Scout Law and all it was meant to be.

The combined representation of present and past Scouts of the 8th, including Danny Pawson and Percy Brigham, many of whom had travelled long distances, attended the funeral service at Bondgate Methodist Church, on Wednesday, 19th August, then later heading the cortege to the West Cemetery, bore testimony to the loss the 8th endured. John Lishman was aged 64.

After a busy July and August, the meetings resumed a normal outlook and were attended quite well even during a holiday month. The Cub Pack held a Camp at Blackwell over the weekend, 29th/30th August, in glorious weather. They had a wonderful camp.

The Seniors contented themselves with repairing gear or tidying it up after its constant use. It has always been the policy of the 8th to practice thrift and look after its equipment. This is why those tents used in 1936 are still usable today.

The Troop had intended to compete in the Selwyn Austin Camping Trophy, although later did not. The September Relay Races were held on 16th September at Harrowgate Hill. The 8th's team was made up of Norman Harland, W. Hudson, Stan Williams and Tommy Kirkbridge, who did well, but the Trophy was won by the 17th.

Badgework was soon under way with several PLs ready for the First Class Journey test.

The magazine was also coming along with Jimmy Philips, Les Williamson and Ray Pawson.

In October, Ray Pawson was again elected to the District Executive Committee for the forthcoming year.

Towards the end of the month of October, it was realised by the GSM that the great influx of boys wishing to join the Troop and Pack would have to be catered for. At this time, there were 78 on the roll when the census was taken at end of September:

26 Seniors
26 Juniors
14 Probationers
12 Cubs

Although the Cubs were depleted, many having gone into the Troop, new Officers were needed, so the following officials were elected that month:

Harry Mais (Act. CM)
Eric Walker (Act. ACM)
Robert Mais (Act. ACM)

Mark Mais (Act. SM)
William Wilson (Act. ASM)
Laurie Case (Act. ASM)

These Warrants were to be applied for from the District hence the term 'acting'. Ray Pawson remained as GSM and Leslie D Williamson as Rover Leader.

Tommy Harrison soon had the Chocolate Club under way again in September. The Autumn issue of the 8th Mag. was just as good as ever and bore an obituary by Percy Brigham to John B Lishman.

By the end of October, there were 21 probationers for the Troop - - they had obviously heard about the 8th! So ended a great year, full of first class scouting, yet not without its sad moments too.

The Group were honoured to publish a letter from Baden Powell in the Souvenir issue of the Magazine, it read as follows:

The BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION
25, Buckingham Palace Road,
LONDON, S.W.1.

5th June, 1936.

I have read with interest the Quarterly Magazine of the 8th Darlington Group.

I am very glad to have the chance of sending you – through this Journal – my best wishes for good camping and every success.

I shall hope to see you, along with the other brother Scouts of the North, at the Northern Counties Jamboree in August. I am looking forward tremendously to this opportunity of seeing for myself how the Scouts of the North are carrying on, in spite of the difficulties of the times through which we have come.

Stick to it – do your best to increase in numbers, efficiency and above all in the practice of good turns.

Good luck to you and good camping.

(Signed) BADEN POWELL of GILWELL
CHIEF SCOUT.

This poem by Patrol Leader Norman Harland (with apologies to Browning) sums up the 21st Birthday celebrations:-

One Friday night in '36
The Darlington 8th turned out
To celebrate their 21st
As well befits a Scout.

Already had invites been sent
To parents of the boys,
To come and join the merriment
And share in all the joys.

In they came from near and far,
Some on foot and some by car,
Upstairs they went to hear and see
A play produced by gay Tommy.

From plays and slides they slid below
A sumptuous feast to see,
Plus cake with candles all aglow,
All praise to Mrs. P.

To pow-wows short and pow-wows long
They listened with delight,
A camp fire rang with cheerful song
To end that glorious night.

1937

Badgework was well to the fore of this new year, the festivity and bustle of the previous year gone, the Troop got down to some work during the winter, the results of which bore fruit in Spring.

There were many Tenderfoots invested, many more Second Class badges gained and P.L.s Norman Harland and Frank Simmons had their first class badges presented – a fine achievement.

Many proficiency badges were gained both in the Troop and in the Pack as a result of the work of their new young Leaders.

In the national field, the Coronation arrangements were mounting in momentum, the 8th were given their quota of programmes to be sold.

The 5th World Jamboree at Volgelenzang in Holland was also getting under way, though none of the 8th were in the 20 who represented the town.

The Annual Troop jumble sale was all collected and almost due to take place, when a further tragedy struck the 8th. Mrs. Pawson died suddenly on 20th March whilst in Birmingham. This was a great shock; she had been presented with the badge given to Lay people by the Association – the Helpers Badge, only a short time previously. Members of the Troop acted as bearers and almost all attended the funeral. Her loss was not just one for the Troop but also for the Church and the many other causes for which she worked so hard and sincerely. It was a privilege to know her, the Group were both sorrowful and very proud, as the Rev. G A West conducted the service.

The jumble sale was postponed to 21st April, after this setback at the beginning of the year. Nevertheless, the result was good.

During April warrants were presented at the District meeting to Laurie Case and Robert Mais, in May to Mark Mais, Eric Walker and William Wilson and Harry Mais.

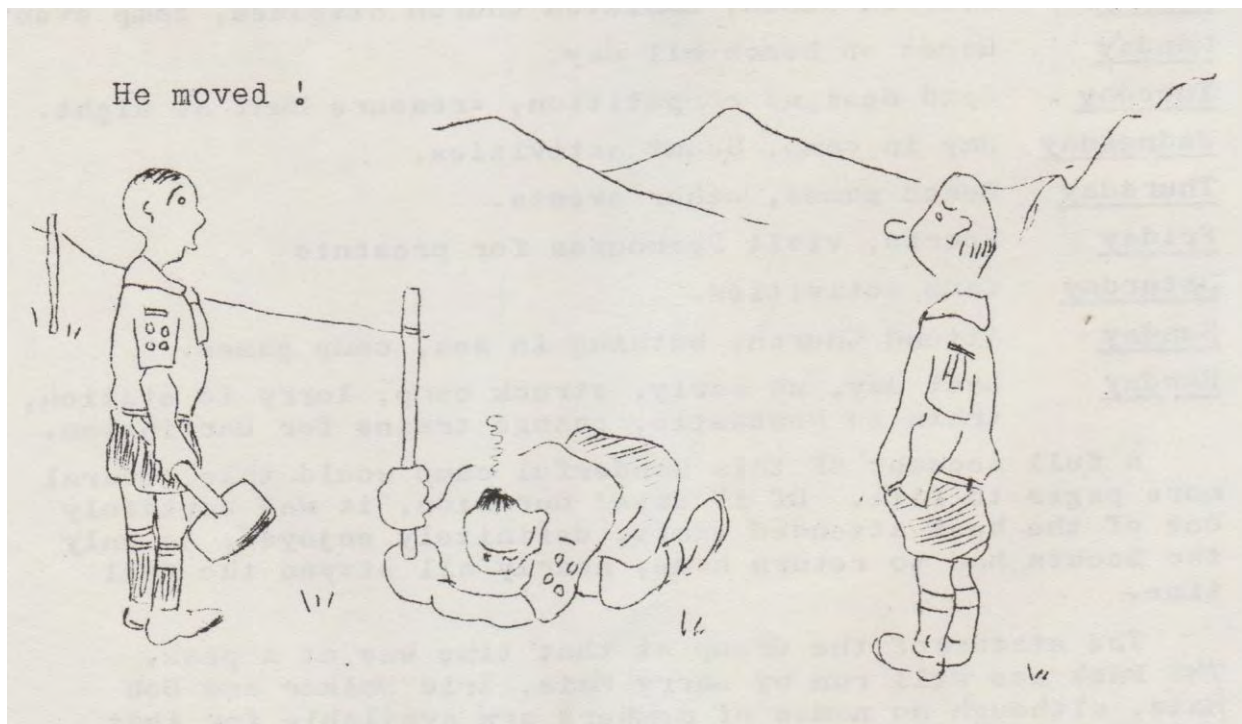
Camping was well to the fore for the Junior Troop during the year. Many weekend camps were held at Low Walworth and other places. The Troop Whitsuntide Camp took place at Raby Park.

A quest by the Rovers to find an Annual camp site resulted in a return to one of the Troop's favourite places, Newton-on-Sea, Embleton, and preparations went ahead for the 17 day camp.

For the first time, a new District Trophy took place at Croft on 30th June, It was the 'Irving Tug-of War Trophy' Alas, the winning team was our friends, the 6th Darlington.

The Group were also involved in the Association 'Open' meeting in Bondgate Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 9th March, when a Boxing Exhibition was given under the direction of Laurie Case. Also at this meeting, there were excerpts from the London Gang Show now in its fifth year!

As camp preparations quickened, 3 new Bell Tent groundsheets were purchased. The Group could now boast a first class set of camping equipment.



A Church Parade was held on 11th July.

The Troop entered the Senior Relay which was held at Skerningham to the North of the town. Again they did not win, the Trophy being taken by the 18th Troop. The Junior relay also eluded the 8th, this time being won by the 20th Troop.

After the Patrol camps at Low Walworth, which were organised by the P.L.s, the Annual Camp was eagerly awaited. Many new boys, attending their first summer camp, brought their gear down on Friday, 16th July.

On Saturday, 17th, 42 of the Troop, including 16 Officers and Rovers, assembled at Bank Top Station, en route for Embleton, at 8.25 a.m.

The fees for this camp may be worth comparing with some of the Annual Camps later in the book in the late '70s.

Under 16s years of age 12/6d. for the fortnight (17 days)

Over 16 years of age £1 " " " "

Under 16s 7/6d. for one week, Over 16s 12/6d. for one week

An abridged review of the camp programme is as follows:

<u>July 17th</u>	Arrive, settle in, walk on beach.
<u>Sunday</u>	P.T. on beach with A.S.M. Case, bathe in sea, Church
<u>Monday</u>	Visit Dunstanburgh Castle and Craster, Camp fire.
<u>Tuesday</u>	P.T. on beach, games, looked for shells.
<u>Wednesday</u>	First rain of camp, boxing in marquee, hike later.
<u>Thursday</u>	Hike to Seahorses, saw harbour.
<u>Friday</u>	Visit Farne Islands, fishing at night.
<u>Saturday</u>	Heavy rain, visitors' day, stayed in camp.
<u>Sunday</u>	P.T. on beach, Embleton Church attended, camp events
<u>Monday</u>	Games on beach all day.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Sand designs competition, treasure hunt at night.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Day in camp, Scout activities.
<u>Thursday</u>	Beach games, other events.
<u>Friday</u>	Sports, visit Seahouses for presents
<u>Saturday</u>	Camp activities
<u>Sunday</u>	Attend Church, bathing in sea, camp games.
<u>Monday</u>	Last day, up early, struck camp, lorry to station, train to Newcastle, change trains for Darlington.

A full account of this wonderful camp would take several more pages to fill. Of 17 days' duration, it was certainly one of the best attended camps, definitely enjoyed, as only two Scouts had to return home, nearly all stayed the full time.

The stature of the Group at that time was at a peak. The Pack was well run by Harry Mais, Eric Waler and Bob Mais, although no names of members are available for that year.

The Junior Troop of under 16s was equally well run by Mark Mais, Laurie Case and Bill Wilson, the membership being as follows:-

OWL PATROL

Norman Harland PL
 William Hudson Sec
 John Myers
 Basil Browne
 Anthony Lister
 T Vickers
 Keith Grainger
 Harry Horsefield
 Maurice Fawcett
 M Husband

OTTER PATROL

Frank Simmons PL
 Eric P Smith
 Les Woodstock
 Sid Weston
 Harry Robson
 Maurice Alliman
 Walter F Ridley
 T Kelly
 James Gladstone

EAGLE PATROL

Les Charlton PL
 Stan Williams Sec
 Donald McLure
 Raymond Midcalf
 Robert Young
 David Scullion
 George Anderson
 Walter Stevens
 Dennis Hill
 Chris Layfield

TIGER PATROL

Arnold Watson PL
 Tommy Kirkbridge Sec
 B Bainbridge
 F Wigley
 Howard Bertram
 Edward Bentley
 Ronny Smith
 Jimmy Sharpe
 Leslie Blakeborough
 Dennis Blewitt

With around 40, the Junior Troop had grown in size since the Division of the 'Junior' and 'Senior' scheme not so long ago.

There were still around 20 Rovers, and in total the Group would number over 80 at this time.

This trend of older fellows in the movement continued, when we learn the District had an increase of 25 Rovers, with the Officers, Cubs and Scouts down by a few each. Other Groups were not so fortunate as the 8th, the 4th and 12th Groups lapsed in late 1937.

The Group magazine took up a tremendous amount of time, not that there was nothing to report, far from it, or that there was no one to report it. The sheer amount of work in producing such a quarterly issue took up most of the time of many of the Rovers, it was very 'binding' if one may use that term!

It was therefore decided in October that, after that issue, the magazine would only be published twice a year, in March and September, thus eliminating printing, setting, binding and distribution in June, during the camping season, and at Christmas.

The Magazine always carried the G.S.M.'s letter, plenty of wit in the way of 'Sporting Commentaries' and an article by A.L.OOF – alias Tommy Harrison with his often very deep Cockertonian sense of humour, Group activities, reports on camps, notes on Church activities, a serial by Les Williamson and an Editorial. In addition to this, current news and topics filled its score or so quarto sized pages.

By Christmas Tommy Harrison had made again a howling success of the Chocolate Club, and had added a good sum of

money to the Troop funds. All those who understand but one per cent of the clerical work, comptometer additions (without the said machine) persuasive orations and solid grit required to organise a Scouts' Chocolate Club can readily understand why the small presentation made to Tommy at Christmas was of his invaluable work.

As usual, the Christmas feed took place on 17th December. The GSM related a thriller, a camp fire and concert in the true style of the 8th ended a first class evening, with the C D Pawson Cup being presented to the Tiger Patrol.

And so ended another great year for the 8th.

1938

Before the year was very old, the Scouts were giving out the invitation for Cockerton Old Folks' Treat. This event was eagerly looking forward to by all the old folks in the village, who were invited even when they moved outside the area. Usually held in February and started in 1902, it consisted of a concert and tea in one of the halls in the village.

The Junior Troop was still plodding away at badges under the enthusiastic leadership of Mark Mais, SM.

Before the end of March, the Troop had successfully completed another Jumble drive and had the sale to help funds.

On 1st April, a Parents' evening was held to get parents involved to a greater extent, although the magazine was instrumental in giving all the news of the Group at this time.

The evening included entertainment by the Scouts, an official welcome by the GSM, a talk by Charlie Parker with 'hints' on how to send your son to camp! The evening ended with some lantern slides of past camps and light refreshments. What we could learn, in these days of television entertainment, from these wonderful evenings of the Troop, may be worth remembering in the 1970s.

Two days later, on Sunday, 3rd April, the Group attended an evening Service in the Methodist Church, when a plaque was unveiled to Mrs. C W Pawson by her son, Ray Pawson, the GSM. There was a large congregation and no doubt all present were impressed by the ceremony to a great friend of the Group.

On 22nd April, the entire Group, together with many past members and the DC, Mr. Trevor Morris, were present when another plaque to the memory of John B. Lishman was accepted on behalf of the Church by Rev. W Horswill, successor to the Rev. G A West. Percy W Brigham was the obvious choice to unveil the plaque to J.B. Lishman, the man who had shown Cockerton Boys the best way to spend their spare time in 1915. The ceremony was also attended by Daniel C Pawson from Birmingham.

During April, the 26th Brownie Pack was restarted at the Methodist Church, by three energetic young ladies, Mrs L D Williamson, Miss I Williamson and Miss Margaret Scott.

More dark awakenings were heard of in April when special arrangements were made to run Air Raid courses in the Anti-gas School for Scouts over 16 years of age.

We also saw a new group, the 4th Darlington (Mowden Hall) registered nearby. They were attached to the Boarding School now in the hall just across the 'beck'.

At the end of March, the Group produced another issue of its now half yearly publication 'The 8th Mag', still full of all the gossip and wit one had come to expect of the publication.

In May, the 8th again entertained the District Scouters meeting in their H.Q. 36 people were present, representing 18 of the Groups in the town. Agenda – Scout Fund Appeal – Camp.

The Troop summer camp was again under way before the end of April, when the Court of Honour dealt with suggested sites.

On 24th April, the Group attended St. George's Day parade at Victoria Road Methodist Church.

There were certainly no lack of activities for a boy in the Troop (either Troop) at that time. During May on each Wednesday evening, Mark Mais (now called Skip) took cycle runs to interesting places at a reasonable distance.

At Whitsuntide, the Seniors camped in Swaledale where they played soccer against Low Row village and won 6-0. Later in the month they journeyed to Gunnerside to play soccer and won 8-2, and slept the night in a hay barn before cycling to Darlington.

The Troop held a day hike to High Coniscliffe to practice cooking and building bivouac shelters. They also camped near Croft for the weekend.

Meanwhile, Charlie Parker was, as usual, busy arranging for the Troop Annual Camp, with his usual attention to detail in the compiling of gear lists and foot lists.

One of the biggest events of the District during the year was the SCOUT ANNUAL FUND WEEKEND. The Troop took a very active part in this successful weekend which was held at the Hummersknott Park. The exact place where the Troop camped at the event would be at the junction where Baydale Road now meets Hummersknott Avenue, there were no houses there then, of course, apart from the eastern end on Salutation Road only.

If one walked up Cemetery Lane and through a gate, we would see the 8th camp immediately to the left through this gate.

The weekend included a full parade up Abbey Road from the town centre, headed by the DC, Trevor Morris and Cockerton Band, who had won the London Festival for Brass & Silver Bands.

Cooking and other displays were put on, the 8th giving an active gymnastic display after an expert rehearsal by Laurie Case, ASM.

The full weekend of activities included a 'Scouts Own' service in the afternoon, conducted by the Rev. G A West, when all was dismantled just after tea on the Sunday.

The weekend made about £8 for the Scout Fund appeal, many former members will remember this delightful interlude in the Troop year, with the 8th Troop trekking from Cockerton.

Earlier in the year, after weighing the pros and cons of the Embleton site last year, against Swaledale once again, the Rovers found a new site at Long Houghton, near to Beadnell Bay, in Northumberland again.

The 24th Annual Camp was of 15 days' duration and took place during the first two weeks of August, most of the boys staying two weeks. On arrival at Long Houghton, the situation did not suit the 8th, as the owner of the site had allowed several other Troops and some other campers into the field.

On the Saturday evening, Les Williamson and a friend set off to look for another site about a mile away near to Beadnell Bay. This site was suitable so the Troop packed up and hired a lorry to move on Sunday afternoon again – looks of utter surprise from other occupants of the field, no doubt!

The Troop settled down again in the midst of sand dunes out of sight of all, went to Church on Sunday too and altogether had a very busy weekend.

Monday was spent in completing the camp, whilst the Tuesday took the form of a hike to Dunstanburgh Castle. The Rev. W Horswill and the GSM Ray Pawson paid a visit to the camp, the Minister stayed in camp for three days although the GSM had to return home.

Wednesday was devoted to a boat trip round the Farne islands, Longstone and St. Cuthbert's Isle. An all night fishing trip satisfied the Rovers who caught enough fish for the following evening's supper.

Tom Harrison and Harry Fisher had to go home on the first weekend although Bill Wilson, ASM, arrived for that weekend.

During the second week, a bus trip was arranged to Wooler and then to Beal where we walked across the sands at low tide to Holy Island. The first fishing trip had been enjoyed so much by the six Rovers that they arranged a repeat performance on the second Friday, much improving their skill and catch this time.

Two cricket matches were played against another Scout Troop camping nearby.

Beadnell Regatta and its yacht racing provided a wonderful day, although the Troop had no yachts, they did enter the swimming races at the Regatta, and Charles Parker gained second prize in the men's 100 yards and 25 yards.

The last weekend was completed with our own sports and sand design competitions on a gloriously hot day.

Once again the Troop had an SM's gift – a DRY day to strike camp. Thus ended the 24th Annual Camp of the 8th Darlington.

On remembering these grand camps of the '20s and '30s, one can never forget the happy discipline if Charlie Parker was in camp (as he was in '38 for the full 15 days) and his famous words which those in the Troop need little to remind them of. These words were 'SIXTY SPUDS' – and it meant exactly that, they were counted out and you peeled the lot'. Many potatoes were peeled in consequence at camp although behaviour was kept good – his system did work. By 1938, the camp rules were so well obeyed that Charlie found it difficult to find a crime to fit the punishment!

By September, the Annual Camp was a pleasant memory and things go under way again.

The Pack was 'feeding the Troop with worthwhile boys from its well run training programme due to Harry Mais, Eric Walker and Robert Mais as Scouters.

The Troop gained strength with its equally energetic Scouters – Mark Mais, Laurie Case, Bill Wilson and others.

Apart from the 8th Pack and Troop, things had happened elsewhere. The 26th Guide Company based at the Methodist Church was restarted by Miss Ina Williamson as a natural outcome of the Brownie Pack restarted earlier in the year.

In October, the District started training 100 over 16s. in the art of A.R.P, messengers again, a sure note of impending war.

Meanwhile, the Troop had taken part actively in the other collections for Baden Powell Appeal Funds.

On 6th November, the Troop paraded at a service in Grange Road which coincided with another parade. The Troop could not be in two places at once.

For many years, the I.H.Q. rules had stated that 'Open' Scout Troops (of which the 8th was one) had to have their funds audited – although not sponsored Groups for some reason. Now, as most Scout and Cub Funds were in any case separate from the Church Funds ALL Groups had to have an audit; this pleased the 8th.

Tragedy again struck the Troop early in December when Sid Warne, a stalwart of the Troop, was killed on his motor cycle on his way to work. This was a tragic blow, when one knows a brother Scout so well, sees him every week and camps with his often. Four bearers were provided for Sid, the funeral service at the Methodist Church conducted by Rev. G A West and Rev. W Horswill. A Memorial Service held the following Sunday was very well attended by all who knew this fine Scout.

The Christmas number of the magazine appeared in all its wit and glory. The editorial team, headed by Les Williamson, as the Blue penciller in Chief, was made up of at least 8 other sub-editors. It carried full reports of the 1938 Camps, 3 pages of Ray Pawson's letter and many other articles a real good tonic for 3d. in those days.

During December, respirators began to be delivered to some, by the Scout Movement – war was not far away.

The Troop held a party with the Guides and so ended another year.

1939

By 16th February, over 500 hours had been put in by the District on practice A.R.P. duties.

During February, Patrol Leader Norman Harland had to leave the Junior Troop due to his taking a job in London. Some re-arrangement of the Troop took place this month, new ranks were appointed on the 'change round' system.

Handbills were printed, distributed and the material for the annual Jumble Sale began to roll in before the end of March. This sale was a combined sale with the 26th Guide Company, the date was 29th March, and the net proceeds - £9.12.1 ½ - not a good result perhaps.

The Inter Patrol Camping Competition was to be started again and the Whitsuntide camp was to be held in Swaledale. The Annual Camp venue was suggested as the West Coast this time. The camp fund was started with ASM Bill Wilson in charge and the Church Parade was arranged for the following month.

Early in May a letter, asking for the Troop to line the route of a recruiting parade was accepted. This parade was held on 17th May, during the week, and a very good turnout of the 8th was present. They were rather apprehensive at first, in case people thought the Scout Movement was a militant organisation but these fears had been dispelled, however, since the man in the street's ideas in 1915.

A P.T. Display was soon under way, trained by Laurie Case, to be shown at a forthcoming District event.

The Whitsuntide Camp was held at Low Row in Swaledale, on the usual site near Robin Gate (that favoured place). This was a well attended camp and had to suffice as the 1939 Summer Camp too.

The Cub Pac camped at Marske for Whitsuntide and these were to be the last camps of distance for some time.

Meanwhile, the District Relay Races were held at Skerningham on 21st June, where we won the Junior Relay again.

The Selwyn Austin Camping Competition at Raby was on 10th and 11th June.

There was no Annual Camp that year; war was imminent; there was only one person who could slow down – but not stop the 8th – Adolf Hitler.

The following is written in the hand of Ray Pawson on the 3rd September, 1939. Ray did not live long enough to see the fruits of his predictions, he did not know all of those who were to carry on although he did know of some who would at that time. He had a faith in that living reality – the 8th.

It would be a fallacy not to use a fair amount of space on this extract taken from one of the Troop Logs, it

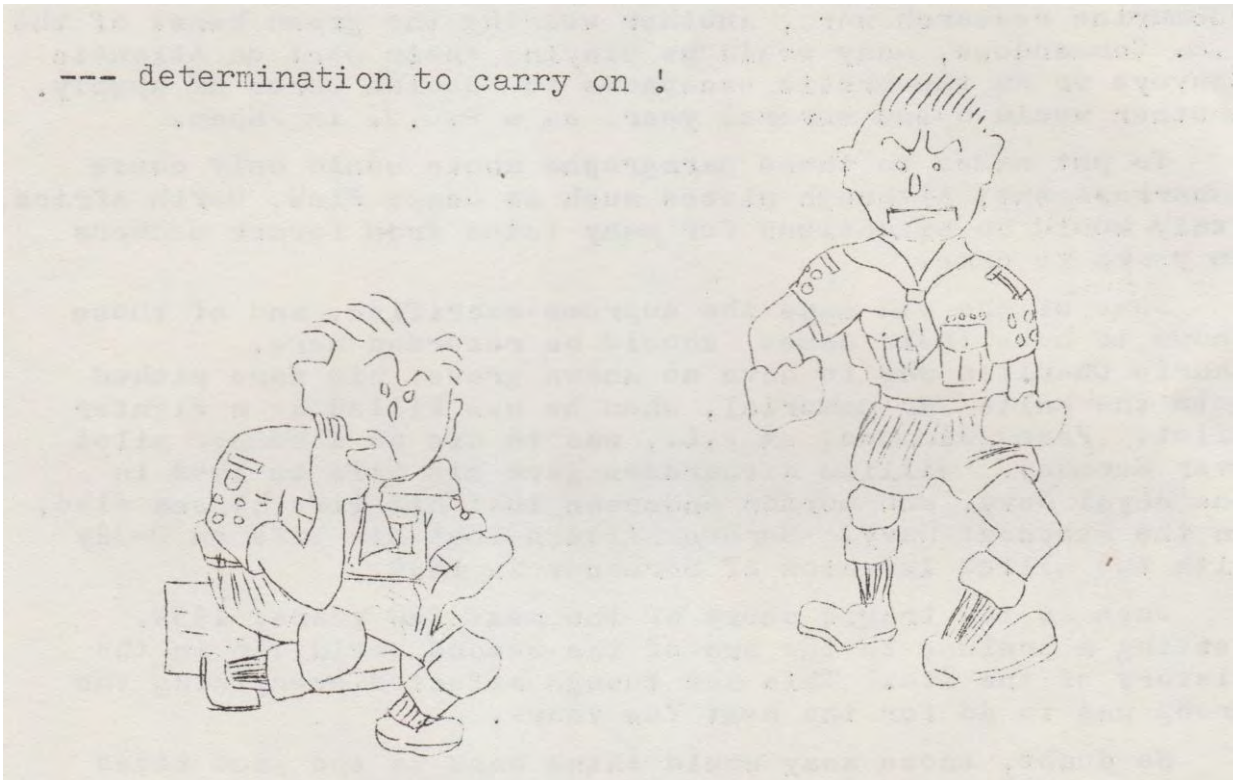
represents what the 8th was, is and ever more shall be:-

'On September 3rd 1939, England declared that she was at a state of war with Germany, so again this book will hold a record of a terrible national tragedy.

But, unlike the last war, almost every Scout has a job to do, either an A.R.P. Messenger, or a waste paper collector or digging Air-Raid Shelter holes for old people, and a great number will be in H.M. Forces.

The Troop has itself fallen away, owing to blackout regulations, war work, lack of Officers, etc. We will get no camp this year – (Hitler again!).

But whatever happens, the undaunted spirit of 'J.B.' & the 8th, will, like Phoenix rise again as strong as ever from the ashes, because the Troop is not a collection of blokes, but a spirit, that is present whoever is ruling – King Arthur or King George, and so if the Troop personnel changes, which we pray it won't, the spirit will be handed down as it has been before'.



There is no need to add any more, only 20 years had elapsed since the last war. The next entry in the log does not appear until March 1941, although plenty happened during that time.

From August to Christmas, things moved very fast. The W.D. requisition of public buildings began to take effect, although not on the 8th at that time, the intense blackness presented the utmost difficulty in getting about at night, not to take into account a bad winter.

By December, the calling up age was down to 22 years, although many of the Rovers and Officers had gone to H.M.

and essential work even before then.

There was no Troop magazine produced, there was no paper! no one to do it, everyone was pre-occupied with Air Raids, and so the year of 1939 ended with the war three months old at the helm, several of the younger Officers were still there although this national catastrophe had altered things.

The experiences of the greater percentage of the members of the 8th, over the next few years of international turmoil and strife in war, would in itself fill a book. Many were to be widely dispersed to the far corners of the earth, a brief account is given here although names of those who survived are not mentioned.

A dozen found their way into the R.A.F., a similar number the Army with many more in either the Royal or Merchant Navies. One was shot down in a bomber over Hamburg, to spend several years in a P.O.W. camp, as a notable escapee, whilst another would be sweating in the Burmese jungle with the 14th Army.

One former member of the 8th found his way into anti-submarine research work, another wearing the green beret of the R.M. Commandoes, many would be playing their part on Atlantic Convoys or on the arctic escapes to Russian ports of supply. Another would spend several years as a P.O.W. in Japan.

To put names to these paragraphs above would only cause embarrassment, although places such as Scapa Flow, North Africa, Italy would be situations for many tales from former members in years to come.

Some of the 8th made the supreme sacrifice, and of those known to have, their names should be recorded here.

Laurie Charlton was to have no known grave, his name etched into the Malta War Memorial, when he was killed as a Fighter Pilot. Frank Simmons, ex PL, was to die as a bomber pilot over Germany. William Richardson gave his life in 1942 in the Royal Navy, and Gordon Anderson lost his life at sea also, in the Merchant Navy. Gordon Milburn lost his life on D-Day with the Allied Invasion of Normandy in 1944.

Such is the tragic story of the next few years, 1939, setting a prelude to the era of the Second World War in the history of the 8th. This war though affected everything the Troop was to do for the next few years,

No doubt, those away would think back to the good times in the 1930's, and perhaps wonder if the Group still functioned, though sadly depleted.

So the year ended.

CHAPTER 4 – THE FORTIES

1940

This was to be a very different year indeed from the previous 25 years. At the District meeting in February, the following restrictions were put on camping:-

- (a) Camps of more than 20 tents prohibited in the Eastern half of the country.
- (b) At least two miles from munition depots, naval, army or R.A.F. installations.
- (c) All tents to be camouflaged, no fires or light to be visible after blackout times.

We heard from County that the Dryburn Cup and Geoffrey Gordon Cup had been cancelled for the year. From District, that, due to shortage of Officers, PL s would be allowed to attend the monthly District Meeting as from May and that there was to be a very great effort made to collect waste paper during 1940.

Membership of the 8th had fallen by 70% during the three months September to December 1939, due to enlistment.

Still, things carried on, although not in the same way. The St. George's Day Parade was held at North Road Methodist Church on Sunday, 21st April. Scouts were required to help with the L.D.V. (Local Defence Volunteers) in various capacities.

The war was going badly – on May 26th Calais fell, and 4th June saw the evacuation from Dunkirk.

The Troop embarked upon the collection of waste paper around Cockerton and district – no plans were made for camp at all due to the danger of Air Raids. Other things were the distribution of National Savings Leaflets throughout the town by Scouts.

The evacuation of Dunkirk claimed as one of its victims Mr. J T Ferrier, in whose memory the present day District Ambulance Trophy is. He was for many years SM of the 16th Troop.

The Troop was still meeting in the Methodist Schoolrooms all during early 1940, with full use of the Green being made as usual.

Bill Wilson had now taken over as acting SM, Harry Fisher was the ASM and with many new boys waiting to join, the Troop kept up a good strength at meetings during the summer, although no camps as a Troop were held during 1940.

The 'Battle of Britain' saw its critical weeks in the last week in August and the first in September, the worst day being 31st August.

So, gradually pulling itself together with over 70% of its total strength gone, including the Rover Crew, the Cub Pack because there was no one to run it, the 8th began to settle in to another winter of blackout and more fear of air raids.

Before November, the Army had requisitioned the Methodist Schoolrooms and the Troop Meeting place, St. Mary's Parish Hall and the United Methodist Chapel on West Bridge also came under the axe for billets from troops. St. Mary's Hall was used as a dining hall and the other two as sleeping quarters.

A place for the Troop to meet became a problem so Patrol Meetings were held in various houses. Schools could not yet be used, as, being daytime places, most of them were not fully blacked out yet for evening use.

The District A.G.M. was cancelled because it had nowhere to meet, the Annual Census showed a decrease of nearly 150 in a year.

All the Group gear, which still contained relics of the band, was stored for the duration in the garage next to the Church or in the GSM's home on Cockerton Green, until such time as white tents could be used again. Most people thought the war would be over in a year, although events in 1940 soon put paid to that.

As the year drew to a close, we heard of the death of Lord Baden Powell, as if to be a final note of despondency in this sad, drastic year of unbelievable change in so short a time – 'A Scout is cheerful under all difficulties'.

1941

At the start of the year, the Troop Court of Honour consisted of the following:- W Wilson, as Acting SM, Harry Fisher as ASM, Jimmy Gladstone, Arnold Watson, Ronald Smith, PL Edward Readshaw, PL Ralph Robinson, PL R Woodward, Ray Midcalf and Keith Grainger.

In a manner of speaking, the 'Scuffs' or officers were not so depleted, although all were young, of course, and awaited their turn for the inevitable call up.

The Troop helped as usual in February with the Old Folk's Treat.

Encumbered by the new life of wartime restrictions, and after a period of not really knowing where they were to meet, the Troop met in the end classroom, next to School Street, off

Stooperdale Avenue, as from early March, due to negotiations of the Rev. W Horswill with the L.E.A. At the Court of Honour the same evening quote:- It was decided to get under way with determination and vigour.

The Baden Powell Memorial Service in St. Cuthbert's on 19th January had been both sad and inspiring. 2" wide black arm bands had been worn by all Scouts for a period as a mark of respect to their Chief. The Troop attended the St. George's Day service at St. Luke's in April.

Bill Wilson, the SM, was a member of the Home Guard at this time, his duties often meant his absence or having to leave the meeting before 9.0 p.m. in uniform for night duty.

Full tribute must be paid to Bill Wilson and Harry Fisher for their work in steering the Troop through these difficult times, when just about everything presented the utmost problem of shortages and restrictive rules.

Soon after Easter, two bell tents appeared on the Green to be camouflaged in brown and green. The top half of the pole was used first, then the full pole until the entire canvas was coloured in Graingersol solution – the 8th was in business again.

At the end of May, a section of Air Scouts was formed within the District. The TL, Ralph Robinson, became a member although still did his duties with the 8th Troop. All sorts of difficulties beset the Troop at this time – there were no proficiency badges so these were 'handed down' to save disappointment.

The 8th were listed as volunteers to erect indoor 'Morrison' type air raid shelters and to act as A.R.P. internal messengers if called upon to do so. An emergency milk service was designated to various Scout Groups within the town, although it is vague as to what this actually entailed us to do.

In May, the air raids left London a barren mess after 56 consecutive nights of raids. Most I.H.Q. records were lost at this time, we understand.

The Scout Sports in June were again at Skerningham with the 8th entering all through, coming fourth in the Senior Relay, but second in the Junior Relay out of 10 Troops, of which 4 Troops had two teams each. We had no luck in the Tug of War either.

During the year, the undoubted highlight was the start of regular camping once again at Low Moor Farm over Dinsdale. This was to be the camping ground of the Troop for several years.

The actual site as in a Paddock field on the banks of the Tees about 1 mile down from Middleton-one-Row, camp usually being next to two ash trees in the centre of the field.

Ray Jameson and his wife Ina offered all the help and facilities we could wish for, as the Troop journeyed by trek cart, loaned from Walkers, the plumbers in Cockerton, via Neasham, the toll bridge where a toll was still paid, and thence along the road to Rose Hill Farm and down to Low Moor, 8 miles in total.

The first weekend camp took place at Low Moor on 16th/17th July; it was attended by 16 boys, many of them camping for the first time. One Bell tent was used for sleeping, the other for all storage. Latrines were carefully camouflaged under the trees, fires were put out well before dusk and no other lights had to be shown. This camp was enjoyed immensely and within a week of it, the Troop were there again, with an extended camp in August.

Back at Troop meetings, 9 Tenderfoot and 7 Second Class badges had been gained in the last three months, entailing much outdoor work and cooking in around Cockerton – quote from Court of Honour minutes ‘The Troop is running smoothly again, it numbers 24 regulars’.

During August, the aerodrome at Middleton St. George was to change hands as it were. The R.A.F. had Whitley bombers since January. From August, the Royal Canadian Air Force with No. 419 and 420 Squadrons were to make the ‘drome their home for many years, with Wellington and Halifax bombers; the former were soon phased out in favour of the Halifax of four engines. This piece of history is mentioned here because the R.C.A.F. were to figure greatly in the 8th life, although not very much in 1941.

At the end of August, we could not use the Alderman Leach School for much longer due to blackout regulations, so the SM and ASM approached the Church of England to allow the Troop to use the Old School on the Green or the new School in Newton Lane. The Troop still met on Friday evenings but this new arrangement sometimes meant that Scouts would turn up at one school and the meeting would have started at the other.

In the new C. of E. School, the second classroom, next to the Dining Hall, was used whilst in the Old School, we had to light the coal fire before a meeting. Once or twice, we had to dash into the air raid shelters dug into the embankment along the Green.

By the end of August, another Patrol was started and things were in full gear again.

As a sort of inborne tradition in the 8th, all kinds of things have already been collected, for one cause or another from the public at large in Cockerton and district. The war brought all sorts of weird collections upon which the 8th embarked, either to help the war effort or their funds, although often both. Collections of jam jars, waste paper, books, aluminium pans, then towards the end of the year, razor blades, which were incidentally sharpened for re-use! Even tried counting these into gross lots? Toothpaste tubes also formed another collections.

A tragic blow struck the Group in November when Raymond Pawson, the GSM, died suddenly on the 26th, at the age of 38 years. This was indeed a sad load to the borne as the Troop attended his funeral. Ray had been in the 8th ever since the first night John Lishman formed the Troop. His experience and wisdom were missed although his inspiration instilled into the Troop would see that traditions and good Scouting were the earmarks of the 8th.

The year ended with the news of Pearl Harbour in December and the U.S.A were now in the war too. There was no good news about at that time.

1942

All during the winter, collections of this and that continued. Patrol meetings of the Owls, Swifts and Tigers were held in various homes. The Troop meetings on dark evenings were a positive hazard to attend, it was pitch black, no lights on in the streets or elsewhere, no vehicle lights other than buses with a small pool of light about a yard ahead from the special headlight covers. Fish and chips could only be collected if you had a bowl to put them in, when coming from the Troop meeting – how absurd.

The District erected 15 Morrison shelters during the winter – the 8th helped with some of them. On Saturday, 31st March, a big parade in connection with 'Warship Week' was held in the town, with scouts lining the route and taking part as collectors. The parade commenced at Victoria Embankment and thence via the town centre to finish in Grange Road.

The war took another turn for the worse when we heard that the impregnable fortress of Singapore had fallen.

During April, PLs R Robinson, E Readshaw and R Smith represented the 8th at a presentation to the DC, Trevor Morris, when he received the high award of the Silver Acorn in the Eastbourne Schools. F Hayen Dimmock, Editor of the 'Scout', made the presentation. St. George's Day at St. George's Presbyterian Church followed this when the Troop turned out in force.

Soon it was time for camping again; kit was made ready from the small loft above the garage in the late GSM's home. Very careful note was frequently taken of the other four white bell tents, the marquee and pyramid, which could not be used. It was, however, permissible to bring out the cube shaped green store tent because of its colour and this was used as a store for the next few years.

Badgework began to show in the Troop again, many proficiency badges being gained, some of the more unusual nature. Subscriptions at this time were 1d. per week. Although there was little need to raise these as there were virtually nothing to buy.

First Class journeys and the word towards the badge began to occupy the attention of the PLs, who were all of 17 to 18 years of age. There was no shortage of boys either with a reasonable waiting list always on hand.

Church Parades were held several times during each year and the actual parade was still undertaken along the Green, after which boys would then depart to their respective church in Cockerton.

Weekend camps were often arranged only the Wednesday or even the Friday evening beforehand. Nearly all the weekend camps commenced on Saturday afternoon and ended after tea the following day. Kit for the year was trekked down again in

1942 at Easter, although it is doubtful if the camp that year was, in fact, held at Easter. Air raid were still frequent, and there were hardly any telephones about so one felt rather isolated and worried even two days away from home.

The 8th did not compete in the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy that year, although our friends over at the 3rd came in third place in the contest.

Camping was made difficult by the shortage of all foods – it can be confirmed that the ration of eggs for April of 1942 was – 4 EGGS PER MONTH EACH, so a rather peculiar yellow substance called ‘Powdered Egg’ appeared on the scene, it had a very flat taste and looked rather like cold custard when mixed. The 8th devised every way possible to cook it but usually finished up with a traditional ‘egg-bread’ for the first meal of the day. Powdered milk was another standby to save shipping evaporated milk from Argentina, as it took up only a fifth of the shipping space.

Many of the usual scouting activities that boys want to do in camp were carried out. A bridge was built over the small stream leading down to the Tees at the top end of the field, quite a useful thing in wet weather, The dense wood behind Low Moor farm was used for tracking and games. Several boys slept in a ‘house’ built about 10’ from the ground in one of the ash trees standing in the field. We always had a kitchen and several gadgets, sometimes very elaborate. The status of the Troop in camp can be verified by the fact that we once had 22 Scouts and Rovers and ONE Bell tent one weekend. Those who were there to spend a very cramped night will recall the walls extended to hang on the guy lines to increase the diameter. Food was usually stored in the other tent, ALL FOOD was pooled at the start of each of the camps.

A longer camp represented the 28th Annual Camp that summer although people were not supposed to go on holiday at all, as the ‘Holidays at Home’ scheme operated to stem population movement.

Many Troops were in great difficulties over premises as the L.E.A. were approached frequently to house this or that Troop in a school for meetings. The problem was that many schools were not yet ‘blacked out’ or had shatter-proof tape over the windows even in 192.

During September, the Troop came 5th in the Selwyn Austin Camping Trophy which was presumably held at Raby Park entailing an 11 mile trek at each end of the camp. We have no records of who was in the Troop teams, although the 1st Darlington won the event.

The war at last began to turn its tide with the new of El Alamien on 22nd October, 1942.

As if collecting paper, razor blades etc. was not enough, a serious shortage of books came about so we added this to our collection items. We also collected rose hips in the Autumn. The District collected over 4 ½ tons of books to be used for salvage or sent to forces overseas.

Earlier in the year, PL Ralph Robinson was elected onto the newly formed Youth Committee. Meetings of the District

were attended by more PLs than Leaders. Ralph or Edward Readshaw were usually representing the 8th as PLs.

The Troop did not get into the first three in any of the Scout Sports results during 1942. The 1st and 7th were prominent in these events. The Selwyn Austin became a general Trophy during the year although two years' events were counted as 1941-42.

1943

During the winter of 1942-43, regular Sunday morning Ambulance meetings were run at PL Turnbull's home in Stoopersdale Avenue. The Instructor was a St. John member, the services of whom Edward Turnbull obtained. All the group of about 9 taking instruction got the badge in the Spring – can't think why they did not enter for the Ferrier Trophy!

Patrol gardens formed a useful occupation, as every piece of ground had to be cultivated – by order. Each Patrol had a garden which the owner was unable to cultivate themselves. The Owls had theirs in Crossfield Road, the others elsewhere. Produce was sold for Troop funds, with part going to the owner.

The rest of the winter was occupied by Troop meetings, varied collections for all kinds of things, with occasional Troop hikes.

Quite often, the remaining four white bell tents were inspected and repacked in the hope that one day we would use them again. The equipment was still stored in the garage of our late GSM, by kind permission of his wife, Mrs. Greta Pawson.

During February, we again delivered invitations from her home for the Old Folks' Treat. Nearly all the 100 or so invitations were delivered by 8th Scouts. One recipient lived at Heighington we recalled and this one was delivered by cycle, as were many others. It was all worthwhile when one saw the look on the old people's faces on arrival at their homes. The Treat was usually held in the Old School in the centre of the Green, with many of the Troop helping with entertainment. Some will remember 8 Scouts holding 8 brass bells for ringing out tunes – when you were pointed to, you rang your bell.

Another St. George's Day, this time at St. Paul's, on 2nd May.

Later that month, on 29th May, there was a 'Wings for Victory' Week. One can recall the 8th lining the route on Prebend Row opposite the junction of Priestgate, about 6 ft. between each Scout and a horizontal staff being held there, The only snag was that some small children thought this was a good thing to lean against – still, we all had a good view of the parade which commenced near the old North Road Station and ended in Grange Road or Southend Avenue.

During the winter, several Scouts, including all of the PLs and Secs began to attend at Youth Centre (probably the first ever in Darlington) at Gladstone Street Schools.

One could play table tennis or use the woodwork room, which most of the boys did. This was the first indication that anything else other than Scouting, Guiding, the Boys' Brigade, together with Sunday Schools, appeared to do anything for the Youth of the town, unlike today.

Early in the year, contributions from all Groups were sent in to erect a permanent memorial to Baden Powell. £240 was collected in the town, a princely sum in those days, and an indication of the remembrance of the Founder.

Easter saw a start to camping at Low Moor Farm for the year. Troop Leader Ralph Robinson organised the trek on Mr. Walker's cart, loaned for the weekend. About 16 attended the first camp one sunny weekend, after a trek of 8 miles up Park Lane, along Neasham Road; passing the Reco Bros. Circus in a farm just past the Skipbridge Garage was always interesting. The animals were housed there for the duration of the war. Journeying up Neasham bank across the toll bridge we sometimes waved to the 19th Troop, who occasionally camped in the field to the left of the toll bridge.

It was indeed a privilege to be in the Troop in these days. One recalls a Scout who had been acting the goat most of the way from Cockerton. He was told to turn the empty cart round and push it back, when on return to camp he would be able to stay at camp – his total distance that day was 24 miles!

During June, many of the Troop went to Raby Park to the High Pond Site, to hear an address given by Lord Somers, the new Chief Scout. It was a sunny dry day as we sat on the Terrace Walk above the pond and listened to the Chief speaking. Lord Barnard stood in his uniform with the Chief on a raised dais.

During 1943, Mr. Jameson offered us the use of a hut next to the farm in which we could store our equipment. We had seen this hut last year and knew it was equipped with a stove, although this was not often used as it was intended for coke burning. This gesture of the hut was a real asset to the Troop as no perishable food could be left for a period between camps. The Bell tents were pitched near the hut as an alternative to the centre of the field beside the ash trees.

During last year, the PLs had decided to make a canoe. This was a real piece of improvisation as there were no materials to be had at all. Mr. Jameson, from Rose Hill Farm, gave us about 20 Nitrate sacks, which were hessian with a layer of pitch and two layers of paper inside. These were sewn together when opened out, with thick beeswaxed string, to make a sheet about 18' x 6', sufficient to cover a canoe.

The frame was made by three boys in Jeff Metcalfe's garden in Hunstanworth Road. Nothing was bought at all, all the wood was cut from odd pieces of timber like floorboards, pitch was obtained, heated at camp, and run into the joints of the 'cover' before it was tacked on. There were no refinements like brass screws or copper tacks, although thick paint helped to complete the sealing. In late 1943, the canoe was launched, the frame having been towed down on trailer wheels and fixed to the substantial gents cycle of Scout

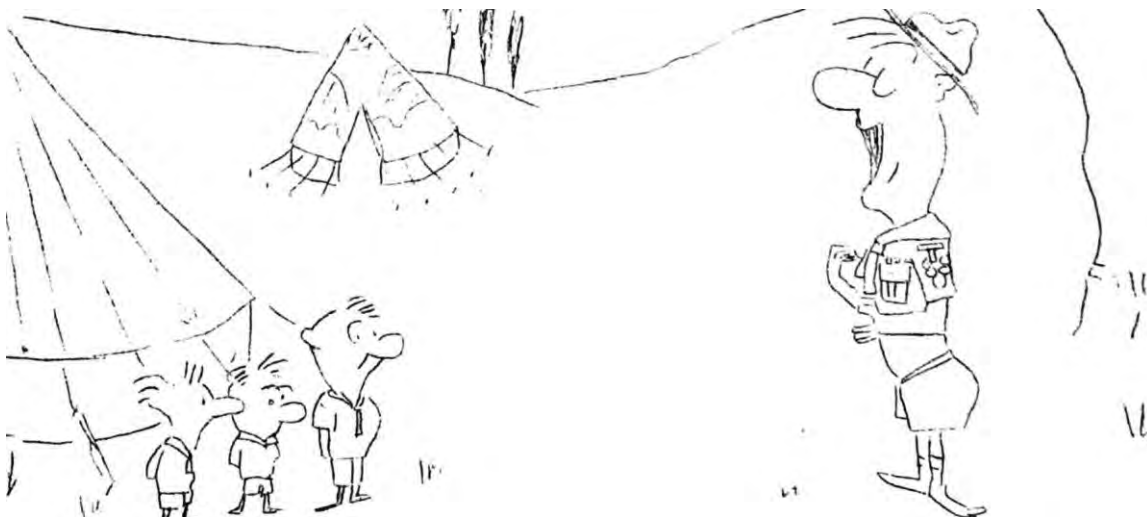
D Saunders. It was a great success – rather heavy – its cost was 1/6d. to make. It measured 12' in length and had a beam of 28". Permission was given to store it alongside the farm.

Very rarely did any Scouters camp at these weekends; most of the camps were entirely organised and run by the Court of Honour. Our leaders were usually tied up with work or, in the case of the SM, Home Guard duties at weekends.

It seems odd to comment upon camping so much in these years but it WAS the main activity of the summer. One can recall the decision to camp the next weekend being made at one camp during the year. Someone had the bright idea of leaving one Bell tent up for the 7 days to save the trouble of erecting it the following Saturday. For some reason, the camp was not held until the following week – 14 days later. The Bell tent was still there and so were 3,000 earwigs nestling in the top cone of the tent.

The Troop once slept in a spare bedroom of Low Moor on a rather late in the year camp in 1943, hams which were hanging up on hooks above them, dropped maggots during the night onto the blankets of sleepers – no one had sleeping bags or rucksacks in those days – there were none.

The cook wants three volunteers . . . ?



Camping as frequently brought another problem. The R.C.A.F. had stepped up their bombing missions to about maximum capacity. If they were 'operational' during Saturday evenings, we were unlucky – and they often were operational during 1943 and 1944. The first indication (as everything was secret during the war) was the revving up of Halifax engines for about an hour before take-off, then, for the next hour of the constant stream of loaded aircraft, often up to 45 in number would drone off the aerodrome, almost over the camp, if the prevailing wind came from the West, as it nearly always does. The bombers would gather in flights and set course for some distant target.

During 1943, and the next two years, you could almost calculate where they had been by the length of time from their

departure to return – a long time meant Berlin, when they would return in the early hours, the last crippled bombers circling for two hours after the first home, it was pointless trying to sleep.

We would count the bombers off on departure, then get out of bed to count them in again on landing – on most operations there were a few missing. We knew that each carried 7 men!

It was quite normal to see a Halifax ‘pancaked’ into field on the way to camp between Neasham and Low Moor – some did not make the last few miles to base. This was the main impact the R.C.A.F. made on the 8th in wartime, a very impressionable one indeed.

The 29th Annual Camp in 1943 was from the 4th-11th August and attended by about 20 of the Troop. We used the oak framed ‘cube’ shaped tent as a food store. Although this tent (bought in June 1936) had a rather heavy folding frame, it formed a 6’ cube and as it was green canvas was permissible at this time of regulations.

Occasionally, one or two paid a visit to the Lyric Cinema in Middleton-St. George, or to the shop for supplies. One PL could not return on such a journey as the River Tees had risen in spate over 4’ higher, possibly due to Teesdale rains. The PL had to walk round via the Toll Bridge, a distance of nearly 5 miles, to get back to camp.

On 14th/15th August, the Selwyn Austin Camping Competition was held on Hummersknott (still not yet built on). Our friends in the 1st Darlington won the Trophy.

The Scout Sports, held in September, again eluded us as we were not in the first three in any of the events, the 7th, 19th and 6th taking the three trophies.

Our TL was still a member of the Air Scout Patrol when a special Air Scout Camp was held at Durham on 5th September. Air Scouts wore special insignia and dark navy berets, which was the first time the beret made an appearance.

During the early Autumn, our SM told us of the proposed new scheme for Senior Scouting, to be brought out in a few years. The SM had been informed of this at a District Meeting.

In September 1943 the status of the Troop was:-

OFFICERS	W Wilson SM	TIGERS:-	E Turnbull PL
	W H Fisher ASM		D Midcalf Sec
	R Midcalf Rover		D Saunders
	E Readshaw Inst.		D Hague
	R W Smith Inst.		D Readshaw
	R Robinson TL		J Hague
			J Cook
			J Owen

OWLS:-

J W Henderson PL
S R Moore Sec.
W Hurworth
K Robinson
G S Smith
D Toase
J Metcalfe
B Simpson

SWIFTS:-

J N Beadle PL
A Readshaw Sec.
F A Beadle
J S Stelling
C A Midcalfe
K Tyson
B Howson
C Barker

Subscriptions were still 1d. per week, although there was no need to raise it at this time, it appears. There was no food to buy in bulk for camps – even sweets were rationed. There was no sugar, we used saccharin tablets to sweeten things. We had no transport problems, in using trek carts and bicycles, we did not pay any rent according to the fact known at that time for our use of the Old School as a meeting place.

During the winter months, several of the P.L.s and Seconds, who were over 16, were again engaged in the compulsory activity of 'Firewatching'. This was not as good as it sounds in winter. It entailed sleeping at designated A.R.P. points situated in large buildings, to be ready for any incendiary bombs which might fall during air-raids. One can remember our PLs doing duty at Binns Stores, James Furnishing Stores and even the Old School in the centre of Cockerton Green. Those on duty still had to leave at 6.30 a.m. to be at work for 7.30 a.m., feeling rather tired after an uncomfortable night on a canvas bed, supplied for the 'Firewatchers'.

Collections of this and that started again; the Troop commenced collecting old toothpaste tubes again about this time in addition to the regular razor blade collection.

1944

In February, the Cockerton Old Folks' Treat occupied the Troop in its Annual good turn. It is difficult to determine if it was held in the Old School Buildings, although this appears to be the case, as the army occupied every available place.

On 23rd April, St. George's Day was held at the Salvation Army Citadel and attended by the Troop.

The Ferrier Ambulance Trophy competition was held on the 29th but the 8th did not take part. There were only 3 teams, as there were not many Troops in town. 1st and 2nd were the 2nd Darlington's A and B teams, the 19th Troop being 3rd.

Several will recall attending Empire Youth Sunday in the Majestic Cinema on 21st May. During this month Lord Somers, the Chief Scout, died and Lord Rowallan was appointed as the new Chief.

We had one or two evacuee Scouts in our Troop. These boys were from densely populated areas, and stayed for the remainder of the War. Conversely, Harry Bygate, one of our Troop, went to Canada as an evacuee in 1942; occasionally he came home on holiday and visited the Troop.

The Troop entered the Junior Relay, Senior Relay, Tug of War and Sports Pennant although did not win anything in the events.

One can recall 8th Scouts helping in the Cockerton Area on the Red Cross and St. John's Flag Days.

During Whitsuntide 1944, the Troop camped at the other side of the River Tees at Low Middleton, as a Guide Company were wanting to camp at Low Moor. Mrs. I Jameson had been a Guide Captain for many years previously and connected with the 26th Company, which met at Cockerton too. The restrictions on camouflage were lifted that year as the risk of air attack receded, so we used white (or rather grey) bell tents for the Guides on loan from the Troop. Two tents were used and both erected by the Troop as a good turn for the Guides who were unable to sort out the problem of 24 guylines on a bell tent!

A hike to do haymaking took place from camp one weekend in May 1944, up the road from Low Middleton to Dinsdale and then along past the aerodrome to Eaglescliffe.

PL Henderson was fond of getting up early to gather mushrooms for the Troop's breakfast.

After this camp, we again camped at the other side of the river at Low Moor until later that year. Those in the Troop will remember the gramophone loaned by Miss Jameson from the Rose Hill Farm on the hill top. We only had about four records and eventually we were thoroughly fed up with 'Whistling Rufus', The Whistler and his Dog, Why do I whisper Green Grass and Oh Bless you for being an angel.

On 6th June, the advent of the Allied Invasion of Normandy indicated that the war would end, at least, sometime soon.

Also in 1944, the restrictions on distance were lifted on camping, so the first 'distant' camp for many years was to take place, of course, in the Lake District. Although Bill Wilson, our SM, was rarely at weekend, Easter or Whit camps, he did all the arrangements for the 1944 Summer Camp in Borrowdale.

This involved getting most of the gear back to the Troop Store in Cockerton although sufficient was left at Low Moor for any camps after the Annual Camp had been held.

Only six boys and SM Bill Wilson attended the 30th Annual Camp in Borrowdale, camping just below Stonethwaite Village in the field used several times by the Troop. Leaving North Road Station at 6.30 a.m. on the train, they arrived later in the day at Keswick, then on by bus to Stonethwaite Lane ends. The SM did not arrive until the Thursday of this Saturday to Saturday camp. There were only a few people camping there – or even in the whole of Borrowdale at that time – unlike now. Hikes were to Great Gable, Watendlath via Greenup Edge, climbs were Eagle Crag, Glaramara and Tarn Hows. The boys attended a service at the C. of E. Church at Stonethwaite.



Trek cart party Annual Camp, Borrowdale 1944

(taken in Stooperdale Avenue: the shortage of correct uniforms at that time is very apparent)

Left to right: Edwin Turnbull P.L., Colin Barker in foreground, William Henderson P.L., William Wilson S.M., Frank Beadle Sec., Douglas Saunders Sec., Jack Dent.



Reconstructed photograph taken in 1974:
Showing a typical camp of the 1940–44 period at Low Moor Farm,
with the original camouflaged Bell Tents.
View towards Rose Hill Farm.

On the Tuesday night, a very bad thunderstorm took place with the nearby streams becoming torrents in minutes as they would in the Lakes. The PL and Sec. of one Patrol stayed in camp whilst the rest did a longer hike on Thursday with the SM. The uniform was very mixed indeed in those days – being all we could obtain,

Apples were picked that autumn at Manner's Farm on Staindrop Road to help funds, although only three boys went at any one time.

In September 1944, the Troop had changed very little apart from having several new members and the older ones being called up for National Service. We knew that the PLs, all of whom were 17, would soon be answering the request.

<u>TIGER</u>	E Turnbull	<u>OWL</u>	W Henderson	<u>SWIFTS</u>	J Beadle
	D Midcalfe		F Beadle		A Readshaw
	D Saunders		W Hurworth		G Stelling
	D Hague		K Robinson		C Midcalfe
	J Hague		G Smith		K Tyson
	J Cook		J Metcalfe		B Howson
	J Owen		B Simpson		C Barker
	A Barker		A Bainbridge		J Morgan
	R Soanes		J Dent		T Soanes
	M Jeffles		E Biggs		D Hamilton
	D Brown				
<u>OFFICERS</u>	W Wilson SM				
	H Fisher ASM				
	R W Smith Inst.				
	R Robinson TL				

1945

We started 1945 with the usual collections of war effort items. Then in February the District ran a Scout and Guide P.L.s Social on the 24th, which was enjoyed.

During the early part of the year, PLs Bill Henderson and E Turnbull joined the Army for two years or so.

The St. George's Day Parade took place at St. Luke's Church on 22nd April.

Camping started again at Low Middleton on the Eastern Bank of the River Tees. The actual site was just downstream from the old dovecot which still stands in the field. Provision for the storage of gear and the canoe was made in the loft of the barn at the farm.

One recalls that the farm owned a monkey which amused the Scouts with its antics each time we were at camp. Early in the year before Whitsuntide, some doubtful campers pitched their tent nearby so a guard was organised in two hour sessions. Those on guard from midnight to 2.00 a.m. will remember the 3 gallon dixie, used as a seat, hurtling into the river at dead of night as the sitter raised himself. Douglas Saunders swum about for it and the lid, until Edwin Turnbull abandoned the security idea at 2.30 a.m.

Some of the younger scouts dug a sizeable tunnel in the soft bank side, it was illuminated with candles, although no one had heard of 'great escapes' at that stage of the war.

Food was still a problem. Points were given in each ration card for 'tinned stuff'. Everyone got 9 points per week or thereabouts so one could not have unlimited amounts of tinned beans at will. Sweets were also still rationed at 2 oz. per week. Stew was still the main dish at camp due to not knowing what would be pooled at the start of each weekend. It all went into a 3 gallon dixie; one Scout had a habit of stirring stew with a cleaned scout staff from a standing position.

On 8th May, 1945, V.E. Day (Victory in Europe) was celebrated although the war with Japan still continued to make the main theme of news headlines and general conversations.

The Whitsuntide Camp in 1945 was again a branch out from the normal weekend camp at Low Middleton. A site at Low Whita Farm, Healaugh, in Swaledale, was used. A lorry was used to take the equipment, possibly the first time we had used one since 1939. About 18 attended the camp, mostly the Scouts who had cycles as a means of transport.

Camping continued through the summer at Low Middleton, one enterprising PL (PL F Beadle, Owl Patrol) camping solo during July. Other camps were attended by up to 18 Scouts.

Although National Service was a drain on Patrol Leaders (one usually only attained this rank by the age of 17) more than half the Troop were over 15 years of age at this time and a good number of older boys were attracted.

On 15th August, the war with Japan ended with celebrations for V.J. Day (Victory Japan) although things like ration books would be with us for a long time yet.

In the Sports in September, the 8th managed to come 3rd in the Senior Relay, so other Troops must have had many older boys too.

During December, 1945, PLs F Beadle and D Midcalfe took a trek cart to Low Middleton to return the gear for the remainder of the winter, the canoe being brought back at that time on top of the equipment. Troop equipment was now stored from early 1945 in a room at the rear of the Sunday School down Aston Terrace.

1946

Oddly enough this was one of the leanest years that the Troop had possibly ever had. The War was over although nearly everyone was either still in the forces or about to go in.

During the early part of the year, Bill Wilson and Harry Fisher began to find it difficult to attend Troop meeting. Both eventually had to move out of town due to their employment. Ron Smith took over as Act. SM and John Beadle divided his time between the Troop and A.T.C.

There were still the usual stalwarts that the Troop always seemed to have. Frank Beadle went into the forces in early 1946.

Instructors were Douglas Saunders & Derek Midcalfe. The PLs and Seconds were members of many moons, such as Keith Robinson, George Stelling, Brian Howson, John Morgan, Colin Midcalfe and Mark Scarr, all of whom had been members of the Troop for 6 years or more.

Badges which were generally gained during the war years had been:- Handyman (journey to Aycliffe), Plumber, Engineer, Healthyman, Carpenter, Friend to Animals, Ambulance, Athlete, Gardener, Marksman, Metalworker, Artist, and Wirelessman. It is interesting to note these from records and draw comparisons of trends with other eras.

The First Class badge tests were done at Raby Park (apart from the journey) up to 1943.

Empire Youth Sunday was held at St. Cuthbert's in May and an Association Wide Game at Hummersknott in June. The 6th and 7th won every sports trophy between them.

Perhaps the most significant thing in 1946 was the issue of a new booklet entitled 'OVER 15' which (unknown then) was to shape our over 15 Scouting for the next 20 years. It included the first mention of 'Senior Scouts'.

In October 1946, the badge scheme and Troop age range was changed for the first time since 1908. Instead of 11 to 18, it would now be 11 to 15, followed by Senior Scouting from 15 to 18. The Senior Scout uniform was very attractive, having the usual khaki shirt, although with a maroon epaulettes, square maroon badges, maroon berets and garter tabs, the stockings still being dark blue with two green bands.

During October, our friends, the R.C.A.F., left Middleton St. George to return home, the aerodrome being taken over by the R.A.F. with Gloster Meteor jets – the very first jets seen.

Several weekend camps were held during the year although there was no summer camp.

1947

This was a year for gathering momentum again. The Troop met in the Methodist Sunday School Rooms on Friday evenings at 7.00 p.m.

Winter activities included jam jar collecting which created storage problems, there being insufficient room in the two 'small rooms' at the rear of the Methodist Church.

On Friday, 21st February, an evening with St. Mary's Guide Company provided a good winter party.

The record book of that time tells us that subs. were still 1d. per week, although Scouters also paid the fee of 3d. each week.

St. George's Day was held at Holy Trinity Church and was attended by the Troop.

Other Troops must have been in the same boat for adult Leaders as only the 6th Bondgate entered the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy that year - naturally they won it. There were few

entries in the Selwyn Austin Shield too. The trophy was won by the 7th, who, with the 6th, won the Sporting events.

During September, the new statuette trophy known as the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy was completed for the first time. It was jointly won by the 19th and 9th.

Annual camping was not carried out to any extent during that year and to look at the records, which are few, it was one of the 'down' years for the 8th. Blame Hitler! Nearly every person who had been between 18 and 45 was still in the forces and this included a lot of the main body of the 8th from 1939 – everyone who had attained the age of 18 during those years had gone into the forces to do a two years stint.

We looked forward to a better year in 1948.

During the year, Bill Wilson, SM, moved to Hull and Ron Smith took over as SM. Harry Fisher also moved away about the same time.

This book cannot go without comment on these two men, steeped in the methods and traditions of the 8th as youngsters in the middle 30's. They carried on this tradition and the 8th remained unbroken during its leanest and most difficult years. Bill and Harry carried on from the year 1940, a year of great change in the Group, fantastic depletion of experience and the guidance of a GSM snatched away at that time.

The fruits of their efforts to keep the Troop moving along in an enthusiastic way bear testimony in the fact that 50% of it joined as 11 year olds in 1940.

The Senior Scout scheme was now well settled in but 11 to 15 year olds and 15 to 18 year olds met together in one Troop.

The jumble sale in November was good for the funds and the Christmas Party in December ended the year.

1948

If the year before had been a moderate year for activities the extremely hard winter of 1947 had not helped either. This, however, did not deter the Group from having a very progressive year in 1948, being stronger on many new aspects before the end of the year.

Senior Scouting, commenced two years ago, was flourishing in the Group. Many young men were coming to the end of their life in the Senior Section and looked for other ways to ensure the 8th maintained its progress, yet others were still sweating it out in H.M. Forces, as demob seemed to much longer in its completion than enlistment.

Equipment was carefully looked at early in the year; some of it had not been used since 1939. Bell tents were repaired in various places, especially the white ones used towards the end of 1945 and the year following.

The Whitsuntide Camp arrangements were entirely in the hands of Keith Robinson as Senior TL with John Morgan, Bryan Howson and several other stalwarts helping.

16 boys attended the Whitsuntide camp on a fine weekend at the new site for the 8th – Alwent Hall Farm, near Staindrop. The programme included boating, games and badge tests and was carried out by these older Senior Scouts.

Two former members were demobbed the week before and after the Whitsuntide camp. They were Frank Beadle and Eric Easthill, who could be seen every Friday as from that week. Frank Beadle took over as ASM to Ron Smith SM, who found it difficult to get to meetings as he was working at Newcastle.

The need for more camping and a permanent site was very apparent so Keith Robinson's father obtained the use of a camp at the East side of Darlington. The farm was called (strangely enough) HUNGER HILL! The first weekend camp was held there over the weekend, 26th/27th June and the farmer, Mr. W Pounder, looked at the uniformed boys as they arrived for a weekend camp – we are still using Hunger Hill 27 years later. He agreed to supply milk and to store our equipment in his loft – the 8th were in business again with a Group Camp site.

The next weekend camp was the 17th/18th July when a start was made to repair the oak bridge over the beck called Neasham Stell. This would give access to the Ashdale Plantation. Rather nostalgic – the date etched into the spars of this old bridge was '1915'; no doubt, it was used in timber operations in that year, when the wood was presumably endowed with heavy deciduous trees. The wood had been used as an army training area in the last war as many old mortar bombs and trenches were evident and, at first, quite a worry.

It was the obvious choice to hold the 34th Annual Camp at the Hunger Hill site, not very ambitious and possibly the nearest Annual Camp to Darlington in the Group's history. However, the time factor and the need to develop the site decided on this location. This camp took place from 24th – 29th August and although only 9 attended, much work and training was undertaken with ASM Beadle in charges and Ron Smith, SM, able to spend one weekend with the Troop.

A further weekend camp was held there on 14th – 15th August, another on 28th – 29th August, with the final weekend camp over the weekend, 18th – 19th September – we had made our mark on Hunger Hill.

The majority of the Troop were now well versed in the art of camping, the 8th having been of the opinion that the only way to learn to camp – was to CAMP! There are no short cuts or theoretical methods, it is essentially a practical skill.

Eric Easthill was asked to form the Cub Pack again and this he agreed to do. So after a lapse of 9 years the Pack was restarted in September with Eric as CM and the able assistance of John Morgan yet a Senior Scout.

The Methodist Church was approached with a view to running a Pack from 6.00 p.m. to 7.30 with the Troop following and changing to a later start than previously from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

This was adequate for meetings but still left us without anywhere to hold meetings other than on Friday evenings. Frank Beadle obtained the use of an outhouse to the rear of the shop on the Green next to Aston Terrace. This was ideal, it measured about 12' x 10' and the tenants of No. 45 gave the Troop all the help we needed and the building was rent free.

Although the lady still did her washing there each week, most of the winter was spent making the place look scouty with a settee, birch framed hide notice board, bookshelves, table and a coke stove, although we had to supply lighting at first.

The idea of the 'Badger' Patrol commenced and every Saturday evening saw a training evening for PLs and Secs. These were always well attended meetings before the age of television.

Meanwhile, the Pack had grown quickly to 20 boys before the end of the year with many potential Scouts ready to fill the ranks of the Troop.

Ron Smith was finding it more difficult to attend Troop meetings because of working away from the town, and as none of the other Leaders in the Group were yet 21 years of age, F Beadle approached former member to fill the post of GSM vacant since Ray Pawson had passed away 8 years before.

Leslie D Williamson agreed to act as a temporary GSM but declined to take on the job fully although he would (and did) help as much as he could. A founder member of the Group, Les was again back in harness although not in uniform. His advice and wisdom was to prove of value for many years to come and his background in the 8th would ensure that tradition was indeed maintained.

The year ended with a Scout Group in the fullest sense of the word of nearly 70 boys and adults; regular meetings of the Scouters were held on Sunday mornings, Patrol Leaders' meetings and Sixers' meetings during the week.

1949

Early in the year a busy outline programme of activities soon took shape.

The training during 1948 began to reveal itself in badge presentations and numerous hikes. In fact, 10 boys had undertaken the First Class Journey hike by the beginning of the year, two of them taking the test solo. Log books in those days were inspected by the District Scout Secretary and were to be fully illustrated, written with all timings and mileage, even then handed in within 7 days of the actual journey.

During the winter, a GSM (new to the town) approached the 8th with a view to its members taking part in a proposed 'Gang Show' for the town. His name was Horace Robinson and he hailed from Newcastle. He explained what a Gang Show was, the 8th responded, and rehearsals began in January for a show in May. These rehearsals took place in Eastbourne Schools.

The Easter Camp was essentially a Training Camp, held at Hunger Hill, attended by 14 boys and yet three other weekend

camps took place before the Whitsuntide Camp, which shows the thirst of the 8th for the great outdoors!

At the beginning of the year the Group stood as follows:-

SCOUTERS & SENIORS

R W Smith SM
F A Beadle ASM
A Bertram Inst.
K Robinson PL (S)
B N Howson Sec. (S)
J Morgan
M Scarr
C Midcalf
C Hodgson

OTTERS

K Roberts PL
B Stephenson Sec.
N Bell
H Smith
F Holdsworth
A Morgan
T Buddle
C Robinson
A Young

OWLS

J Frankish PL
E Bell Sec.
J Witty
C Moore
P Richardson
M Easby
S Washburn
R Musgrave
E Stockley

SWIFTS

B Noddings PL
D Mais Sec.
R Longstaff
D Nassau
C Wilson
D Clapton
S Johnson
M Dodsworth

PROBATIONERS

B Kemp
B Johnson
D Allinson
K Gibson
E Hayes
P Diamond
G Elstob
F House

CUB PACK

E Easthill CM
24 Cubs

L D Williamson
Act GSM

The Senior Patrol took the name of Grenfell, the Patrols for Senior Scouting being named after famous men. Although holding its own meetings, it was an integral part of the Scout Troop, yet many of its members assisted with the Troop and Pack – they had to – there were no other Scouters!

One of the weekend camps at Hunger Hill early in the year was for Senior Scouts only, which indicates that they did want to do some training on their own as well as within other sections.

During March, F Beadle and B Howson attended a Scouters P.T.C. Basic Course at St. Mary's Grammar School.

The two teams entered for the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy and trained by Mr. F Mais and Mr. G Bell, came 2nd and 3rd respectively, certainly a very good showing with two teams.

Then towards the end of March, F Beadle took over as SM of the Scout Group.

The Whitsuntide camp was held this year at Low Whita Farm, Low Row, in Swaledale, a favourite haunt of the 8th since before 1920. 24 attended the camp and it enjoyed good weather most of the time; tradition was broken by travelling both ways on a hired lorry. The Group Marquee had its first regular camp since 1939 and provided a useful HQ apart from the fact that the wall poles had been mislaid during its 10 years of storage. The two camouflaged Bell tents were still at many camps for a lot of years yet, however.

Soon after the camp, the SM and Senior Scout B Howson cycled to Lake Semmerwater in Wensleydale to arrange for the Annual Camp for 1949. They were successful in finding a fair spread at Low Blean Farm near the lake.

In May, the first production of 'Spotlight on the Gang' took place in Eastbourne Schools as an untried District venture. It played to full houses, F Beadle and 7 boys taking part in what we now knew to be a Gang Show.

Some of the Cub Pack were now ready to go up into the Scout Troop, although this change was left until later in the year.

Entering the District Scout Sports again, the Troop won the Junior Relay Cup; the team being made up of Syd. Washburn, Peter Richardson, Ron Longstaff and Peter Diamond. Placings were favourable in many of the other events on 9th July.

Four weekend camps were held between the Whitsuntide Camp and the end of September. Training was the main theme of these two day camps at Hunger Hill, the Backwoodsman Badge being a firm favourite with accommodation in brushwood shelters in the wood, a pleasant way to spend the night.

In July, F Beadle, K Bertram, K Robinson and B Howson set off on a quest which eventually took them 180 miles in one short period of 24 hours. The idea was to look for camp sites used by the 8th along the Northumberland Coast before the war.

After a very early start and walk to town, a lift was hitched (as allowed in those days) to Alnwick, thence the bus to the village of Embleton, to scour the area via Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle, keeping in mind likely places for the future. A bit of 8th tradition here – the 8th did have something, but it certainly was not an abundance of cars!

The 25th ANNUAL CAMP took place at Semmerwater from 30th July to 6th August, attended by 19, including the Staff, composed of F Beadle, A Bertram, Rover Scout and B Howson, a Senior Scout.

We were lucky in being able to use a folding pontoon boat on the lake. This craft was ex W.D. and about 16' long. It was handy for transporting wood across the lake instead of carrying it round.

The camp was mainly wet and windy with a fairly strenuous hike on the Wednesday via Countersett village, Drumaldrace Fell and Sledale Beck to Gales village, visiting Hardraw Scar Waterfall at Hawes and having tea there. The return journey took us through Burtsett village and another strenuous fell to climb.

Thursday saw the Camp Sports under way and enjoyed all afternoon followed by a wide game until supper time.

Scouting activities filled the Friday with preparations for striking camp towards the end of the day. As usual, on Saturday, the sun came out to give us the finest day yet. The lorry arrived at 4.00p.m. and we were on our way back to Darlington.

The Group was beginning to branch out again into County events, with F Beadle, A Bertram and B Howson helping on the staff of a large County scheme for Senior Scouts, held in Teesdale and ending in Raby Park at the Western end. Colin Midcalf was the only 8th Senior Scout actually taking part as a Senior, early in September.

The Troop came second out of seven teams in the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy. The team was very ably led by Keith Robinson, with Brian Howson, Gerald Elstob, Colin Midcalf, Kenneth Roberts and Brian Stephenson. It was held the week end after the County Scheme for Senior Scouts.

Always short of money, the 8th turned to Jumble collecting as the usual means of remedy for this. Handbills were printed to be delivered early in October with collection the week after. The Sale was the first for some time and the proceeds were very good when counted on 11th November, being then divided between the Pack and the Troop.

At this time, all our Scouters (apart from the Act. GSM) were very young, the average age being 20 years. They needed some relaxation with chaps of their own age; we also had several young men 'older than the permissible Senior Scout age' becoming interested in joining the 8th.

Alan Bertram was now a Rover Scout, although invested with the Kipling Rover Crew in the District. He was keen, along with others, to start a fourth section of the Group. So to this end, he and Eric Easthill set forth to find a suitable Rover Den in Cockerton to be separate from the Troop Den in Aston Terrace.

Through the kindness of Mr. Charles W Tweddle, they were given the use of a vacant cottage at 39, Cockerton Green. The Group had not moved far within its 39 years as they had used the laundry next to this cottage as far back as 1915. The Crew Den, the Troop Den, Meeting Hall and Equipment Store were all in 100 yards of each other – still a real Cockerton Group.

The very first meeting of the re-formed Rover Crew took place in their newly acquired HQ on 16th October, 1949, just 10 years after the Crew had been stood down due to a state of war (not in the Crew incidentally!) The remainder of the winter was a busy time for all over 18 years of age. A lot of work was done in the 600 year old six roomed cottage which once belonged to Harrison's, the Florists. The original signboard was repainted with the Crew Title and replaced above the door.

It was an interesting Den, the walls being two feet thick with adze hewn beams projecting through the low ceilinged bedrooms. Lighting was by gas mantle, fireplaces were put right, several easy chairs appeared and a kitchen was developed at the far end. Needless to say, as our present 1975 HQ, the building had at one time been a Cockerton Public House known as the 'Doctor Syntax' many moons ago.

Meetings of the Rover Crew were held each week during the winter, membership increased at an encouraging rate, attracting chaps on demob from H.M. Forces. Eric Easthill asked Charles Ashton, a former Rover from elsewhere, to get the Crew under way. This he did, although everyone had a specific task to do, including such jobs as gasman, fuel officer, catering bod.

By the end of the winter, the Crew membership was as follows:-

C Ashton RSL	B N Howson
A R Bertram RM	R Elsberry
E Easthill (also CM)	G Stelling
F Beadle (also SM)	D Midcalf
J Morgan (also ACM)	C Midcalf
K Robinson	J Robson
C Hodgson	
J Beadle	

Activities were many and varied – duplicating on the original machine which produced the magazine in the 30s, making a canoe, hiking, cycling and of course the weekly cleaning rota.

Not satisfied with having four sections of the Group in good shape and running well, it was decided to form a Committee of Parents of the Scouts and Cubs. So in November the Group had the inaugural meeting of the PARENTS COMMITTEE, this was to become the real mainstay of the Layside of the Group for the future. F Beadle asked Les D Williamson to become Chairman of the Committee and steer it from this first meeting. Les agreed as usual and a Secretary/Treasurer was found in Mrs. V Rowling at this very first meeting.

This help of Layperson was not of course new, when we remember the grand team headed by the late Mrs. Pawson before the war. As before, it was the natural outcome of others who were just wanting to help the 8th, because it was worth helping!

The Seniors held an inter Troop Party with the 3rd St. Mary's Senior Troop, strong at that time and headed by Neil Martin, who gained the King's Scout badge for the 3rd that year.

The Scout Troop and Cub Pack held hikes in the autumn with the Senior Troop rounding the outdoor year off with a Y.H.A. hike.

The year closed with the Group Christmas Party, which included a sketch, shadow show, and presentation of the C D Pawson Cup to the Swift Patrol. This presentation was made by Percy W Brigham, the guest of honour. The Parents Committee did a splendid job with the eatables.

CHAPTER 5 – THE FIFTIES

1950

January saw a winter camp at Hunger Hill in Bell tents with a layer of straw between two groundsheets to keep off damp. The Troop also held its usual monthly hike in January.

As soon as the year began, several of the Scouters, Rovers and Scouts were in the cast of the 1950 Gang Show, this time to be staged in the Hippodrome Variety Theatre, Parkgate.

The Crew Annual Dinner was held in the Crew Den and consisted of 12 courses cooked by the Crew themselves. It ended at 2:30 a.m. when the wood supply for the fire was all used up!

The Cub Pack was now arranging to send more 11 year olds to the Scout Troop in March and numbered 28 Cubs. Extra training meetings were held in the Troop Den in Aston Terrace. The Senior Troop were now using this as a Den too, just going into the Scout Troop Meeting in the Methodist Hall for the final game of Bulldog – normally!

Troop equipment was still stored in two toilets to the rear of the Methodist Sunday School, whilst the Pack and Rover Crew had their own separate gear and accounts.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bell and Mr. Mais had been busy since before the New Year training an Ambulance Team within the Troop to compete in the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy. This Trophy was presented by Mrs. J T Ferrier in memory of her husband killed at Dunkirk in 1940. He was SM of the 16th Darlington.

The 8th Team, ably lead by Derek Mais, won the Ferrier Trophy and afterwards had their photographs taken at Taylor's studios – a real feather in the cap of the 8th again.

March and April provided as usual a busy time for all. Bob-A-Job, introduced in 1949 as a fundraiser, was again

taken up with great enthusiasm by the Pack Troop and Seniors as well as our Rover Scouts – everyone in the Group did their Bob-A-Job, the proceeds going into section funds.

The theme of the Troop Training Camp at Hunger Hill was this year to be Pioneering, much special equipment having been obtained by begging and buying. The Troop could muster a fair show of pulley blocks and cordage now.

The camp was wet although again attended by 100% PLs and Sec., a total of 14 in all. At Easter the Rover Crew contented themselves with a hike-camp round Swaledale.

In May, the 1950 edition of Spotlight-on-the-Gang delighted the full audiences at the Hippodrome. It was decided to have a Gang Show every TWO years after this one – the 1949 and 1950 Shows proved far too much for a town the size of Darlington and it meant the one hardly finished with one show before the next and we had insufficient Scouts to have a separate cast each year.

The Whitsuntide Camp was held at Low Moor Farm, near Neasham, on the same site as the Troop had spent its wartime life. Some of the Rover Crew were in Camp on a rather wet weekend, made brighter by the official launch of F Beadle's canoe, named as Tees Ranger II. Keith Robinson, although an experienced Scout and Senior Scout was in camp as an ASM for the first time.

The Scouts Sports took place at St Mary's School in June with the 8th entering two Tug-of-War Teams, pulling out 8 of the opposing teams and then being just beaten by the 9th Troop.

The Rover Crew and Senior Troop combined in a fine Wide Game in and around Cockerton, one Rover was said to have been in guise of a 'tramp' although this cannot be verified. The entire event was a huge success.

Several weekend camps were held at Hunger Hill including a separate Senior Troop Camp and Rover Crew Camp. We made very good use of this pleasant area just 7 miles from Cockerton yet within sight of the lights of Eastbourne Terminus during darkness.

The Troop ANNUAL CAMP for 1950 was held at East Witton from 29th July to 7th August. The farmer was a relative of PL Brian Hoddings. The actual site was on the banks of the River Cover about 1 mile below Middleham village.

Leaving Cockerton by Arthur Jackson's lorry on a fine day, we arrived at camp and set up tents and kitchen. A wide game was held during the following day after the attendance at church.

The canoe had to be taken over to the River Ure about 1 mile away, to be put in a day of swimming and canoes work on Monday, ending with a camp fire. Training, Sports and two hikes filled in the following days during which Rover A Bertram and ASM K Robinson had to leave before the end of the camp to go on holiday to London.

So ended another great camp of 10 days' duration, apart from M Hunter's Scout hat blowing of whilst the lorry was bringing us all back safe and sound to Cockerton.

The weekend of the 9th/10th September saw us again in camp at Brettanby Manor, Barton, for the District Camp. Many Troops did the journey by trek cart, the 1st Darlington arriving in the dark by 10.0 p.m. and the 8th helping them with the erection of tents. Mr Trevor Morris, the DC, gave the address of the Scouts' Own Service.

Towards the end of the year many changes took place in the accommodation of the Group. Skipper Frank Beadle heard that we might have to vacate the Troop and Pack Den in Aston Terrace, due to change of ownership of the shop which formed part of the house and had its frontage onto the Green.

A quest was made to find alternative accommodation for a Troop Den within the convenient bounds of Cockerton. The owner of a house across the Green was approached, this house being No.80 and had been vacant since the Nicholson family left about a year before. The old house from that day became the 8th Troop Den – at nil rent.

Aston Terrace was emptied of its scouty atmosphere and on the 8th October 1950, we moved our impedimenta across the Green, painted and decorated, to soon have a pleasing four roomed Den. The Pack and Troop would still have their main meetings in the Methodist Sunday Schoolroom of course, although by Christmas we also stored all the equipment in the new home, as the Methodist Church required the small room to the rear of the Sunday School.

No.80, Cockerton Green had a front room, behind this on the old concrete ground floor, was a kitchen complete with a very old and useful range, and an earthenware sink, adjoining the pantry. Upstairs there was a similar front room with fireplace, behind this was an excellent long bedroom of 23' x 12'. We were not allowed to go out through the back door to the garden and ash pit outhouse as it was the same garden as used by the Sleightholme family next door at No 82. Lighting was again by a lantern of the incandescent type, of which the Group had three before very long; heating was by wood and coal burning fires.

So in the period of three months, many changes had taken place. The move to No 80 as a Den was not realised by Frank Beadle and others at that time, to be the building to play such a significant part in the development of the 8th as a Group.

The Rover Crew had finished a busy year, with the two camps in the Weardale and Cockfield area respectively, the latter in putrid weather conditions. In addition to this, several hikes were held and a 7 man camp at the Durham County Training Ground at Brancepeth, the main activity being drain digging for the new ablutions block!

The annual Jumble Collection and Sale took place in November, also a collection of unwanted gramophone records in short supply at that time. If anything needed to be collected from the general public – the 8th has collected it at some time.

So ended a very busy year, with the Cub Pack, Scout Troop the Senior Patrol and the Rover Crew holding separate section

camps and hikes, were indeed a fully fledged complete Scout Group.

The year ended with the Pack Christmas Party being in full gear whilst the Scout Troop held a pie and pea supper in the tradition of the 8th in the new Troop Den, the Rover Crew holding its annual self-cooked dinner in their Den, although marriage and National Service began to take its toll on the Crew.

1951

During January, the Rover Crew Den at No 39, Cockerton Green was broken into and the gas meter rifled. Then in February, the Crew was given notice to quit, as the owner, Mr Charles W Tweddle needed the cottage for the intended original purpose of housing his employees. From early March the crew then met, with all their effect and impedimenta, in the Troop Den, still on Sunday evenings. They paid a small monthly rent to the Troop as No 80 was maintained solely by the Scout Section at that time. Rover Crew subs. were high – 6d. per week!

On 17th March, the Scout Troop were again successful in the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy, held in Gladstone Street School. The Team was led by Derek Mais and trained by Derek's father, Mr Fred Mais and Mr G E Bell, as last year.

On Easter Saturday, Bob a Job week commenced for the third year since 1949, with the 8th out in force. The Troop earned over £16, the Pack even more with Cub Edward Ross totalling over £5, the highest individual figure to date. For their Pack Total, a special inscribed green tape Trophy was gained by the Pack in the National IHQ Competition. Members of the Senior Troop could be seen gardening during the week, whilst the Crew did such jobs as fixing gates, doors and radios, according to the talent or bent of the Rover! The Group total earnings were well over £50.

The Troop Easter Training Camp took place from Good Friday. It was again held at Hunger Hill with trekking as the means of transport. 13 attended including all the P.L.s and Seconds in addition to the Staff under the SM. Four Patrol kitchens were constructed, the accent being on cooking, each PL and Sec working in one kitchen. Very poor weather did not mar the entire camp – although it helped, with frequent showers of rain, hail and a covering of snow on the Sunday morning. It should be remembered that no one wore long trousers in those days, it was just the accepted thing to wear shorts all the time. The Northern Despatch photographer caught us on the way back and again our mugs were in the press the next day.

The entire Group paraded at St. Paul's Church, North Road, on Sunday, 22nd April. After the service, Mr W French, the DC took the salute.

A weekend camp at Hunger Hill saw many of the Seniors and the Rovers felling acres of elderberry wood for the farmer, to clear land. This was a good turn for Mr Pounder who had now come to look forward to the 8th camping frequently on his land.

A careful look was taken at Group gear during the interim periods before the Whitsuntide and Annual Camps. Apart from the pre war Bell Tents, of which two were still camouflaged, there was the Marquee and the Pyramid. The Pack owned a large ex W.D. ridge and had been given a Nijer tent too, so in all we were very well off for tentage. Other things had been acquired which included a table with trestles and several 3-gallon dixies, which Keith Robinson had bought from Anelay's Cycle shop when it had closed down in 1949. Apart from this we now owned over 1,200 feet of heavy cordage, many pulley blocks and plenty of Patrol boxes displaying the insignia of each Patrol. There was also a collection of five bivouacs, for Patrol food tents.

The Whitsuntide camp was soon upon us, the camp being held from Friday evening, 11th May to Monday, 14th May, with transport by Mr C Cracknell's van this time. The camp was held at Low Moor on the Troop wartime permanent site, between the same trees. Only 21 attended the camp on a fine warm weekend, the Patrol system of cooking was used fully with the marquee as a base, each Patrol having itself contained camp including a Bell, grub tent and separate kitchen. Good use was made of the SM's Kayak on the tranquil River Tees. It was also useful to have some of the Rover Crew in a separate sub-camp too. There were many highlights of the camp, not the least when PL Hudson made a roly poly pudding in his vest! another when the TL was accidentally 'cast off' in a barrel raft and waved as he set sail for presumably Middlesbrough. The lorry called at Hunger Hills on return to leave enough equipment in storage to serve 1951 weekend camps there.

Shortly after the camp, the Troop embarked upon a great Waste Paper Drive, a commodity still urgently needed. Two rooms in the Den were soon full, the ground floor room to the ceiling to support the floor above filled with paper also. This haul raised over £25 when the two tons in 19 different grades left the Den shortly afterwards.

The training of Scouters was becoming more apparent in this day and age, the thirst for knowledge extended to the 8th when F Beadle attended the Wood Badge course for 5 weekends at the County Training Ground at Brancepeth, where the Rover Crew put in a hard weekend's work now and again.

In June, the Troop and Senior Troop entered the District Scout Sports enthusiastically. This was a victorious day for the 8th. We were in the first three of all nine events which made up the Sport Pennant, and won it outright. We had two teams in the 'over 15' Senior Relay, our best team won, the second team being 5th out of 8 teams. We were Third in the Tug-of-War out of 12 Troops and 5th in the Junior Relay out of 20 teams – a day enjoyed by all the 24 boys of the 8th taking part in events.

The 1951 Annual Camp was held at the same site as last year on the River Cover, about a mile below Middleham. 24 attended the camp in good weather during the ten days. Activities included the Counterweight bridge with fingertip control and 20 ft. long, the Monkey Bridge, a visit to Middleham Castle, and the visit to three churches, Methodist, C of E and RC, in the area.

One of the highlights of the camp was a joint campfire with a Guide Company of nearly 50, at their camp, as the PLs felt they dare not cook supper for Guides. Two other camp fires of our own, a good long hike up Coverdale, with the traditional camp Sports Day completed another great camp. The Camp was in charge of F Beadle, SM, Bryan Howson, ASM Eric Easthill, CM and a newly demobbed Rover, John Beadle.

The Cub Pack had a really eventful year, with a successful all Cub Camp run by E Easthill and J Morgan as ACM Cubs went into the Troop in March, although 10 Cubs, of which four held the Leaping Wolf (the highest Cub award) entered the Troop at a ceremony in the first week in September.

Due to the lack of adult Leaders, the senior Troop met with the Boy Scout Troop from that date for a while, instead of separately. This created problems straight away as there were 48 in the Troop now in any case, although there was no alternative as we were short of Leaders.

Another weekend by Rovers and Seniors completed the elderberry wood undertaking at Hunger Hill in early September, the Crew were also busy on weeknights and other times helping Mr Tweddle with his harvest as a good turn for the use of their Den up to March of this year, a very worthwhile gesture after they had had the use of the premises.

The Pack settled down into its winter programme with 10 new boys swell its ranks again. The Troop recommenced its winter session of the 'Badger' Patrol training medium for PLs and Seconds on Tuesdays from 7.0 to 6.30, in uniform, of course.

The Group Parents Committee were again active with their regular Thursday evening Whist Drives in the Co-op Hall above the shop in West Auckland Road. Mrs Rowling, along with others, worked very hard to build up the patronage to a very good number. The Committee was again involved in the Troop November Jumble Sale which realised £18 for Troop funds.

Meanwhile, the Troop and Pack collected Rose Hips as a means of fund raising – you name it – the 8th has collected it!

The Rover Crew were not settling down into a winter of remorse either, meetings were well attended and a dinner cooked on the kitchen range in the Troop Den. Rover John N Beadle took over as RSL in November and the Crew with seniors over 17 years of age attended an enjoyable Rover/Ranger weekend at Hartlepool.

Christmas Cards were printed by the Crew bearing the Crew title for distribution to elderly people in Cockerton.

Rover Douglas Saunders, who joined the 8th as a boy in 1940, also got married that month.

The combined Pack, Troop and Crew Party in December filled the upstairs Methodist Hall with nearly 80 uniformed members, the Group Committee setting a goodly feast in the lower hall. Turns and short sketches were presented by all sections, with the Rovers doing an enacted version of a song to the tune of 'I wish I was -----'.

Les Williamson welcomed guests of honour, including Percy W Brigham, Mr W French, the DC, Mrs Ada Seymour, wife of the landlord of the Troop Den and Tom Harrison. Tom was also on the Group committee. Cub certificates were presented, PL Edward Bell was handed the Ambulance Trophy, PL Stan Hudson the Relay Trophy and Sec Keith Gibbon, the Sports Pennant. Nine Second Class and a First Class Badges were presented, TL Mike Richardson being the recipient of the First Class Badge.

Mr Brigham gave a short account of the Group Traditions and history before handing the C D Pawson Cup to the Eagle Patrol – so ended a fantastic evening and an equally inspiring year.

The Group Scouters had the word 'Cockerton' added to the title during the year – this was endorsed by IHQ and a long felt need.

1952

The year began with the Troop inviting the 3rd St Mary's Guide company to a joint evening on 11th January, with the same number of Guides as Scouts! ending with a camp fire, enjoyed by all. There is truth in the theory that Guides can sing better than Scouts – or is there?

16 of the Troop, Seniors and Rovers and Leaders were in the cast of 'Spotlight on the Gang 1952'.

In February, the Troop delivered invitations for the 50th Cockerton Old Folks' Treat, the Scouts helped at the function too.

The Troop delivered to almost 25% of the houses in Darlington handbills for the National Savings Campaign, another good turn.

One of the greatest highlights of the year was the 1952 Reunion of former members, many of those not having seen the Group or each other since 1939 when membership slumped from 85 to 24. Tom Harrison, Les Williamson and Frank Beadle compiled a list of over 400 names and addresses before invitations were posted. All Scouters, Rovers and 35 of the Troop were in the Methodist Schoolrooms to welcome over 100 old Scouts. Danny Pawson surprised everyone by actually wearing his 1920 uniform, opening his speech with 'I expect you are wondering why I put this on' Whereupon one wit at the back of the hall shouted 'No, we're wondering HOW you put it on!' The uniform was the same size, Danny had changed! Mr W French, the D.C., was an invited guest. Charles (60 spuds) Parker, in fine form, gave an address in his quiet witty way. Sketches and other items were presented by the Troop and Crew, although the main item was the showing of the original slides with Les Williams as the narrator – in addition to others! The Group Parents Committee put on a fine Pie and Peas Supper, after which Skipper Beadle ran a sing-song, undoubtedly one of the very best for years. collating songs like 'Just a song at twilight' with others of the early 1950 era.

The Troop Den was regularly cleaned each Saturday after-noon by a 'Duty Patrol' with supervision. The rooms had been developed with a 'scouty aspect', equipment being stored in the large bedroom on the first floor.

After being handicapped by very bad weather last Easter, the Training Course for this year was indoors! Low Moor Farm being vacant for a short while, the 8th occupied its rooms from Good Friday to Easter Monday. However, English weather being what it is, it was fine and warm for the whole four days. 15 attended the Course including the SM, ASM, TL Group QM and a third of the members of each Patrol as prospective future ranks – a new idea!

The ground floor rooms were used for kitchen, dining room, QM's Store and Wood Store respectively, with two not being used at all. The first floor was the PL's Dormitory, Cooks Dormitory, Scouters Dormitory and Chapel.

The Weekend was entirely successful, the finer arts of cooking reaching a high level, also the niceties of manners – the only skylarking being when the younger boys found their kit rolled into a huge 'easter egg' with their groundsheets and tied neatly at the top in a 6' diameter ball. It took over an hour to sort out the mess. Pioneering, canoeing and tracking filled the busy four day camp.

In the week commencing 19th May, the District presented 'Spotlight on the Gang' in the Hippodrome Theatre, playing to packed houses. The contribution to the all Scout cast of 100 by the 8th Group consisted of:-

F Beadle SM	J Hunter	A Dobson
J Morgan ACM	E C Ross	M Storey
J Beadle RSL	D Allison Sec.	C Robinson
R Lilley QM	S Bowes	I Emerson
D Clapton PL	J C Witty Sec.	J Hutchinson
A Morgan PL	K Gibbon Sec.	R Watson

A real milestone in the progress of the Group came with Mike Richardson receiving the King's Scout Certificate from Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, on 25th May. All credit is due to Mike as he joined at 13 years of age, really worked hard for this badge, undertaking the hike for the solo part of the Venturer Badge on his own at the dead of winter in Upper Teasdale. Mike was also Troop Leader – and no TL has ever been appointed in the 8th unless he is the right chap!

The Cub Pack, still in the capable hands of Eric Easthill and John Morgan, expanded to 32, although records of events are not very abundant for this year, although they did very well on Scout Job week. This varies according to the employer. One Cub who had dug a garden for 6 hours received 1/- for his work, the same boy, going home tired but smiling, was given a similar sum by a man who stopped his car to say it was good to see a smart smiling Cub –the general public do vary a lot!

The Troop Whitsuntide camp started at 5.30 p.m. on 28th May at the Troop Den. 34 boys and Scouters climbed onto a lorry and set forth for a beautiful site at Marske in Swale-dale. The tents, which included the camouflaged bells, held about 9 boys each during the camp. The lorry called at Earl's

Orchard in Richmond on the outward journey to deposit the kit of 20 of our Cubs who spent the weekend at this school Hostel. The Pack travelled by train to Richmond separately.

This camp was one of those memorable and enjoyable occasions that will live for ever in the thoughts of those who attended it – space can allow only small incidents of such splendid events in the annals of the 8th.

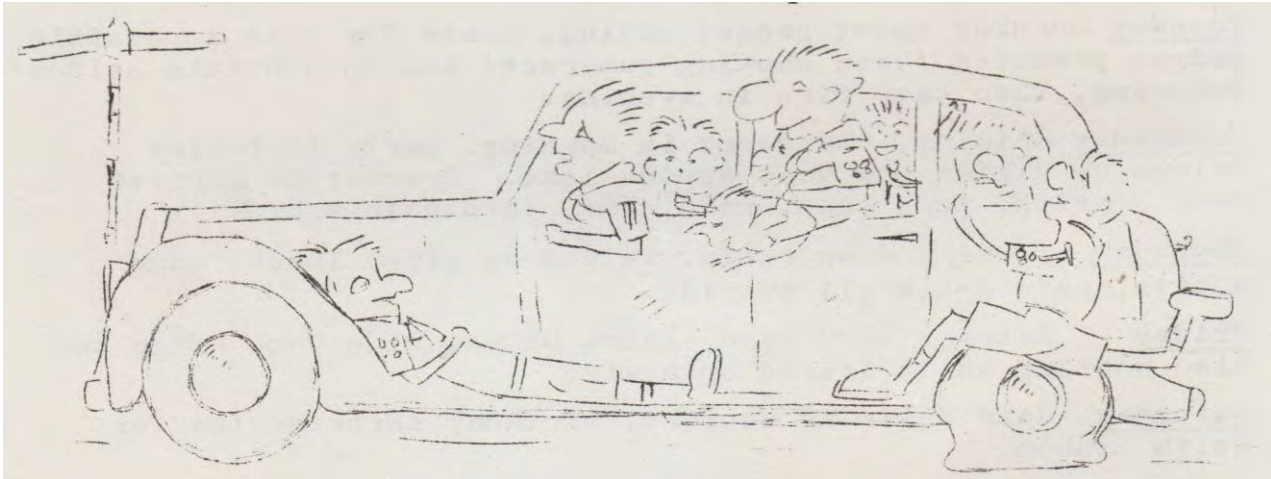
One can remember the Otter Patrol, who, when one of their number slept after lunch, kidded him on awakening that it was morning and he had slept in! They even set the 'stage' as far as making porridge and disarranging their beds. He was told to report to Skip for oversleeping, but so good was the ruse that the SM's persuasion was not heeded. He really did think it was early morning instead of late afternoon.

Ron Lilley has his motor cycle in camp, not a new thing to the 8th who had the odd motor cycle back in the early 1920s.

Apart from a rain storm on the Sunday, the camp was fine and warm.

Meanwhile, the Cubs had had a good weekend indoors at Earl's Orchard, with much hiking and general work. Over 60 boys were out of Cockerton that weekend.

No one had a car in the Group at this time apart from Les Williamson, our acting GSM and Advisor on everything. It was jolly useful to have a man who knew the 8th pre war, its traditions and hopes. Les used his car on countless occasions for the benefit of the Group.



No Group Garden Fete took place in 1952 because St Mary's Church were to have their bi-annual event. Although after our meagre fete in 1951, plans were already laid for the Fete in the year 1953. The Group Parents Committee was now established as a strong body of workers, ready to assist in any venture the Group planned.

The Troop did stage a first class model camp at the Guild of Old Scouts' Fete at Blackwell Grange. Mike Richardson was in charge with Edward Bell as his Second, the kitchen being a fine work of art with prepared gadget wood.

On the same weekend, six of the Troop were away at the County Training Ground at Brancepeth competing in the Dryburn

Camping Competition, they came 5th in strong County competition.

The following weekend, the Troop and Seniors came 2nd in the All round Sports Pennant, 2nd in the Tug-of-War, 2nd & 3rd with two teams, in the Junior Relay, and 4th in the Senior Relay. Not a bad day really.

The same weekend, the Pack held a weekend camp, using their 14' ridge tent as accommodation, whilst the Rovers helped at the camp. During the year, the Crew had done a lot of work in various District and County events, which included acting as Stewards at the King's Scout Investiture. The first preparations were made for the World Rover Moot next year.

The 38th ANNUAL TROOP CAMP was held at Sandwick near Howtown on Ullswater, only about 100 yds. from the site used by the Troop in the 1920s. The lorry went through Howtown hamlet and up the winding pass to the farm, from here all kit was trekked along the stone path with narrow gateways on 26th July.

27 attended the camp of 5 fine days and 5 wet. The general programme was as follows:-

Saturday Complete trek of 1 mile and set up camp. 4 Bell Tents 4 grub tents, with Staff Pyramid and the Marquee.

Sunday Scorching hot day, climbed Allin Fell, 1300', used an 8 seater rowing boat, Scouts' Own.

Monday Walk to Patterdale, met four members of 1st Darlington, a Seaham Harbour Cub Pack and some Norwegian Scouts. Returned on Steamer from Patterdale to Howtown and walked back to camp. Wide game in evening.

Tuesday Morning spent gadget making, craze for most impossible gadget produced 'used chewing gum rack' and 'pop bottle holder' Swimming, then camp fire in evening.

Wednesday Raining, badgework in morning, party to Pooley Bridge by hiking and boat across lake. Provisions arrived from Penrith, tuck shop, wide game, then rain again.

Thursday Pouring down again, faired up after lunch, camp sports, rain again all evening.

Friday Raining very hard, short hikes, wide game after tea also boating as it faired up again.

Saturday Rain again as we rose, birthday surprise for tea for Keith Gibbon.

Sunday Wet again in morning, GSM arrived, also bus with parents, few walked from Howtown, most had meal there then sailed round headland in steamer 'Lady of the Lake' which came near to and slowed down past site. Steamer hooted, parents waved. Camp fire at night.

Monday Wettest morning so far, very windy too, striking of camp began, trekking back to farm. Lorry left farm at 4.30 p.m., stopped at Appleby for meal, arrived at Darlington 8.0 p.m.

Another great camp although very wet. Perhaps this did curtail the hiking and climbing programme as Helvelyn was seen only once during the week.



GROUP SCOUTERS 1949

John Morgan A.C.M. Keith Robinson T.L.(S) Alan Bertram R.M. Ronald Smith S.M.
 Eric Easthill C.M. Frank Beadle A.S.M.



Whitsuntide Camp contingent 1950



8th DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) SCOUT TROOP—SEPTEMBER 1952

Back row from left to right: Norman Bell, Derek Neilson, Ian Emerson, Thomas Armstrong, George McLean, John Baker, Sydney Bowes, Terry Booth.

Third row from left to right: Arthur Jordan, Arthur Dobson, Terry Dennison, Brian O'Conner (Sec.), Michael Storey (Sec.), Raymond Watson (Sec.), Tony Hobson, Dennis Baker, John Hutchinson.

Second row from left to right: Chris Robson (Sec.), Ronald Longstaff (P.L.), David Clapton (P.L.), John Witty (P.L.), F. A. Beadle (S.M.), B. N. Howson (A.S.M.), Keith Gibbon (P.L.), Arthur Morgan (P.L.), Edward Bell (P.L.).

Front row from left to right: Donald Allinson (Sec.), Allan Sherwood, Chris Sherwood, Barry Ruddam, Samuel Hindle, John Hunter, Maurice Milner, Edward Ross.

(Those missing from photograph: Michael Richardson (T.L.), Brian Noddings (S), Derek Mais (S), Jack Langan, Malcolm Brown.



Rover Hike in Weardale 1950
A.R.S.L. John Beadle with Eric
Easthill and Norman Brown



Cub Pack on Church Parade
February 1950

A Backwoodsman and Pioneer badge camp was held at Hunger Hill on the last two days in August, in brilliant sunshine for a change. This badge was easily the most popular as it did have roast rabbit and pigeon cooked in clay in its requirements as well as sleeping in brushwood shelters. Maori ovens and the cooking of breakfast without any utensils was always interesting, as well as building bridges across the beck.

In September, the usual changes in ranks within the Scout Troop took place. There was now a complement of 40 boys. A team was selected for the Selwyn Austin Camping Competition; this competition was held at Brettanby Manor, our team of six was led by Mike Richardson, who, with very good leadership, won the Trophy for the 8th. The programme in those days was not known to the team until arrival on site, when it was handed to the team by the Examiners.

During September, another Waste Paper Drive took place and a collection of rose hips. The paper drive was not so vast as previously, although it did help funds.

The Troop Den was now used more fully – during the September to December period, Patrol Meetings were held with two Patrols having separate rooms on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. These were well attended as there were 10 boys in each Patrol. The Rover Crew were meeting on Sunday evenings, whilst the Cub Pack held meetings on either Monday or Thursday. The Parents Committee now numbering 16 met bi-monthly on Wednesdays. Informal fish and chip chats were always centred on the Den as a focal point after 9.30 p.m. on Friday evenings.

It should be remembered that we had the Methodist School-rooms from 6.0 to 9.30 p.m. each Friday for the Pack and Troop, but if we had a Jumble Sale ourselves, the Troop was without a meeting place, or, similarly, if the Church required the premises for some special function. The Cub Pack held odd meetings in the Residents' hut in Bowen Road. Sometimes they used the hut behind the offices of Bussey and Armstrong in Brinkburn Road, whilst the SM occasionally got the use of St Mary's Hall if we could not meet in our normal place. It was beginning to look as though we would have to have our own Headquarters if we were to expand.

In December, the Troop had a joint evening with the Geneva Road Baptist Church Girl Guides. They were a large Company – the evening ended with a campfire, thanks and a long walk home from the far end of the town.

The Patrol Meetings ended their session in early December after which the PLs and Seconds had their annual supper before recommencing the 'Badger' Patrol Training meetings.

The Rover Crew again enjoyed themselves at the Hartlepool Conference and Social for Rovers and Rangers. The Crew also spent a weekend at Les Williamson's cottage in Swaledale, with one more Rover gaining the Rambler's and Progress badge – a very arduous challenge indeed.

This entailed a 100 mile hike in four parts – one part being a canoe trip 30 miles down the River Tees, ending at the Thornaby flour mills.

1953

January started with a Troop hike in Swaledale, the Pack having local hikes round the Tees and Baydale Beck area.

Group Church Parades were held three times each year in our own churches in Cockerton, also on St George's Day and at several of our camps during the year. The group would meet at 10.10 a.m. at the Troop Den in Cockerton, leave jackets there and assemble for parade outside, those attending St. Mary's and Holy Family would break off as we marched round the Green, the remainder halting outside the Methodist Church. All three commenced conveniently at 10.30 a.m. in those days. Such a parade was held in February, although rarely was it a fine day.

On 7th February, the 51st Cockerton Old Folk's Reunion was given our usual help in delivering invitations, helping at the event, then taking out teas to those who could not attend. There is no finer good turn for healthy young Scouts than helping the elderly. This year, the Northern Despatch bore the picture of Keith Gibbon, P.L., holding the cake whilst 84 year old Mr. Copeland, an old Cockertonian, sat and enjoyed his meal.

In February, PLs Arthur Morgan and David Clapton were presented with the Scout Green Cords, the highest under 15 badge a Scout could attain – a fairly normal attainment at the top end of the Troop.

The following morning, 21st February, saw the Troop off to their first weekend camp of the year, expecting snow and frost, but it turned out to be a fine warm weekend. 11 attended the camp at which the Cook Badge Examiner tested 8 for the badge.

The Scout Troop rounded off March with a long hike in the area of Barnard Castle and Eggleston. Then competing in the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy again to gain Second place – same pattern as in 1929/30 – two wins and then a Second place. Mr Neilson and Mr Bedford were the Instructors.

Early in the year, Bryan Howson, the ASM, went off to do his National Service for two years, a long time for Leaders to be away. His place was taken by Mark Scarr who had come through the ranks of the 8th from a youngster. Mike Richardson, also of age, became an ASM and Brian Noddings was promoted to TL.

The Troop Easter Training Camp was held at Low Moor Farm, in Bell tents this year in the Paddock field again. 16 attended, including ASM Howson on leave from the army. The theme was pioneering and cooking, many types of rafts being made. The camp ended in pouring rain, the Den being festooned with wet tents for a week.

Bob-a-job week commenced on Easter Saturday and refilled funds. The PLs and Secs always lose out on this as they are in camp until Monday evening.

St. George's Day Parade was at St. Cuthbert's Church with 22 Cubs, 28 Scouts and Rovers and Scouters, nearly 60 from the 8th, a very good turnout as they marched smartly to the Church from Priestgate.

The Rover Crew continued with good numbers and attended the County Rover Moot at Dilston, in Northumberland, on a very wet weekend. Another Backwoodsman Badge and Pioneer Course took place at Hunger Hill in May, whilst many of the Group took part in the Empire Youth Parade the same weekend.

The 1953 Whitsuntide Camp was held in a beautiful site on the River Tees opposite Wycliffe Hall, where the Troop had camped for the Whitsuntide Camp 21 years ago in 1932. This must be one of the most delightful and picturesque sites. The camp was not without its moments – our ASM had to get ashore from the Kayak very quickly when the River Tees rose 3' in 10 minutes, as I can do. One Scout lost his PLs mug down a rabbit hole, he was still digging at dust with his PL standing with folded arms and an aggressive look. Skip thought he had lost his Kayak but when about to organize a posse to search for it, found it in the bushes nearby! The entire three days were scorching hot until we struck camp on the Monday afternoon in a violent rainstorm. 22 attended the camp.

One of the largest projects in which the Group was highly involved was the building of one of the Coronation Beacons at Houghton Bank, on the A68 near the Houghton-le-Side village road junction. This was one of two beacons built by Darlington Scouts, yet only two in chain of 500 round the British Isles. The 8th erected tents on the site three days before, built latrines, fireplace and food store, supervised the dumping of lorry-loads of materials, then constructed the area to build the beacon.

The beacon itself took three days to build, had a base circumference of 60', a height of 18'. The base started in octagonal form with railway sleepers, the core consisted of three 20' fir trees, the whole structure tapered gradually to 4' across the top and contained 20 tons of timber, old lorry tyres and such like.

The 8th were the only Scouts and Rovers actually camping for the period, two PLs having to cycle to Darlington at 6.0 a.m. each day to do newspaper rounds.

The days before the Coronation Day were damp to say the least, but the evening before was dreadful, with torrential rain. The farmers of Houghton-le-Side invited us for tea in sympathy. The beacon was eventually lit at 11.0 p.m. with Mike Richardson climbing halfway up in the darkness and rain to get it under way. We did not see any of the other beacons of course, but warmed ourselves on the 40' high inferno. Those who were there will remember Mr W French calling to inform us that Edmund Hillary had climbed Everest, a fine present for Queen Elizabeth II.

During June, RSL John Beadle attended a preliminary camp at Brancepeth for final details for the 5th World Rover Moot he was to attend.

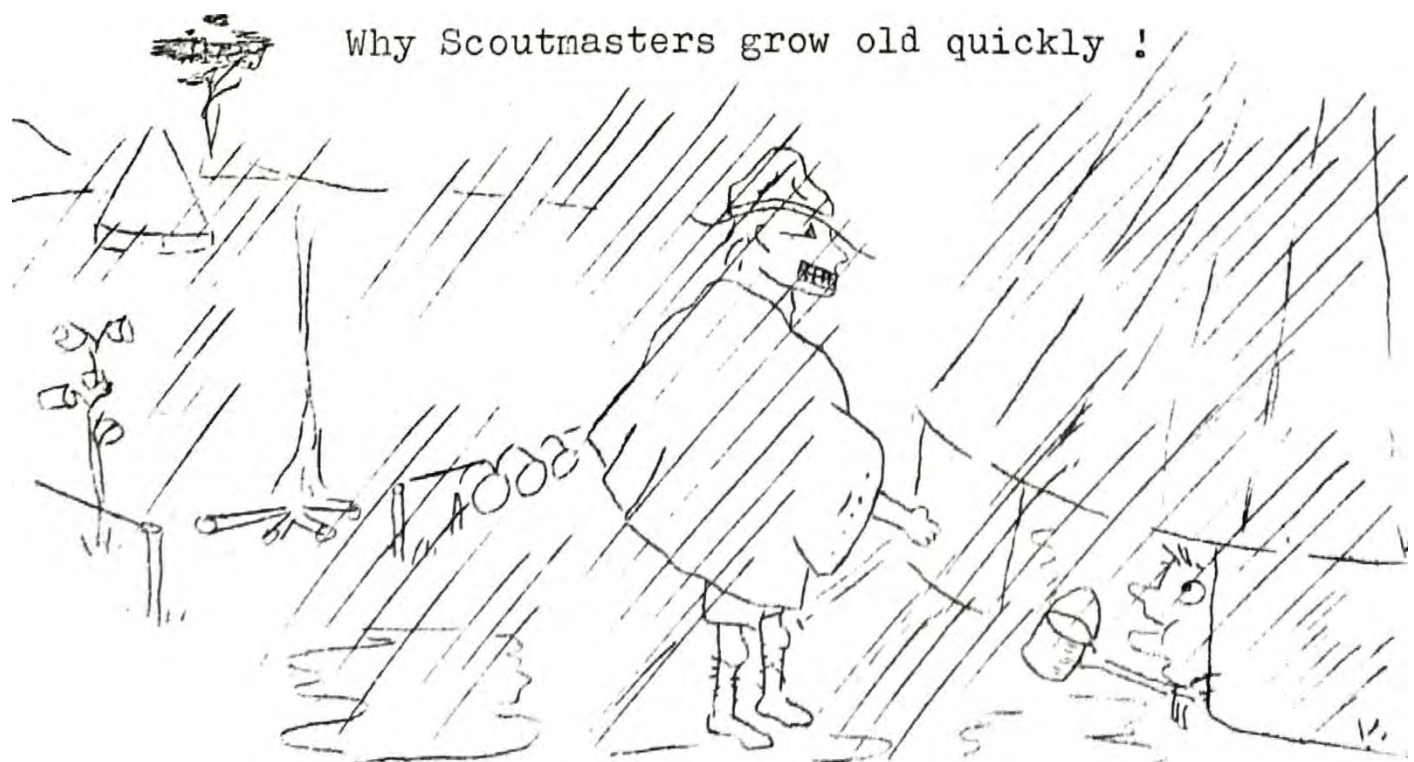
As if the year was not busy enough, the Group Parents Committee organized its second Garden Fete, the first being in 1951. This event, on Saturday, 20th June, was on a far larger scale than the first venture. It was held in the ground of 'The Garth', of Cockerton Club and involved very

much more work for all. This fete, like the first one, did not have programmes for sale and apart from the St. Mary's Church having their last fete last year, no other garden fetes were held in Cockerton at that time. The event made a net profit of £34 – a fantastic sum!

Not to miss a weekend, the Cub Sports took place on the same day as the Fete, the Scouts' Sport the Saturday after. Although in both, the 8th gained no trophies – probably too tired!

On 18th July, we again helped for the fourth year at the Darlington Guild of Old Scouts' Fete at Blackwell Grange. At the same time, plans were finalized for the Annual Camp and the two International Events attended by the Group. It should be realised at this point that the Scouters of the Group went to work during weekdays too!

The 1953 Annual Troop Camp was held in Farndale although higher up the dale than the site used in the 1920s. The lorry left Cockerton on Saturday, 25th July, and via Sutton Bank, arrived at Kirbymoorside where we had a meal, before going on to our site at Head House Farm in hilly country. On Sunday, a hike to Rosedale and attendance at church, Monday P.T. in the morning, pioneering in the afternoon, wide game and camp fire at night. Tuesday – day in camp. Wednesday – visit to Kirby Moorside, game of 'Relevo' after tea and a camp fire. Thursday – camp sorts [sports?] and Scoutcraft training including the traditional Bread and Jam eating contest, in which last year's winner, Arthur Jordan, was defeated – what a disgrace! Friday – Long hike led by Mark Scarr, ASM (Skip stayed in camp) over Rosedale and Bransdale, visited by an 80 year old Commissioner, who gave a first class report. Saturday – Scouts' Own, wide games on moors, camp fire at night. We were well away from civilisation – literally! Monday, 3rd August – returned to Cockerton by 5.0 p.m.



'Skip, Ginger doesn't like stew with onions in it AND he's got his blankets wet!'

Mrs. Brown, young Jimmy's mother,
Would indeed be most surprised,
Could she see her loving offspring,
Camping in the countryside.

Back at home young Jim is faddy,
Food and drink must be just right,
Eggs fried lightly, meat quite tender,
'Taters' mashed till smooth and white.

Tea, young Jimmy's special beverage,
Must be very weak and pale,
Not much milk, just slightly sweetened
All to please this fussy male.

What's this liquid, dark and smokey?
- much too thick for you and me,
Tilt the billy – blow the woodash,
Jimmy's drinking camp brewed tea!

Patrol Leader Arthur Morgan was not at the Annual Camp as he represented the Group with the Durham contingent at the 1953 Lakeland Coronation Jamboree, held at Brathay Hall, Ambleside, from 1st to 3rd August. Arthur was the only Scout from Darlington. There were about 30 countries represented at the Jamboree including large contingents from Germany, France, Turkey, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium and the U.S.A. He had many wonderful yarns to relate on his return and filled 8 pages of the Troop log with a 'brief' account.

Meanwhile, before the Troop returned from camp, RSL John N Beadle was leaving Victoria Station on Tuesday, 28th July en route for the 5th World Rover Moot at Kandersteg in Switzerland, which ended on Saturday, 8th August. He too had many tales to expound to the Crew when he popped his head in at the Crew meeting on his return one Sunday. Camping with Rovers from over 26 different countries as far away as Burma and Mexico, of a trip in the funicular railway, skiing, a climb up the Niederhorn. John was one of two Rovers from Darlington, his companion being Graham Suggett of the 13th Crew.

The 8th certainly got around during 1953!

Later in August, 5 of the Rover Crew attended the County Moot at Raby Park. This was organised by Fred Venner, the County Assistant Commissioner for Rovers. A grand time was had by the Crew with Durham County Rovers. Those who attended from the 8th were:-

John N Beadle	RSL
E Easthill	RS
F A Beadle	RS
N Brown	RS
R Lilley	RS

In September, John Morgan went off for National Service for two years, also Mike Richardson, the ASM (our third loss to the Forces in six months). This will be the ruination of the Crew yet – it was obvious.

The Cub Pack had a very good year and entered all the District competitions, although very little detail is available of their activities due to the constant changes of manpower as John Morgan was ACM and also Acting CM whilst Eric Easthill was away on a course connected with his work.

At this juncture, the trend in family holidays could well be noted. At one time, in fact since the early years, it could be generally accepted that the Troop Annual Camp should either be over the 'North Road Railway' holiday week or else avoid the week completely. Being predominantly a railway town, the bulk of the people were away on a 'certain' week, then later a fortnight when holidays extended about 1953. Although it did have an effect on the camp attendance, pre-war it was overcome by having a complete 17 day camp.

A three day camp at Hunger Hill rounded off a busy camping year, virtually all over the place. During September, 6 Cubs went into the Scout Troop, thus putting Troop numbers up to 48. If a boy was on the Pack waiting list, he had very little chance of getting into the Pack of 32, eventually his turn might come and he would get a card requesting him to join – there were 30 on the waiting list.

If a boy was on the Troop waiting list, he had no chance at all of ever joining the Troop at that time. Over half the Troop then were Senior Scouts in any case, but we had insufficient Scouters due to National Service – there were no men available, so history of 1936 and other earlier men repeated itself, with the 8th having attracted and HELD its older members. There were only four Scouters to 80 boys. Meetings were held to discuss it, the District were asked for Scouters – but they had the same problems, so we could only hope.

In September, the Troop played Cockerton Cricket Club Junior Team and lost, they also lost the return match and gave it up as a bad job. We were very lucky at that time to have the use of the Cricket Ground one evening each year in June to practice Scout Sports teams.

During the months preceding Christmas, the 8th again undertook a Jumble collection, a large scale jam jar collection and the usual collection of rose hip wanted for making syrup.

Other events in September included the Group attending the District Camp, again at Brettanby Manor, Barton, the home of Lord and Lady Vaux. The event was organised by the Kipling (District) Rover Crew and was based on 'Rome in the Olden Days', complete with togas and pentathlons.

In October, 10 members of the Troop spent a weekend at Les D Williamson's cottage, although a pleasant weekend, accommodation was perhaps too much for the neat cottage.

Our next Royal Certificate went to John C Witty in October when Mr W French presented it to him. The Queen's Scout demanded the taking of nine badges after the first class. These included several obligatory badges such as the Ambulance, the Venturer which consisted of hiking, physical fitness and an entire weekend course. As well as being a really good Scout, John was appointed TL at that time too.

Another evening with the 3rd St Mary's Guides during November and from that, a joint hike the next weekend, in which firelighting and cooking competitions were held near Dartington Hall.

During the year we learnt of the passing of Percy Brigham, one of the stalwarts of the first years of the 8th Pack and Troop. Percy Brigham always maintained a great interest in the 8th until the time of his death.

Gang Show rehearsals commenced in October for the now bi-annual show to be held in 1954. The PLs Badger Patrol session also got under way in the winter, as well as the Cub Training evenings in the Troop Den.

Firewood was brought from Hunger Hill and added to some old railway sleepers in December, when 5 Senior Scouts and Skipper prepared it ready to distribute to elderly persons around the village of Cockerton. This was carried by trek cart on the Christmas Eve in full uniform.

The joint Group Party was held late in December, attended by a company of over 100. The guests of honour were:-

Les D Williamson	Rev H R Stafford
Chas Parker	A W R Dickens
Tommy Harrison	Mrs A Dickens
	Mr & Mrs A Jackson

1954

One thing was certain, that if the year previous had been a busy and eventful year, this following could not be busier – or could it?

The year began with another Troop party with St. Mary's Guides – dear me! Then a troop hike in snow and shorts, round Barnard Castle. Then we helped with the 52nd Cockerton Old Folk's Treat at which Les Williamson's mother cut the cake on her 80th birthday. All five Scouts at the meal were Senior Scouts.

After training during the winter, our ambulance team took the floor at the Ferrier Trophy on 13th February. Mr Neilson and Mr Bedford had a really good team this year. They won the Ferrier Trophy, runners up being the 12th and 1st out of many teams. For this achievement, Les Williamson took the team straight to Bainbridge Barker's Café for a fish and chip tea – no wonder they won!

On 12th February, there were some drastic changes in the Group – there had to be – it was bulging at the seams! After several meetings of the Scouters, a separate and viable strong Senior Scout Troop was started, arrangements were made to meet in the Cockerton C of E School in the centre of the Green and the Scout Group looked like this :-

THE CUB PACK

Eric Easthill resigned to commence the Senior Scout Troop, John Morgan had been CM since last September due to E Easthill being on a course. Two young ladies had been assisting since early in the year. They were Miss Joan Burton and Miss Doreen

Hutchinson. The Pack then was of 32 Cubs run by :-

John Morgan, CM, Joan Burton, ACM, and Doreen Hutchinson, ACM

SCOUT TROOP

Frank Beadle as SM with Mark Scarr as ASM and John C Witty as TL

OTTERS

I Ermerson PL
D Neilson Sec.
K Omerod
N Minto
B Philbin
B Coatsworth
M McMain
G Hill

OWLS

J Hutchinson PL
C Sherwood Sec.
B Smith
C Hovington
B Ruddam
F Butterfield
F Cowan
S Owen

SWIFTS

S Bowes PL
M Millner Sec.
B Degnan
E Scott
B Hardy
S Hardy
M Gaskin
D Noddings

TIGERS

E Ross PL
J Langan Sec.
M Brown
A Milner
A James
B Doran
B Nichols
P Hardy

It should be noted that 90% of these had come from the Cub Pack and that all the PLs and Seconds were nearly of Senior Scout age. The Scout Troop still had approximately 32 in its ranks after withdrawal of all over 15s to form a separate Senior Scout Troop thus :-

SENIOR TROOP

Recommended on a proper footing with E Easthill as SM (S) and Arthur Morgan as TL (S)

MALLORYS

Ron Longstaff PL (S)
Tom Armstrong Sec.(S)
Arthur Dobson
Ray Watson
Terry May
Alan Sherwood

SCOTTS

David Clapton PL (S)
Keith Gibbon Sec.(S)
Tony Hoare
Mike Storey
George Rowling
Chris. Robinson

ROVER CREW

The Crew was not riding high as the other three sections were – many away on National Service often failed to take up Scouting again on return to civvy street. Rover Scout Leader John Beadle had to resign at the end of the year due to his working away from home; even though Eric Easthill devoted much of his winter time to revive the Crew, there were not enough members to keep it ticking over at that time, although it did continue with John, Eric and enthusiasm until the end of September.

COMMITTEE

During this time, the Group Parents' Committee was functioning well with monthly Whist Drives still going in the Co-op Hall.

The week commencing 8th March, 1954, the fourth production on 'Spotlight on the Gang' was staged with success in the New Hippodrome Theatre. Our Scouts, Seniors and Rovers took part with the main theme song of 'Gee, it's a wonderful life' – it was!

Quote from the Northern Despatch:- 'There was 100 unnamed stars in the most hilarious, colourful, lavish and spectacular show ever to be staged in Darlington – Spotlight on the Gang – staged by Boy Scouts of all ages in the New Hippodrome this week. It is the funniest, yet the most sincere show, imaginable. The all male cast is as versatile as a school full of ballerinas. From tousle-haired, freckle-faced kids to their Scoutmasters, they take an equal part in a man-sized show! enough said!

There was no Easter Camp held this year, the first time for a number of years, although weekend camps were held at Hunger Hill between Easter and Whitsuntide, also Job Week.

The Troop Whitsuntide Camp was a four day event held at Marske in Swaledale, in simply glorious weather. On the way back, Mr Jackson's lorry stopped in Richmond to pick up the Senior Scout Troop, who had spent a similar four days near to the 'Jockey's Cap', a clump of trees, near Gilling.

The Senior Troop were making their mark as a separate body within the Group. From the end of February, they suffered setbacks when their SM (S) was taken ill and confined to bed for several weeks. Nevertheless, the Easter Senior Scout Training Camp was held at Hunger Hill, instead of the Scout Camp, under the TL (S) with F Beadle looking in.

At St. George's Presbyterian Church in April, a large turnout of the 8th marched from North Lodge Terrace to the church for St. George's Day. Our SM was the District Parade Marshall on this occasion.

It should be mentioned that several of our Leaders were on the various Committees of the District, such as the Events, - this Committee organised every Scout and Senior event from the Sports to the Ferrier Ambulance and Camping Trophy.

In May, the Scout Troop had one of its camps at Hunger Hill, during which the Cub Pack passed through on one of their regular short hikes, led by Joan Burton, an experienced hiker. About 35 sat down to tea at Hunger Hill on that fine weekend.

Keith Gibbon, one of our Senior Scouts, transferred to the 3rd St. Mary's as TL, Keith was a loss but upheld the tradition of the 8th helping the 3rd as had Frank Bellis many years earlier. The 3rd had the same ailment as the 8th – National Service with Leaders away for two years. Keith would ensure continuity of our neighbours across the Green.

The Scout Troop and Senior Troop embarked upon their separated Annual Camps on the same day – 24th July. The Troop arrived at a farm near Sandsend, an area not visited since the mid 1920s. This camp was of 8 days and made a pleasant change by the seaside. A nearby wood and valley offered plenty of firewood and scope for pioneering and wide games. Two fields away on the cliffs could be seen many campers clustered together – including some not very enterprising Scout Troops – as usual the 8th were on their own. The week included a visit to Whitby, seashore exploration, hikes inland, camp sports, then another trip down to Sandsend to buy presents for parents. The camp was staffed by Frank Beadle, SM, Mark Scarr, ASM, John Witty, TL, and Edward Bell as an Instructor.

The Senior Scout Troop held a hike camp based on Low Row in the 8th's favourite haunt – Swaledale. The Base Camp was really just a base, the theme being hiking and exploration, the record hike being 29 miles in one day. The Seniors wanted man-sized Scouting and were certainly getting it in this new and enthusiastic section. Much valuable experience was gained at this camp, to be used in the future of the Troop. The SM (S) had programmed the Troop to go far from this camp.

During this year, Frank Beadle and Les Williamson started looking in and around Cockerton for a suitable site to build a Group Headquarters. During the next few years, several places were enquired about although not pursued for a variety of reasons. It was realised that if expansion was to take place, we would have to have an HQ of our own eventually.

It was the custom at this time to donate a small annual sum to the Trustees of the Cockerton Methodist Church, although it could not be put down in words, or offered in finance, the gratitude we owed for the roof over our heads rent free on Fridays. The Group was composed of boys of at least four different faiths, we were given all the help we needed by the Church.

Another collection of Jumble, again on a larger scale than the previous year, took place in the Autumn as usual; we were having two sales from one collection at times.

There was no preliminary sorting of merchandise as it arrived at the HQ as yet. Heavy articles were collected on a handcart and everything simply piled in the lower ground floor room of the Troop Den – we were not as organised as in the 60s.

The Group combined Christmas party was held on 17th December, at which over 80 were present.

The Group Parents Committee wound up the year with £12 in the General Fund and £1.2.10. cash in hand, most of the proceeds of functions going into section funds proportionally to numbers therein.

1955

The previous year had been for changes within the Group, most of them for the betterment. This year also had its changes but on a national scale. The old style 'cowboy' Scout Hat was given a period of three years to be phased out in favour of the beret, already worn by Senior Scouts since the early 50s. The final date for changing to the green beret in the Scout Troop was September 1955. The hat was on its way out – however, it was marvellous for wet weather hiking, dreadful to keep pressed at camp, smart on a well turned out Troop.

During the early part of the year, there were no changes in the Pack Scouters. The Troop were better off when Bryan Howson was demobbed and back as an ASM. The Rover Crew ended its life due to the RSL leaving the town and simply lack of members at that time.

The Senior Scout Troop continued to flourish although E Easthill SM (S) was still running it single handed. A Senior hike was held around the Reeth area on 2nd January in dreadful weather.

The Senior Troop continued its verve with a 'bottle' drive during January, the Troop Den being filled with bottles of all kinds – we remembered the bottle drives in the First World War!

The Scott Senior Patrol held a further hike at the end of the month around Deepdale and Bowes, whilst the Mallory Patrol favoured Barnard Castle and thence to Muker and Keld.

During the Winter, Frank Beadle approached one of the parents of the Troop with a view to his becoming GSM Arthur R Dickens had arrived in Darlington due to his work, he was an experienced Scouter and hailed from Northampton, where he had much experience as GSM of a large Group. Les Williamson had been acting GSM since 1948 and agreed with the move to ask Arthur. Les was quite busy enough with the quickening momentum of the Parents Committee. Arthur Dickens agreed to act as GSM of the 8th and attended the next Scouters and Group Parents Committee.

The drastic changes Arthur Dickens made were not well received at first in some quarters of the Group. However, we soon began to realise that here was a man who really knew about the fully integrated Group System and the benefits it could offer to the 8th with its expanding organisation. The changes were sweeping and radical but they dragged sections reluctantly out of their watertight compartments.

The Group Parents Committee was disbanded; one minute later it became the GROUP COMMITTEE upon which not only parents but any influential person could be nominated to serve. The Group then opened a Building Fund, or rather, changed the name of the Development Fund, as well as opening a General account to be responsible for all Group equipment and the Group HQ, the latter being the TROOP DEN at that time.

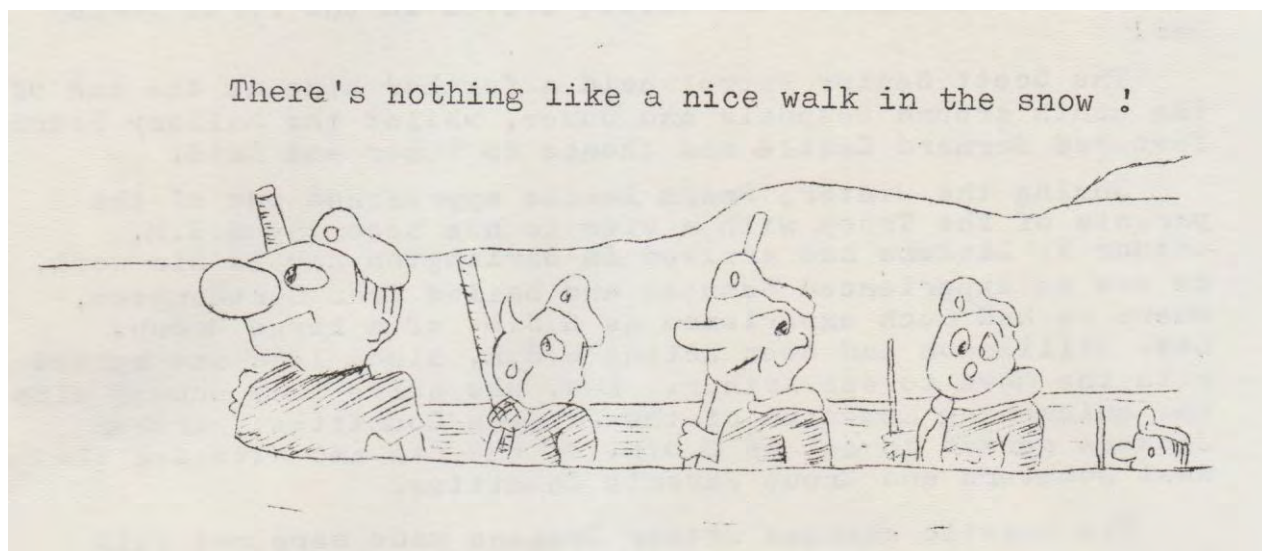
All section equipment was then classified as GROUP EQUIPMENT, including the six Bell Tent, Marquee and Pyramid, maintained by the Troop. Both the Cub Tents, odd Rover gear, as well as the now worthwhile Senior gear, was put in the GROUP QM's Store, George Rowling, a Senior Scout, being officially appointed QM.

The entire cash from any Group event was put into the Building Fund or placed into the General Funds to ensure running expenses of the Group.

These changes may seem trivial now but were quite an upheaval for those in the Group, used to separate section gear, but they were for the better it was soon realised and 8th really was the 8th GROUP now!

It was also agreed that any new Patrol tents bought should be ridge tents, this move would start very soon as our Bell Tents were on their last legs – as it were. One could, in fact, still buy Bell Tents, although they were an 'after' in any catalogues and £48 each. The Scout Shop 10' x 8' PIONEER

tent was chosen as the most suitable ridge tent to the Group. Finally, all equipment was maintained and repaired by the Senior Troop, HQ. Cleaning Patrols were run and executed by the Scout Troop; jumble collections were then to be undertaken on a Group Basis, the sales being the sole responsibility of the Group Committee.



The Scout Troop held a hike to High Force in January, then a further hike around Marske in Swaledale in February. The same month six Scouts assisted at the 53rd Old Folk's Re-union.

In February, the GROUP Jumble Sale raised £17 for Group Funds; several Scouts attended the Guides' Thinking Day Service.

The Troop PLs and Sec.s' supper was held later in March with a ceremony at the end of the month, when Cubs went into the Troop and Scouts Ian Emerson and John Hutchinson became Senior Scouts.

Bob-a-Job week arrived although the proceeds did go into section funds, the only section income needed apart from weekly subscriptions.

At Easter, the Senior Troop camped at the 'Jockey Cap' near Gilling with an attendance of 10 – things now looked very healthy on the Senior Scouting front.

The Troop Easter Camp was a Training Camp at Hunger Hill with 100% attendance as usual, plus the Training team of F Beadle, SM, B Howson, ASM, Ron Longstaff as Instructor and Raymond Watson as the TL.

Perhaps it will be as well at this point to add again yet another version of the 8th finer flights of poetry, which seemed to spring up with amazing regularity in the Troop logs. This one is anonymous and contains some 'Cockerton Slang'. It is actually of 28 verses – although several have been omitted for space reasons. However, the remainder sum up an Easter Training Camp.

Good Friday morn we made our way
To Hunger Hill, twas a glorious day,
On Mr Jackson's Bedford truck
Equipment and gear, we did chuck.

Soon we arrived, our hearts were light
A good four days were within sight,
We carried tents and boxes big
All of us, Skip, Ray the Nig.

Across the field we bore great weights
Everything from poles to plates,
Things got moving as they should
All tents up, we gathered wood.

We started on the Training Course
Axemanship
First Class, with force
On fire wood that was to be
Our fuel for one day, plus three.

Then estimation we did do -
Height, distance and a river too,
When this was done we had a game
Much gouging of eyes and limbs to lame.

Soon to supper we had to go -
Orderlies dashing to and fro.
All were scared of each 'cos -
The meal was cooked by Eddie Ross.

Supper over, we went to bed
and straight to sleep - or so Skip said,
There were murmurs, shouts and a cry of fear
Like 'take your foot out of my ear'.

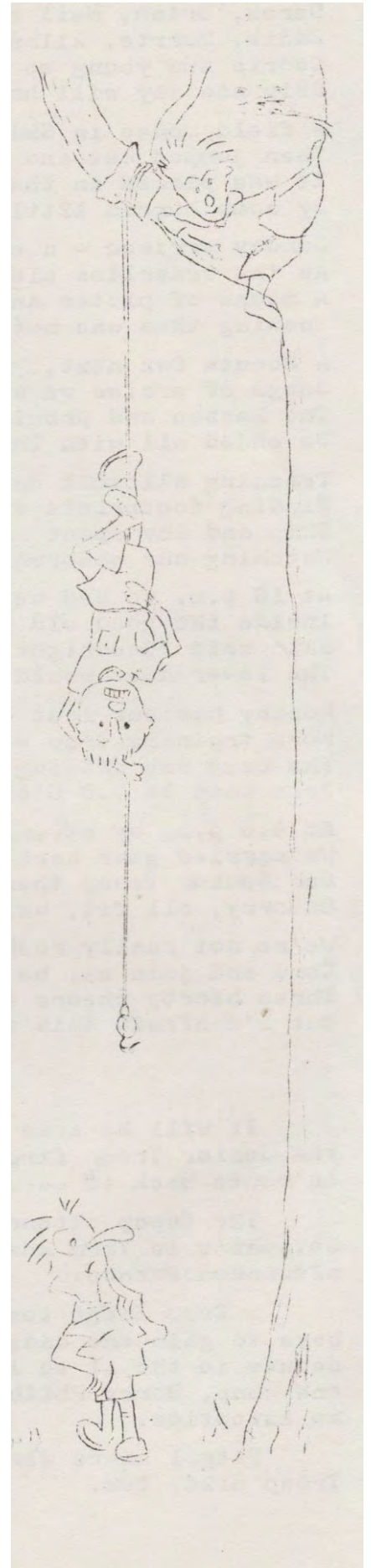
Next day at crack of dawn - nice boys
We woke the Staff with all our noise.
We dashed to the stream with our bare feet
Then came back all washed and sweet.

A track was laid by Ross and Nellie,
Through stream and swamp so smellie
After this up to the wood
To test for axemanship if good.

We felled our trees the morning through
And carried them back to camp to do,
A good turn making posts, for the farmer woo'd
Gave us permission to use the wood.

Long distance semaphore we did.
Our First Class tests to make a bid,
Soon it was dark on a glorious night
We all had supper by candlelight.

There was a camp fire held that night
Soon it blazed away - all bright.
We sang songs like Shenandoah,
And shouted out the yells for more.



Derek, Brian, Neil and Garry,
Eddie, Morris, Allan, Barry,
Cedric and young so and so.
Skip and Ray will have to go.

A field mouse in Skip's kit did linger,
Then jumped out and bit his finger.
It was placed in there no doubt
By some horrid little 8th Boy Scout.

Sunday arrived – a clear bright day,
As the orderlies cleared away –
A mound of plates and dixies greasy,
Washing them was not so easy.

A Scouts own next, upon the Hill
Songs of praise we sang at will.
The lesson and promise read with care,
We ended all with The Lord's Prayer.

Tracking all that day was done
Finding footprints one by one.
Skip and Ray spent many hours
Watching our observation powers.

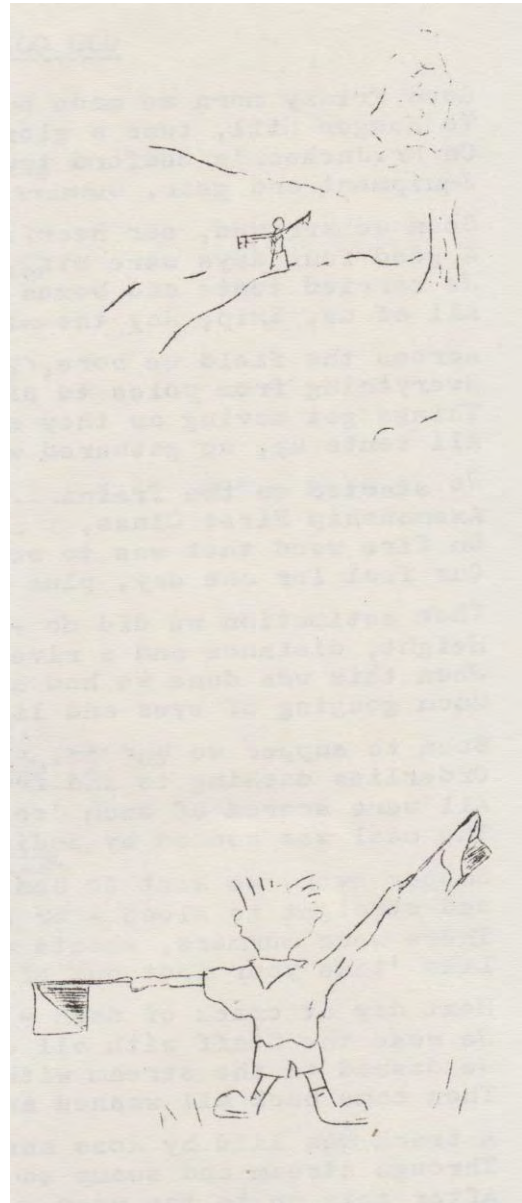
At 10 p.m. to bed we went,
Inside the good old 8th Bell Tents.
Skip said 'Goodnight' and then left hopen
The lower door would still be open.

Monday was our last of camp,
More training done – without no damp.
The camp was drawing to a close,
From when at 7.0 O'clock we rose.

At 4.0 p.m. by strength of arm,
We carried gear back to the farm,
Our Senior Troop did then arrive
On lorry, all fit, and well and alive.

We're not really round the bend,
Come and join us, be our friend.
Three hearty cheers to all we send
But I'm afraid this is the end.

Anonymous (6 verses omitted)



It will be seen from this that the transport collected the Senior Troop first then the Scout Troop at Hunger Hill en route back to Darlington.

The Group attended the St. George's Day Parade at St. John's in Yarm Road with a good turnout for this Sunday afternoon Parade.

A Cook Badge test camp at the end of April enabled 12 boys to gain the badge on a fine hot weekend. Many of the Scouts in the 11 to 15 Troop could boast of at least 12 badges, one chap, Barry Philbin, had 22 on his arms, although this was an exception.

Patrol hikes were in full swing, with the usual monthly Troop hike, too.

Semaphore signalling, still in the Second and First Class tests, played a big part in the Troop programme. It was difficult to master at first, then it just clicked and you knew it – very useful in wide games too!

The Scout Troop attended a Traction Engine Rally (a new idea) then prepared for their Whitsuntide Camp. The Pack also enjoyed much outdoor activity during the summer but as records are not to hand for this period, no details can be given – hiking was the keynote of the Pack, at this time.

The Scoup Whitsuntide Camp was held at Spennithorne, on the banks of the River Ure near Leyburn, from Friday until Whit Monday. It was an unusually hot weekend, we had no cars in the Group at that time, once having got there by lorry we used our feet. The lorry always carried an upturned trek cart in its load, this cart helped to 'lock' the kit at the rear of the lorry. Water was transported several hundred yards in the 'dustbin' with a tap fitted – part of the pre-war Troop equipment.

The greatest highlight of the year was the Continental Camp by the Senior Scout Section, the first time a complete Section had been abroad sine pre-war. What a smart set of immaculately uniformed young men they looked as the press took a picture on the grassy rise up to the 'Hill' in Cockerton. Those who attended this two week adventure had earned the £12 each by sheer hard work, spurred on by the SM, Eric Easthill, for the past 12 months, to collect lemonade bottles, rags and woollens, with several Whist Drives, too.

The contingent was as follows:- E Easthill, SM (S) Organiser in chief.

John Land, ASM (S) Sec. i/c. on loan from Northumberland.

David Clapton PL (S) and Sec (S) Michael Storey – Interpreters.

George Rowling PL (S) and Sec (S) Arthur Dobson – Mapping & Cooking.

Senior Scouts – Ian Emerson, Tony Hoare, Tommy Armstrong, John Hutchinson, Sydney Bowes, Derek Neilson.

Itinerary of the Continental Camp was as follows:-

Friday, 13th Aug. Train for London – evening Rowland House.

Saturday Day in London

Sunday Further day in London. Boat train to Dover.

Monday Arrive Ostend – Train to Luxembourg.

Tuesday Sightseeing in Luxembourg City. On T.V. film.

Wednesday Hike to Echternach – stayed in Youth Hostel.

Thursday Sightseeing – then hike into Germany.

Friday Hike to Viaden – overnight stay in hostel.

Saturday Train and hike to Clairvaux

Sunday Sightseeing in Clairvaux, church, bathing.

Monday Train to Luxembourg – stay in Youth Hostel.

Tuesday Train to Brussels – tour city on foot.

Wednesday Further Sightseeing in Brussels.

Thursday Train to Ostend, bathing in sea.

Friday Boat to Dover, train to Darlington, home by 10.30 p.m.

The 8th on Eurovision T.V! Television had been available for about four years at this time. Unknown to the 8th Seniors, they had been 'screened' emerging from Viaden Castle on a N.A.T.O. production called 'Meet Luxembourg', unfortunately only two of the Seniors saw the film when it was shown on British T.V. about 9 months after the event. Famous at last!

Total cost for each Senior - £12 = £5 for fares + £7 for food.

This was one of the years when the 8th Scout Troop (11 to 15) did not have an annual camp, although some of the Troop did go to camp by invitation of the 3rd St Mary's Troop during the month of August. However, one cannot blame the SM F Beadle, for having a change of a solo tour of 4 weeks' duration and of 3,000 miles round six countries in Rover uniform on the continent, although never meeting with the Senior Troop en route.

Weekend camps had again been held regularly every month during the period Easter to October, with the Selwyn Austin Camping Competition at Raby Park on 19th/20th June – the 9th Troop won, we were second, the team being:-

George Rowling, PL	Garry Hill
Tony Hoare, Second.	Edward Scott
Tommy Armstrong	Kenneth Omerod

The Scout Sports at the Rolling Hills Stadium, Longfield Road, on Saturday, 9th July, again favoured the 8th, when we won the Senior Relay out of 10 teams, the Junior Relay out of 28 teams!

A further weekend camp at Hunger Hill in July, another in August, as well as four Scouts with the 3rd Troop, brought us up to a busy time in September, when we attended the Darlington and District Camp on 11th/12th at Brettanby Manor.

The theme of the Camp was 'Scotland' with much brandishing of claymores, kilt swinging and caber contests. A visit to the Air Display at Thornaby airfield was put in during September too.

On 30th September, two more boys entered the Senior Troop, still leaving 35 in the Scout Troop.

The normal end of the year activities took place from October to December. The Annual Jumble Sale, two Troop Hikes, several Senior Troop Hikes, regular Sunday morning 7.0 a.m. swimming sessions at the Darlington Baths, changes in ranks, rehearsals for the Gang Show and a final round off for the year with a good long hike up Deepdale, near Barnard Castle on 18th December.

The PLs and Seconds of the Scout Troop had their annual 'Badger Patrol' supper on the SMs birthday – having got to know the date elsewhere! then another hike on 27th December

round by Leyburn and Aysgarth.

Meanwhile, the Senior Troop rounded off the year by staying at Earl's Orchard Education Hostel at Richmond for three days, enjoying a Christmas dinner complete with chicken and Christmas pudding – things were certainly done in style in those days.

1956

On 11th January, the Senior Troop started the year with a extended hike-camp from Wensleydale to Swaledale taking in Penn Hill on the way round.

The Scout Troop held their party on 13th January with Guides. The Pack party was this year a separate occasion, the reason was simple – there were over 80 boys in the Group, too many for one hall.

The Scout Troop purchased new colours during January. The flag was in Royal Blue with lettering and the Troop title in gold, with a gold border as an extra. The Pack had had a flag for some years now.

During February 1956, some changes were made in the Scouters of the Group. John Morgan had to leave the town, having taken a job in the South, Joan S Burton, the ACM, took over the Pack in a very capable way, with Doreen Hutchinson and George Rowling as ACMs.

Frank Beadle remained as SM of the Troop with Bryan Howson as ASM, Derek J Neilson became Troop Leader. Eric Easthill remained as SM (S) unfortunately without an Assistant. The entire Group had only 7 adults including the GSM Arthur Dickens.

The rear upstairs room of the Group HQ contained all the Group Equipment, when an unfortunate fire occurred in February. The SM called in at the H.Q. on a routine check to find smoke and flames, the Fire Brigade were called and we were very lucky. No one could define the cause, possibly spontaneous combustion or a faulty flue in the kitchen range which had contained a spark for some time. We lost the W.D. Ridge, flysheet, a 'Niger' tent and two groundsheets – about £60—and gained a large hole in the floor!

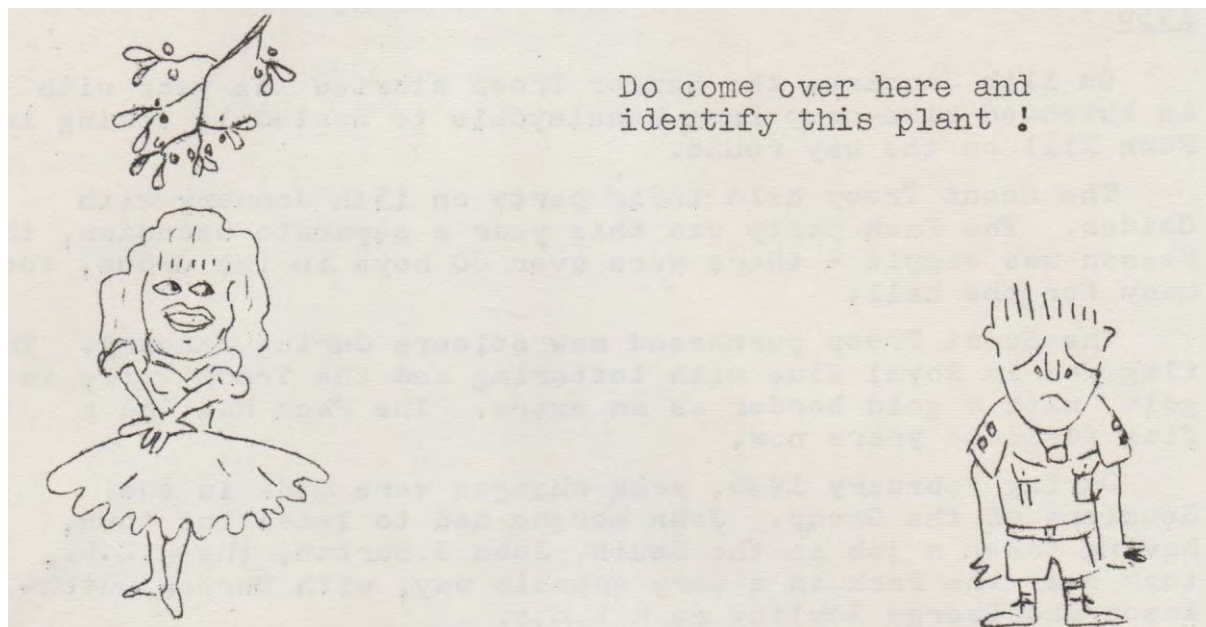
10 Cubs came up into the Troop in February on John Morgan's last evening with the Pack. Many of these Cubs held the top Cub Award, the Leaping Wolf Badge. Another Patrol was started in the Troop to absorb new intake, still no boys could join the Pack any other way than directly – another 10 did straight from the waiting list that evening!

The Scout Troop collected commodities which the Nation had need of during February. Jam jars at 1d each, toothpaste tubes for lead and now milk bottle tops by the stone.

On 6th February, the 54th and final Cockerton Old Folk's Re-union took place, the 8th helping on this last occasion, and possibly every year since 1915. The event ceased because of its inability to cope with the rising population of Cockerton.

On 26th February, the Scout Troop held a joint hike with the Guides, this time the Holy Trinity Company. The route was by Winston to Barnard Castle in fine weather.

Then once again 'Spotlight on the Gang' of 1956 filled in a busy week for the 8th and District, from the 19th to 24th March, at the New Hippodrome Theatre, again a winner with a cast of 105, and packed houses all week.



On 27th March, Eric Easthill gave a dance and social in the Senior Troop meeting hall in the Old School in the centre of the Green. Rangers were invited as well as all the Leaders in the Group and their friends. It was a complete success and enjoyed by all.

During the winter months, George Rowling, the Group QM, undertook to take stock of the Group equipment, now growing in worth and bulk. This job was to become an annual task. At this time, alas, part of the QM's room ceiling fell down unexpectedly, probably due to weight, this entailed the building of a large tentage rack in the front upstairs room of the HQ.

It should be mentioned that the Garden Fete sideshows were stored in the loft above the front room of No 80. This room was quite a sizeable place, having walls of over 2' before the roof slope started. The only trouble was that all stored had to be covered to avoid dust. Still! it was space, and the ever expanding 8th was desperate.

Tommy Harrison, Frank Beadle and Les Williamson set to work during the early part of the year to revise the list of old members again – a fantastic and often fruitless task with the movement of people.

The Cub Pack now had such a waiting list that one boy was said to now be in Hong Kong! perhaps there were vacancies in Packs there?

The Group could muster a goodly number on church parades one of which was held in Cockerton in February, again separating to three churches by arrangement. St. George's Day was also supported in April, this time at North Road Methodist Church.

Easter saw the Senior Scout Troop concentrating on the First Class and Venturer Badge journeys, the latter being one part of the badge and entailing a 20 mile hike. No standing camp too place at Easter for the Seniors, mainly because the SM (S) got married on Easter Saturday.

The Scout Troop got off to a good start to the camping season with all 10 ranks and four Scouters attending the Training Camp at Hunger Hill from 30th March to Monday, 2nd April. Trek carts were the order of transport, the 8th being one of the last Troops to trek on a regular basis. The accent of the camp was a concentrated course of tracking, pioneering, incidents to deal with unusual situations, cooking, the Backwoodsman Badge with anything from cooking in oranges to purifying muddy water, a busy camp indeed.

Back from camp, the Cubs, Scouts, as well as the Seniors, were joined by the Troop P.L.s and Seconds in Bob-a-Job Week once again.

Hunger Hill was in use again over the weekend, 12th/13th April, when F Beadle took the Senior Troop over the entire requirements of the Senior Pioneer Badge, due to the SM (S) being away. Many of the Seniors were working hard for the Queen's Scout Badge now.

Several Committee activities took place during April, which saw a Group Jumble Sale in the Methodist Hall on the 27th. It was very inconvenient at times, as the Troop had to meet out of doors whilst the Sale was on, the Pack also had no home for an evening. In addition to this, all the jumble material had to be carried to the Methodist Hall from the Group Den; this was usually done at 5.30 p.m. and many people went without their tea to ensure the sale starting at 6.0 p.m. It was, however, becoming evident that the Group could not survive on one, or even two good sales per year – this was our 3rd since last Easter.

The Group Committee also held a Beetle Drive in the School in the centre of the Green occasionally if the Co-op Hall was not available.

Back to Hunger Hill again, the third time in April, for a camp to test the Backwoodsman and Pioneer over the week-end, 28th/29th.

May saw just as much activity, the Cub Pack held two hikes, a Senior Troop hike on 15th May took in a distance of 25 miles by Richmond to Brignall Banks and Barnard Castle.

The Whitsuntide Scout Troop Camp was attended by 31 Scouts and took place on the Approved School Camp Site beyond Eggleston in Teesdale. The use of the site was a 'once only' gesture by the Governors, persuaded by Skip Beadle. A glorious weekend with perfect Patrol Scouting, still with the original Bell Tents.

The Senior Troop extended their Whit Camp by attending the Durham County Jamboree from 24th – 27th May at Lambton Castle with the Chief, Lord Rowallan – the camp site was on what is now the Giraffe Enclosure of the Lambton Lion Park.

The 5th Annual Garden Fete took place on 9th June, 1956. It was quite evident that from the Fetes of modest beginnings in 1951, 53, 54 and 55, our Fete was catching on; it involved everyone in the Group, over 100 people. It was now to supersede everything for several weeks beforehand. New side shows were to be made, the outlay was now well over £100, more and more people came each year, Cockerton simply expected it to happen.

As usual, the Fete was held in the 'Garth', the grounds of the Cockerton Club, from which all the help we could wish for was readily available. We now hired a large fawn canvas 24' marquee from Stockton, had 16 sideshows plus several displays during the afternoon, with Cockerton Silver Band playing too. This Fete was opened by Mr W French, the District Commissioner, and realised a net profit of £63 – a fantastic sum at that time, all of which was designated to the Development Fund of the Group for a future Headquarters.

A significant event during the opening of the Fete was the presentation to Seniors Ross and Hoare of the Queen's Badge by the DC. Royal Certificates now became again within the reach of the efficiency of the 8th Group.

The weekend after the Garden Fete, we entered two teams in the Selwyn Austin Camping Competition. Separate trek carts were on their way to Portland Place where they were unloaded and kit stacked onto a lorry, the empty carts being returned to Cockerton by other Scouts.

The competition, at Raby Park, unfortunately placed the 8th in third and fourth positions, why we didn't know! Perhaps we could have had one exceptional team instead of two good ones. There were 12 teams from Darlington. Our teams were as follows:-

'A' Tony Hoare PL	'B' Edward Ross PL
Arthur Dobson Sec.	Alan Sherwood Sec.
Morris Milner	Edward Scott
Garry Hill	Kenneth Omerod
Keith Platt	Tony Wilson
Roger Williamson	Adrian Moore

'A' team got 84 points 'B' team 8 points – no comment!

Two weeks later, a team of Under 15s were at Brancepeth competing and representing Darlington in the County Dryburn Camping Competition. This was the second time we had had a go at this competition, finishing 5th – a 'foreign' Troop from Sunderland won the Cup. The team from the 8th 'Under 15' Troop were:-

Neil Minto PL	Barry Philbin
Alan Milner Sec.	Edward Scott
Cedric Hovington	Roger Williamson

In June and July several more weekends at Hunger Hill took place; these camps were always better attended if centred round a specific badge test, when over 20 would be in camp. There is no doubt that at that time we had a spate of 'badge hogs' in the Troop and Senior Troop. 37 badges were gained since 1st April to the end of May – 8 weeks! In the Scout Troop alone 25 badges were presented on one evening in May.

The Senior Troop gained 20 in the same period, with the Cub Pack just as keen. The badges included, as an interesting comparison with the 1920s and 1970s:-

SCOUT TROOP:- Jobman, Messenger, Fireman, First Aid, Artist, Backwoodsman, Weatherman, Astronomer, Hobbies, Stamp Collector, Pioneer, Bookman, Gardener, Cook, Camper, Life Saver, Swimmer, Athlete, Musician.

SENIOR TROOP:- Senior Pioneer, Forester, Venturer, Ambulance, Meteorologist, Master Cook, Camp Warden, Hiker.

Most of these qualified for the Scout Green Cords, Bushman's Thong and the Queen's Scout Badge. The First Class being the accepted attainment level or 'norm'.

The 42nd Annual Troop Camp took place from Saturday, 25th August to Monday 3rd September. Skipper Beadle had been looking out for remote camp sites – he had found just such a site, as if taken out of one of the best books on Scout Camping, this new site had everything. Seclusion, wood, no public, no shops, buses only on Tuesdays and Saturdays, off the beaten track, at a distance of 54 miles from Darlington, just 6 miles south of Appleby, a super swimming pool 400 yards, a safe wooded riverside on an hitherto unknown river called the Lyvanett. So commenced the First Troop Camp at Kings Meaburn.

The only trouble was that, in the tradition of the 8th, we had four solid days and nights of rain, it only faired up on the Wednesday morning, the river having subsided from danger level. To dampen morale further, we had three weeks of heatwave before going to camp – some of the younger chaps took it very badly indeed. However, on Wednesday morning the sun shone and shone until the following Monday when we struck camp after an alternate wet and dry 10 days.

On Saturday, 27th July, the Senior Scout Troop left Bank Top Station for the first part of their journey to their Annual Camp, just 25 years after the first Troop camped in Ireland in 1930. A brief report of the camp is as follows:-

Saturday, 27th 3.49 a.m. train to Holyhead – spent night at Bray.

Sunday, 28th Travelled to Galway in hired Commer Station Wagon.

Monday, 29th Sightseeing, bathing at Galway.

Tuesday, 30th More sightseeing, more bathing.

Wednesday, 31st Moved on to Killarney.

Thursday, 1st Hiked up Gap of Dunlow, returned on horseback.

Friday, 2nd Sightseeing in Killarney.

Saturday, 3rd Journey to Irch for the day.

Sunday, 4th Bathing, rest day, church.

Monday, 5th Visited Ross Castle, walked around Killarney Lakes, hiked up mountain.

Tuesday, 6th Day outing this time to Glengarriff.

Wednesday, 7th Moved on to Cork, visited famous Blarney Stone.

Thursday, 8th Visited caves in Mitchelstown, then back to Bray.

Friday, 9th Back to Holyhead, train to Darlington, arrived home tired at 12.30p.m.

Although only 5 Seniors and the SM (S) made up the contingent, it was again an ambitious venture for the Senior Troop and put things at an attractive level for those awaiting to join the Senior Troop having attained the age of 15 in the Scout Troop.

Meanwhile, a new Leader had appeared at Senior Troop Meetings, he was Mr Frank Duffy, who had formerly lived at Northallerton.

No word has been made of the 8th Rover Crew which was in fact non existent, the young men of the group, who became of Rover age, e.g. 18 to 65 years, had no crew to go to, but were either absorbed as Scouters, or joined the 'Kipling' District Crew.

A new report entitled 'ROVER ORGANISATION AND TRAINING' came from Scout IHQ in London during 1956, curtailing the Rover age from 18 to 24 only. To all intents and purposes, this was the end of Rovering as we had known it. The large 'Kipling' District Crew, numbering over 30, was virtually written off with the stroke of a pen! In the 8th, the Crew had been struggling for over a year now. This upset the pleasant little backwater for the Group Scouter who could find occasional and good company of his own age at intervals in the Crew. The National aim, of course, was to leave more free to be adult Scouters. National Service for two or more years had now finished although other handicaps and afflictions, such as evening classes, courting and the call to college or university still took their toll of our 18 year olds.

Such an occasion was when our next Queen's Scout Certificate was presented to Michael J Storey on the eve of his 18th birthday, about two days before he went off to King's College.

At the end of September, changes in ranks of some Scouters took place, as below:-

CUB PACK CM Joan S Burton, ACM George W Rowlings, ACM Derek Mais, Instructor Alan Sherwood.

SCOUT TROOP SM Bryan N Howson, ASM David J Clapton, TL J Neilson.

SENIOR TROOP SM (S) Frank Duffy, ASM (S) Frank A Beadle.

Arthur W Dickens Act GSM

These changes in rank took place when Eric Easthill moved to live in 'Africa' in connection with his work. We were sorry to lose such a good Scouter who had proved beyond doubt that the Senior Scout Scheme did work.

Perhaps a note or two here about the other Leaders: The new SM (S) had 28 years' service in Scouting so Frank Beadle stepped back in view of Frank Duffy's experience, although Mr Duffy's business in the town meant he was frequently late at meetings.

It will also be noted that the Senior Troop was producing new and younger Scouters to help the Sections. Doreen Hutchinson had now married and left Scouting too.

The Cub Pack was progressing well during 1956 with a larger than usual waiting list, 32 active Cubs. They gained the District Sports Shield on 7th July with 22 points, the runners up having only 11 points. The Pack also came 2nd in the Relay Race during the summer, nearly all the Pack had enjoyed an outing to Earl's Orchard Education Hostel in July, certainly not being left behind in any limelight of 1956.

The Senior Troop progressed still under its new management a hike took place in September, a weekend camp at Hunger hill on 6th/7th October was attended by ASM (S) and six boys.

One of the most ghastly accidents occurred in the old School on the Green one Friday evening at Senior Meeting, when the Fair was on the Green for Cockerton Feast.

Although the Fair came each year in September, it never affected the Group meetings, although the takings of the roundabouts to rifle ranges did increase after 9.30 when uniformed Scouts invaded the machinery!

On this particular Friday evening, the Senior meeting was in its final boisterous game when Alan Sherwood almost went through a glass screen. The Seniors responded well in an emergency although Alan came off the 'table' at the Memorial Hospital at 4.30 a.m. and 43 stitches later.

Jumble was collected in the Autumn, the sale being in October. The Troop held a cycle ride, combined with a day at Hunger Hill. Several of the Seniors, now 13 years of age, were to leave the Group at the end of the year, these included Arthur Dobson and Alan Sherwood.

A Church Parade, the Christmas Parties completed another busy year. The Pack Party getting under way with its jostling crowd of youngsters and paper hats, the Troop Party from 7.0 to 10.0 p.m. with presentations, and finally the Senior Troop Party at Earl's Orchard again with roast chicken and all the festive trimmings, organised by F Beadle.

The Senior Troop again chopped firewood, bundled it, donned uniforms, to deliver it by trek cart on Christmas Day.

1957

50 years since Scouting began, 42 years since the 8th was first formed. The year began with Frank Duffy having to resign due to pressure of business, Frank Beadle became SM (S).

On 20th January, the Scout Troop held a day's hike from Richmond to Marske and return. The Senior Troop had a day repairing the bridge at Hunger Hill. A ceremony took place on 1st February as several Cubs went into the Troop and four boys into the Senior Scout Troop.

Before the end of March, several more Seniors became 18 and went their various ways, there was no Rover Crew now! In a short transitional period, the Senior Troop age range changed rapidly. The Troop still had a waiting list, as had the Cub Pack.

The Group attended a special Bi-Centenary year Service at St Cuthbert's Church to mark 50 years of Scouting. Other activities during the month included a visit by 11 Seniors to the North of England Newspaper Works in Priestgate, where they had an evening watching the Darlington and Stockton Times being printed, and a message to them from London over the teleprinter system. Scout Bob-a-Job Week took place again at the end of March – happily for the Senior Troop as their balance at the end of the Scout year in March was 6/5½d.!

During April, the Annual General Meeting of the 8th Scout Group took place, strangely enough on 10th April! The Group Committee and Group Scouters met separately during the year with the G.S.M. only at the Committee, to ensure liaison. At the Annual General Meeting, however, all were present and – reports were given by the sections, in addition to the normal function of the meeting that of adopting the previous year's accounts, the net balance of which was now growing.

At this juncture, it is significant to note that this meeting in fact took place in the Co-op Hall above the shop in West Auckland Road. The latter half of the meeting was an extraordinary meeting to mark one of the milestones of progress in the 8th.

During March, Skipper Beadle was asked to allow two gentlemen to look at 80, Cockerton Green, they having asked the Landlord to allow them to buy the property – including No.82, of course!

From this point, things moved fast – Les. Williamson and Frank Beadle sped round to see the Landlord immediately. Mr Seymour, to our surprise, did not think we were 'interested' in buying both houses! However, he was pleased we were – quoted a figure of several hundred pounds which we did not have, although found all of within 7 DAYS.

Therefore, from the Minutes of the meeting on 10th April, 1957, we read:-

(1) That the property of the Group, being all that part and parcel of land situate at 80 and 82 Cockerton Green, shall be vested in the Trustees, and be held by them upon the Trusts, in the Trust Deed.

(2) That: Mr L D Williamson, Mrs R Seymour, Mr W French and Mr T Harrison –

- shall be the first Trustees and shall forthwith execute a Trust Deed, in the terms of the said draft.

The proposal was made by Mr A Dickens and seconded by Mrs Rowling.

This historic step in the progress of the 8th did not have any immediate effect on the Group. No 82 was still occupied by the Sleightholme family whom we had no intention of evicting, in any case we were now saddled with a fairly large repayment of loans from various sources. It was an 'as you were' but the 8th Scout Group now owned Freehold, a large tract of land looking onto Cockerton Green.

A note of interest was that No 82 had once been an inn which last functioned as such in 1907 and could be traced back

to the early 1600s.

'What a challenge
it offers to man's
ingenuity to with-
stand hardship and
danger ---- I'm
going back !'



The Scout Troop concentrated on Patrol Meetings, Patrol hikes and cycle rides; The Cub Pack on shorter hikes and activities.

The Senior Scout Troop camped in Borrowdale near to Stonethwaite village, where the 8th has on many occasions. 10 Seniors attended the camp, 4 went by train on Thursday, 4 and SM (S) F Beadle and G.N.E. coach and yet another two on motor cycles. Saturday morning, the Seniors set off up Langstrath to a final stiff climb up onto Esk Hause, where they had lunch, then on past Great End to Great Gable with a fine view of all the peaks on a clear day, returning via Green Gable and down to Seathwaite, then back to camp for dinner – a tiring day.

Sunday it rained all day, went to church, had originally intended to walk to Watendlath via Greenup Edge, cooked in rain all day, singsong at night.

Monday, scorching hot, struck camp to catch 1.30p.m. diesel train to Darlington, 13th Troop boarded train at Barnard Castle, alighted at North Road Station, met by trek cart brought by two Scouts, trekked into Cockerton.

This year was the first year the IHQ had imposed a Capitation fee payable after Scout Job Week. Although 3/3d. inclusive of 3d. Insurance fee, it was quite a shock to all. It was becoming more expensive to run Scouting – even in IHQ.

This year much work was put into improving the Garden Fete Stalls. The original ones, made in 1951, almost completely, from an old cabin procured by Les Williamson, the original decoration was tissue paper which got damp and torn or both, in its precarious journeys on handcarts each year to the 'Garth'. 80% of the stalls and sideshows were remade in better timber, painted with primer, undercoat and gloss to be rainproof and damage resistant. This job took several long weary months. It should be remembered that all were made and painted in the ground floor rear room of No 80 – crushed to say the least.

Frank Duffy occasionally appeared again at Senior Meetings and offered a varied change, such as club swinging and the

reasonable attempt at a 'Skiffle Group' –all the rage at that time.

During June, Seniors Edward Ross and Morris Milner attended a Jamboree trial camp at the County Camp at Brancepeth. This Bi-Centenary Jubilee Jamboree was to be the biggest event for many years, and two of our Group were to attend it.

The Scout Sports took place during June, the 8th again had a good day, coming away from Longfield Road Stadium with the Sports Pennant, which included 9 events – also the Tug-of-War with a hefty team of well fed 8th Scouts and finally gaining 2nd place in the Senior Relay and a fine first in the Junior Relay – what a triumphant day!

On Saturday, 22nd of June, the Group Garden Fete took place and was opened by Danny Pawson who had travelled all the way from Birmingham for the event! as if anyone could have stopped him!

We realised that the fete was growing larger each year, it just could not help itself – Gross profit - £151. 1. 1. with a final net profit of £35. 9. 7. Once again Cockerton looked on as 28 handcarts of fete material trundled back and forth from Friday to Saturday.

No Troop Annual Camp was held this year, one of the few when this has happened, although the Troop did have an extended tour around the Lakes early in July. It should be remembered that Bryan Howson, SM, was assisted by one other only, we were still very short of Leaders.

On 29th July, Seniors Edward Ross and Morris Milner set off for the Jubilee Jamboree in Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham. This was easily the most fantastic venture that the post war world of Scouting had ever undertaken. There were over 35,000 Scouts at the Jamboree, with a separate Rover 'Moot' and still further afield, a separate Scouter 'Indaba'. Each of the days for visiting brought thousands of people including HM Queen Elizabeth II. 500 acres of tentage had a radius of over 1½ miles at one point, the postal tent was 500 yards long, the tented hospital staffed by 300 a day and a similar number at night. The main arena held 5,000 people, the main flagstaff was of plated steel, 5' diameter at the base and the food bill was over £250,000.

Day visitors included F Beadle with a few Scouts, although Mike Storey, one of our ex Seniors, was camping with the Rover Moot as a Rover in Newcastle.

To enlist all the events in the 12 days of this Jamboree would fill several pages, but it is interesting to note a few of the figures for feeding and organising this event. The Jamboree ate 20,000 loaves of bread and 500,000 gallons of water daily, just for bare necessities of life. During the Jamboree, they ate 32 miles of sausages, 544,000 cakes and 54 tons of jam.

The two representatives of the 8th had a great time and gave a talk to both Troop and Senior Troop on their return.

Changes again saw fit to come about during September. We had the usual collection of Jumble then were sad to lose

Arthur W Dickens who was moving back to Northampton. Arthur had set the pace for a Group system fully under way and had begun to see the fruits of his work. Before he went, he appointed Frank Beadle as his successor as GSM at the end of September.

Problems of accommodation loomed up again when we could not have the Senior Troop meetings in the old Church of England School in the centre of the Green, as it was 'condemned' and said to be unfit for use – even for Seniors! So once again the restriction of room area presented problems as the Seniors met in the Group Den, with programmes designed round this restricted space.

At this time an epidemic of Asian flu hit Great Britain and the 8th Group – for several weeks schools and Troop meetings were down to 30% attendance – few escaped it.

During October and November, several hikes took place by sections of the Group, camps had, of course, been held at Hunger Hill that year –although not as many as usual.

The Senior Troop held its Earl's Orchard weekend in December with several former Seniors invited, in all 22 attended the 3 day eating, sleeping and hiking weekend. After this, firewood was again made ready and six uniformed Seniors (in shorts) delivered the gifts to grateful old people of Christmas morning.

The Pack and Troop parties ended a year of ups and downs which had borne much progress in some fields, yet none in others, a year not quite as settled as its predecessors.

1958

The Cub Pack continued to do well and comprised the following at the start of the year. It is worthy of note that many of the names which appear in the Pack Roll are subsequently in the Troop later, then the Senior Troop, several becoming Queen's Scouts and others our future Leaders – such is the continuity of the 8th.

PACK SCOUTERS Miss J S Burton, CM, Miss B Wetherhill, ACM, Mr. P Hardy instructor

<u>RED SIX</u>	<u>GREEN SIX</u>	<u>YELLOW SIX</u>	<u>BLUE SIX</u>
M Armitage	R Barras	M Dalton	A Earl
R Scott	A Buckley	J Dinsdale	J Howlett
H Todd	R Jackson	T Robinsons	D Robinson
P Turnbull	J Kilpatrick	B Smith	G Ryan
A Wintersgill	M Richards	C Thornton	J Tait
J Wood	M Young	R Waddington	A Theakston
I Sincock	K Douglas	K Kitchens	R Wright

TROOP SCOUTERS Mr B N Howson, SM , Mr G W Rowling ASM, Keith Platt TL

CURLEWS

Roger Williamson PL
Brian Kilpatrick Sec.
John Weston
David Robinson
Brian Deighton
Colin Jackson
Freddy Robinson

TIGERS

Anthony Wilson PL
Len Campbell Sec.
David Johnson
Ian Ross
John Hall
Anthony Thexton
Donald Leach

OTTERS

David Irving PL
Michael Gaskin Sec.
Keith Mason
Michael Foggin
Eric Stirk
Ian Reid
Ian Webster

OWLS

Michael Hovington PL
Henry Jopling Sec.
Richard Omerod
John Cleminson
C.Wintersgill
Allan James
W.Kilpatrick

SWIFTS

Norman Milner PL
David Wilson Sec.
Jefferey Wetherill
T.Robinson
Anthony Dinsdale
A.Winterburn
P.B.Foxon

SENIOR TROOP SCOUTERS Mr F A Beadle SM (S) & GSM E Ross TL (S)

MALLORY

Ian Emerson PL (S)
Derek Neilson Sec.(S)
Peter Hardy

SCOTT

Morris Milner PL (S)
Kenneth Omerod Sec.(S)
Edward Scott

MITCHELL

Neil Minto PL (S)
Alan Milner Sec.(S)
Cedric Hovington

90% of the Senior Troop had been through the Pack and Troop to have 10 years' service by the time they became 18 years of age. On 7th February, such an occasion took place with the usual handshakes as we bade goodbye to Ian Emerson after 10 years in the Group.

The Senior Troop still had no meeting hall at this time.

Apart from the Cub Pack, badgework was only fair at the time, this, of course, presented a challenge.

Bob-a-Job week came round again with the usual Capitation fee of 3/-. St George's Day Parade had a good smart turnout with Jumble Collection during March. This twice a year collection on a much larger scale now became a regular thing.

Garden Fete time came around again in June. The Fete Organiser had been F Beadle on our first six efforts, this time G Rowling volunteered to do the job. The Fete was opened by Mrs V Rowling, a Founder member of the Group Committee.

In June, the Cub Pack competed in the Baker-Wheeler all round competition and came 3rd out of 20 Packs, a very good showing for the youngsters.

The Scout Sports, held at the Rolling Hills Stadium in Longfield Road, on 21st June, resulted in a clean sweep for the Troop and Senior Troop, who had a field day! We won the Junior Relay, the Senior Relay and the Sports Pennant out of 16 Troops, although the Tug of War eluded the Group that year.

The 1958 Annual Camp was held at Middleham, on a new site near Coverham Church, about a mile up Coverdale, near the Cheese Factory. Bryan Howson, SM, was in charge of the

camp with George Rowling, ASM, and Roger Williamson, TL. The entire camp was blessed with good weather and enjoyed by all.

During August, the GSM was married. One Scout was heard to remark beforehand 'When you get married, Skip, will there be a Court of Honour – I mean, a Guard of Honour! There was, of course.

Some changes took place in the complement of the Group when in September the Senior Troop was dissolved into the Scout Troop to form a separate Patrol. Keith Platt, the Troop TL, and Michael Gaskin had joined the Senior Troop.

The meeting of the separate Senior Troop in the rooms of No.80 was not very successful, boisterous games could not be played, things like pioneering were limited – so was noise, when we remembered we had neighbours at both sides of the rooms.

September saw the usual Rag Week Collection from 1500 houses again cluttering the Group HQ with two rooms full of junk, which left little space for anything else.

So after a moderate year, we were down to two sections again as the year ended, although both at full capacity with the Pack at 32 and the combined Troop at 42.

During the year we had gained the services of a Ranger, Miss B Wetherill, who had become an ACM. The surname of Wetherill is mentioned throughout the 8th's history and needs little explanation. Miss Wetherill's father, one of our former PLs in the 1920s, served on the Group Committee from April.

Would the Scouter situation get any better? We had one GSM, a CM, and ACM and SM and a ASM, heavy work for such a few with no respite from the weekly routine of a busy Group.

1959

The first three months of the year saw the situation for staff getting worse instead of better. After a busy three months of hikes and another large Jumble Drive, the March sale making a sum of £19, we again lost another Scouter.

George Rowling was requested by the R.A.F. for two years, this was a great loss as George was Group SM as well as ASM. To offset the situation, F Beadle took over as SM as the Troop was too large for one man to handle.

Bryan Howson directed his attentions towards the revival of a Rover Crew, with a meeting of four over 18s to start the Crew off, the first meeting took place at the end of April.

Group equipment had been improved since the post war years, this year was no exception when a new PIONEER tent was bought, in green canvas, of 10' x 8' with a height of 7' and a price of £25.19.0.

The Group still used tinsplate and steel 3 gallon dixies, also 1½ gallon oval dixies in tinsplate. These had a disadvantage of going rusty if not dried after cleaning.

There was sufficient equipment to camp 5 patrols separately, leaving enough for the staff, each Patrol having the following as a normal set of gear:-

Patrol Tent – Either Bell or Ridge.

Food Tent – Usually a small bivouac.

Patrol Box – Painted green, fitted with a shelf etc.

1-3 gall. – Oval dixie with lid.

2-1½ “ – “ dixies.

1 next of – 3 tinplate billies, 7, 5 and 2 pint.

Plus the usual things like ladles, wooden spoons, etc.

The highlight of the early part of the year was the 8th Group Re-union on Saturday, 2nd May. Things had been planned a long way ahead, invitations being sent out just after Christmas. One of the main failings of this part of the Re-union was the lack of knowledge of locations of many former members. Some could be contacted by reference to parents' home address, in or near Cockerton, although this faded as parents passed on, or moved away from town.

About 150 former members arrived for the re-union, more than last time. They were welcomed at the door by Les D Williamson and Frank A Beadle who span all but two of the 8th's years between them. It was noticed that part of the company comprised old Scouts of post war years now, whereas the previous event had only pre war members.

The programme for the evening was as follows:-

6.30 to 7.0 Arrivals – welcome.

7.0 to 7.45 Show – Individual turn, Pack Item, Individual turn, Troop Item, Individual turn

8.0 to 8.45 Slides of recent camps narrated by B Howson and F Beadle, Old slides of 1920s narrated by L D Williamson.

8.45 to 9.15 Pie and peas supper.

9.15 Cubs and Scouts under 15 depart.

9.30 to 9.45 Speeches various

9.45 to 10.30 Camp fire.

There was not really any change in this programme if compared with the latest re-union, but is there any need? Over the drone of conversation one could hear 'Remember the time when –' 'Was it in 1934 when we –' After all, this is the purpose of a re-union, this is what it is all about!

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Group by Ernest Thompson; Tommy Harrison and Laurie Case did a hilarious turn at the camp fire, entitled 'Henry and Sarah'.

Among the guests of honour were Mr J A Lear, ADC and Mrs Bringham. The Scouts and Cubs paid a nominal fee, this coupled with a collection more than offset expenses for the event. 'Have another soon' was the parting word of many as they went their separate ways.

Camps were held at Hunger Hill in May and June –these camps in almost every case were for some particular badge test. The trek cart was still often used, although we did have the regular use of a van owned by Mr Gaskin, in business in the area, whose son was a member of the Scout Troop.

During the summer, we lost another Scouter when the CM Miss J Burton was married and moved away. Joan was a great loss to the Group, she had run an organised competent Pack for some years now. Barbara Wetherill, the ACM, took over and we were lucky to gain the help of Miss G Morris, although this was only temporary. Never had the 8th been so short of Leaders as this time in 1959.

The Scout Sports took place on 30th May although nothing was of note for this year. Preparations for the 8th Garden Fete were, however, in full swing long before May.

The fete took place on Saturday, 27th June, opened by Charles (Sixty Spuds) Parker. It got off to a good start with Charlie's dry wit, in the opening speech. Brian Deighton, one of the PLs, sold 472 programmes that year, this total has never been surpassed to this day by an individual.

Once again more people than ever came to the fete, once again it involved just a bit more work, producing just that much more clear profit.

The Cub Sports were at Eastbourne School field on 2nd July with our Pack gaining 2nd place. The Pack was also 5th in the Baker Wheeler All Round Shield, a very heartening report for the year, although the best of the Pack achievements was the winning of the District Cub Football Shield during the early part of the year, a fine win indeed.

At the end of August, Joan Burton had to finally resign as CM although a day's outing to Runswick Bay completed her active days as a Cub Leader.

The 44th Annual Troop Camp took place at King's Meaburn, near Appleby from 15th to 23rd August (8 days). This was the second visit to this site first located three years ago.

23 attended the camp which was run by F Beadle as GSM and a new ASM, Mark Scarr. Mark had agreed to assist when a desperate search for new Scouters was underway during the year. He had been a Scout, Senior and in the Rover Crew in 1950, before entering H.M. Forces.

During September, much activity was pursued in the month. 17 Scouts and Seniors attended the District Camp at Raby Park on 4th-6th September. The weather was glorious and it made a fine setting on the High Pond site. Fielding two Relay teams in the new 'Activity' Relay, we came 1st with one team, 3rd with the other.

On 19th September, the Troop came 3rd in the Swimming Gala at the Darlington Baths. On the following morning, 41 of the Group paraded on Cockerton Green for church, separating to go to three churches.

During the summer months, John Morgan was around again and said he would help with the Pack until the end of September. His experience was a great help although he left for the south

as intended, at the end of the month. Miss Morris also had to resign her temporary post and Mrs J Beadle began to assist at Pack Meetings from October.

By November, the Pack staffing situation began to look brighter and was not the worry it had been during the year. The Troop situation looked better too, as George Rowlings had been posted near to Darlington during his National Service.

The Rover Crew still ran into heavy weather with College and University. Edward Ross had left to go away as well as 'Dirk' Neilson, making 5 'associate' members away from home.

A supper had been held during September and various work on equipment made a useful contribution to the Group.

Another ceremony was when several Cubs went into the Troop on 30th October and also the traditional Pack Hallowe'en Party, when Jungle Dances were demonstrated by the Pack, with Mrs M Hardy, ADC for Cubs, being present.

The Troop 'Badger' Patrol was running on a regular weekly basis by the beginning of October, a full day's training on 1st November at Hunger Hill was attended by all PLs and Secs.

On 21st November the Group, now anxious to swell the Development Fund in case we could start building a Headquarters, tried a new fund raising idea, in addition to the Annual Fete.

The November Fayre was received with mixed feelings, more patrons would have helped! and offset the long weeks of hard work in making all sorts of items. The event made only about £25 and was opened by Mrs J Lear, wife of a District ADC.

The Group Christmas party was held on 18th December, from 6.45 to 10.0 p.m. This year a conjuror entertained the Cubs and Scouts, the usual feed and campfire being in the programme too. The Patrol Cup was presented to Brian Deighton PL Otters.

During the year, Laurie Case, who was one of our most prominent former Scouts and an ASM pre-war, presented one of his boxing trophies to the Troop for the 'Best Scout' annually. This well received cup was the actual original L.N.E.R. Trophy, as presented and inscribed to Laurie – 1934-1936.

CHAPTER 6 – THE SIXTIES

1960

During the first month, Mark Scarr had to relinquish his post as ASM, taking a job in Northallerton. Mark was another loss to the Group, and he had practically taken over as SM. His interest and knowledge of nature and wild life was without doubt a valuable asset to the Troop.

Mrs. Jean Beadle then took over the Pack as Cub Master with the assistance of Barbara Wetherill who had managed the Pack since May practically single handed. Surely the Scouter situation had to improve something? These were busy years for those who led.

Out of the 35 Scouts, all but one had full uniform which included the Scout Stave (or pole). These had to be brought over from the HQ each meeting night to the Hall as we had only the small chest of drawers for storage in the hall.

Early in the year, the old Church of England School in the centre of the Green was demolished by contract – not the 8th! Accommodation problems still faced us if we wished to expand.

March saw another collection of Jumble taking place, with two sales at least from the material. At this time, the Group was making about £150 per year on Jumble. Following this, another Bob-a-Job week with the H.Q. London Capitation fee now 55/- per head.

On Wednesday, 13th April, a rather more ambitious Annual General Meeting of the Group took place in the upstairs hall of the Methodist Schoolrooms. This was the 45th A.G.M. of the Group,. Although this meeting had really come into its own when the Committee was formed in 1949.

Not a formal meeting in any way, the evening began at 7. 00 p.m. with an hour's entertainment including Scout Turns, Pack Jungle Dance of Shere Khan , Scout Ambulance Display, Rover Crew turn, Scout items, ending with another Pack Jungle Dance.

Following this, the short business of the meeting was conducted, then three Scouts recited a poem of 15 verses to promote interest in the new Building Scheme to be launched shortly.

This poem, written by the GSM, was related in 1960 by three 13 year old Scouts, Brian Deighton, Ian Webster and Alan James. Everyone listened far better than to an adult speech.

During the middle of the First World War,
Long before my time – long before,
A thought came to a great man's head,
That bots of Cockerton should be led
Along paths quite straight – without any doubting –
In fact they really wanted SCOUTING.

So from April the 10th, 1915,
There was seen on Cockerton Green,
Boys with royal blue scarves – now worn,
The 8th Darlington (Cockerton) had been born.

The Patrols were Tigers, Swifts then Otters,
Also there were the 'Scruffs' – the rotters,
And J.B. Lishman was the man.
He was the first Skip – to carry the can,
For all these new formed Boy Scouts did,
--course, he still remembered when he was a kid.

We owe a lot to old 'J.B.',
A sort of COCKERTON'S B.P.!
We often wish that he was here
To see what became of his idea.

Soon the Troop got into its stride,
They were camping far and wide,
In '20 they to Belgium went,
I believe they even had a tent!
Then in 1920 you would see – us at the Olympia Jamboree,
World Band Contest, winners were we.
From far and wide world Scouts did come,
To see Charlie Parker on the big drum.
They had their pictures in the papers –
just another of Cockerton's capers.

When things were tough in '26,
They helped boys out of many a fix,
In '29 and '31 to greater things the Group moved on,
Till 1939, we saw The Group within another war,
The main bulk of the lads had gone – to see old Hitler – on the run,
But did the Troop fall through, Oh No!,
We camouflaged our tents and so,
With no fires after dark, wartime camping was a lark,
They carried on right through the war-
And did some service, what is more.

From 1948 and on, we never looked back – went on and ON!
The Cub Pack was reformed and then –
the Rover Crew for our young men.
So, before long, we did turn out
A fully qualified King's Scout,
The Group was famed throughout the town,
Always went up – seldom down,
The Parents' Committee was 'inaugratus' –
To ensure us of financial status,
To Group Committee its name was altered,
It grew in strength and never faltered

Soon we had a Building Fund –
the coffers they grew quite rotund,
In '51 our first Garden Fete,
Then forty quid was on the plate.
But wait, for greater things to come,
We rolled the pounds in, one by one.
Through Jumble sales and Rag Collections,
ANYTHING taken – no rejections.
From November Fayres to Garden Fetes,
We were always trying to fit in dates.

Right from the Cub Pack, Scouts and Rovers –
the Group Committee, and any left overs,
For the past few years, we have been striving
To have a Group that's really thriving,
But we have NOT yet reached our peak.
Eight years ago, we acquired the Den –
just simply for Scouting – and then,
A few years later we'd bought the lot,
The house next door – the entire plot!

We members of the Group today,
KNOW – we've the best Committee in the L.A.
With Mr. Williamson in the Chair –
We hope it won't cost his hair!
And Mrs. R. – without a doubt,
The things she's run – we've just lost count!
There are others too for recognition,
Their hard work and inspiration,
Our Scouters are tremendous workers –
there's just no room in here for shirkers.

Now, 1960's come around,
Does that ring a bell-like sound?
It should, because it means that now –
We have no time for talk or pow-wow.
Because we have a job to do,
We're going to build that new H.Q.
The plans are passed and estimations,
We've already laid foundations.
With picks and shovels, builders' hods,
Everyone in the Group – all the odd bods.

We cleared the site in one great spasm,
It's fantastic – the enthusiasm,
As we are marking out the site
To see the thing is built just right,
We've cleaned cold bricks of all their plaster,
Though we have to work MUCH faster,
Very soon with site all level,
Using plumb bob, rule and bevel,
We've all the stuff for the foundations –
BUT WE NEED MORE OLD SCOUTS' DONATIONS.

On the first of June there is a day,
When Miss Lishman – she will say,
'I declare this stone now truly laid',
By then the place will be half made,
We bought the roof beams, and what is more –
The windows and the escape door.

Then we thought we'd better mention
Toilets too in our intention,
Six other rooms there soon will be –
For Cubs and Scouts, and all sundry.

But one thing we must impress –
Before we finish this address,
This place will not be very small,
Full sixty feet from wall to wall,
The width will be of thirty feet –
That twice as long as both Skip's feet.
Eventually there will be a stage,
A little later – we would gauge,
Where a Group Show will really do down,
Just like the Gang Show, in the town,
There'll be all mod-cons and everything –
When things get going with a swing.

But the best about it is just this,
We shall do things we now miss –
Like putting things upon the wall
or yelling out our Patrol call!
Best of all – we can expand,
To take more boys into our band,
To welcome boys from all around,
Not heeding class or their background.
We'll have the quiet ones – and the shouters,
But, of course, we'll need more SCOUTERS!

So friends, there is much work for all,
Until we finally BUILD that Hall,
We appeal to all here in this room,
To help achieve this very soon.
There's plenty of work for all to do –
we're BUILDING and raising money, too.
So if you can't lay bricks, or build a wall,
Help on the Garden Fete to run a stall,

To hear these words, we three are HOPEN!

'I now declare this building OPEN!'

Following this, the Pack did the 'Dance of Shere Khan's Death' from the well rehearsed training of Jean Beadle, CM.

Tea and biscuits with the business of the A.G.M. proper succeeded in getting the interest of the Parents present and launching the project.

The year was one of real progress for the Group. We were now actually starting to build our own H.Q. 45 years after forming the Troop, although it should be remembered that the 8th had in 1923 opened a new Headquarters.

The general layout and design of the building was drafted by Frank Beadle with the Scouting aspect in mind. No.82 was, of course, to lose its garden, as well as several outhouses and a 70 ft. high pear tree.

Plans for the new buildings to be situated behind the Group HQ at No.80 and 82 had been drawn up by Harold Wetherill, a former member of the Troop, and now on the Group

HUNGER HILL 1962

Permanent Group Camp
site since 1948.
Cub Pack at Group
Weekend Camp with
Mrs. Beadle C.M. and
Miss A. Webster A.C.M.



KINGS MEABURN 1959

Showing four Patrol camps
and Staff tent with Marquee
on left.

SPENNITHORNE 1955

Whitsuntide Camp. Back row: Adrian
Moore, Edward Ross, Neil Minto,
Derek Neilson, Brian Smith, Alan
Hindmarsh. Centre: Michael Gaskin,
Skip, Garry Hill. Front row: Roger
Williamson, Alan Milner, Kenneth
Omerod, Cedric Hovington, Barry
Philbin, Edward Scott and Keith
McClean.





GOSFORTH PARK RALLY 1961

Part of the Group contingent, left to right: Jeffrey Wetherill, Len Campbell, Anthony Dinsdale, Roger Williamson, David Johnson.

Site of new hall taken summer 1960 from same position as the view taken of the completed interior on page 176.

Part of the west hall is not shown here, though in fact was at this stage being built. Rubble is from outhouses.



Committee. Many hours of detailed specification were undertaken; the block plan had been sanctioned late in 1959 by the County Borough of Darlington.

Another former Scout had stepped forward to build the HQ under the direction of the Group, helped by the Committee men, together with Scouts and Senior Scouts. Ernest Abel, a builder in his own right, set to work with gusto during April in the building of the HQ.

During the first three months, there is no doubt that Mr. Abel put a fantastic amount of individual work, excavating 180' of foundation, part of which ran through the rear of No. 82 and entailed tearing up the floor and shoring up very old walls.

A cement mixer was soon on the site and about 50 tons of old bricks, mortar and rubbish removed. Secondhand bricks were to be used and Mr. Abel brought several thousands of these to the site for cleaning by the Scouts. At a peak weekend, the records of hours worked by all being strictly kept, we had 120 hours with over 30 individuals working. Such was the start of the building the Headquarters of the 8th (Cockerton) Scouts Group.

The Group had a loan of £300 interest free from the District Scout Council to start the ball rolling, also a grant of £300 from the Youth Advisory Committee, making a total of about £800 at the outset. It should be remembered that we had repaid all borrowed in 1957 to buy the land.

Back to the Scouting side: we had no success in the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy but held a Parade in Cockerton, as well as St. George's Day at Corporation Road Methodist Church. Parades at this time were for Protestants only, our Roman Catholic boys usually paraded with the 22nd Darlington R.C. Troop during these years, or attended their own Church as usual at Holy Family.

The Troop Easter Training Camp was held at Hunger Hill over the four days, 15th/18th April. The Group now owned a reasonable trek cart. Some heavier gear was taken by Mr. Gaskin's van earlier in the week. 10 P.L.s and Seconds attended the camp plus the staff of Skip Beadle, George Gowling and Mrs. Beadle, C.M. The main theme of the camp was based on the Pioneer Badge, Backwoodsman Badge and general campcraft. The cooking of hares and pigeons was the highlight of one meal.

Building work was in progress by Committee men all during Easter. The weeks preceding and following, evening work was regular from 4.30 p.m. to darkness.

This year, it would be worthy to mention that we had been 12 years at Hunger Hill. One cannot put into words the real value of having a permanent weekend camp site – we had a beck, still muddy even stagnant in places, many acres of fields, a 20 acre wood of scrubby silver birch trees, thickets of brambles and other timbres to use at will. There was also another asset to the site, a cheerful and helpful farmer in Mr. Wilfred Pounder, who accepted the weekends when a Scout would call at the milk parlour, another for the water – we

appreciated Hunger Hill and looked after it.

The 1st of June arrived when over 150 people including all Cubs, Scouts, Seniors and Rovers gathered in the Methodist Hall to stand on the exact place where J B Lishman had stood 45 years ago to launch the 8th Troop. The Ceremony was the start of the laying of the foundation stones of the new Headquarters across the Green. Guests of honour were:-

Mr William French	District Commissioner
Mr Trevor Morris	Ex DC and President of the Darlington Scout Council
Miss A Lishman	Sister of the late Founder
Rev Dan Hunter	Methodist Minister
Rev Walker	Vicar of St. Mary's

There were short speeches by Les Williamson, Mr. Morris, Miss Lishman and Frank Beadle after which the entire party walked over the Green and entered the building site from the West Beck over what was then Mr. Pickersgill had afforded every facility for access to the site and himself was a great guest at the stone laying ceremony.

In a few short words, Miss. Lishman laid a stone in memory of her brother, our flounder, then Mr. Morris a similar stone alongside on behalf of all subscribers. Following this, Mrs. V Rowling presented an inscribed silver trowel to Mr. Trevor Morris, these small mementoes presented, the simple ceremony ended.

One could not help being astounded at the progress of the new hall, mainly due to Mr. Abel, all walls were at least two feet above the foundations, one corner having a window frame and a door frame in position.

The local press were there of course and gave good account and pictures in the newspapers next day. The subscribers mentioned were mainly former Scouts, although many others gave too, bringing in over £100, their names being entered into a book which is displayed at the H.Q. even to this day.

The Cub Pack continued to progress rapidly, the Troop held another weekend camp in June which had an attendance of 24. The Crew continued to get along with very small numbers and the Group Committee were seriously getting down to the next fete.

The 9th Annual Garden Fete held in the 'Garth' on Saturday, 2nd July, again had financial hopes pinned on it more than ever.

This 1960 Fete was opened by Mr. Richard Luck of the Local Scout Executive Committee; entertainment was by a judge club and a Punch and Judy Show. The fete took three months of hard work to prepare the stalls and order various things, although one of the hardest tasks was to find suitable people to run every stall. We tried to suit the stall to the person and vice versa. This job was usually left to the Scouters, led by the GSM, who contacted all Parents. We needed 12 ladies

in the buffet as a single staffing problem. Help was always forthcoming and no less than 93 people were working on the Fete when it was opened at 2.00 p.m.

The pre-sale of printed programmes brought in £50 profit and advertised the date, although people did ask early in the year, when it was!

Cockerton Silver Band headed the Fancy Dress Parade from the Green with police help, this was the 75th anniversary of the Band formed in 1885.

We now had Scouters and Seniors sleeping at the site during the Friday evening for security purposes.

When it was all over, the 3 hour trek of handcarts to and from the 'Garth' to the HQ of only four rooms, looking dreadful by 8.30 p.m.

This Fete achieved a target we thought we would never attain – a net profit of over £100 – the 1960 Fete just made it with £100.14.0. net.

Preparations for the Troop Annual Camp went ahead, from the letter giving details in January, with a cost of £3 per head, and equipment being attended to.

During the year we sadly learnt of the passing of Charles Daniel Pawson, in Birmingham, in May. Danny was one of our Founder members and an ASM until he moved south in 1926.

The 45th Annual Camp took place at Thorneythwaite Farm, in Borrowdale, from 20th to 28th August. The site was situated between the villages of Stonethwaite and Seathwaite, and it offered an ideal situation for a Scout camp. This was as far afield as one could go with the cost of lorry transport at that time. Once again, it was a wet camp, although well attended.

<u>Saturday</u>	Leaving the H.Q. at 9.00 a.m. we arrived after a meal stop en route at Appleby
<u>Sunday</u>	Heavy rain. R.C.s taken to church in Keswick, others attended Stonethwaite Church. Afternoon continued to rain, made gadgets and did pioneering
<u>Monday</u>	Raining again, two more Scouts arrive by car due to holidays previous week, inspection, lunch, afternoon climbed Rossthwaite Fell. Evening very windy and wet. PLs had supper with staff in marquee. Wind lifted tent pegs, blew sparks all over camp
<u>Tuesday</u>	Wet and windy, got brighter, packed meals, set off for Great Gable, via Honister Pass, had lunch in the slate quarry, Green Gable also en route, thick cloud, compass used all the way by both parties, no view at all, return hike by Sprinkling Tarn and Grain Gill.

During evening, each Patrol entertained one of staff for supper. Dave Clapton had a memorable meal with the Otters; he was requested to sit

cross legged on a mat, PL Deighton and his Second on either side. His meal of six courses, some of which were piping hot, was served with a nicety of manners, white napkins, in quick repetitive manner. On finishing, Dave was asked to go out of the tent to thank the 'Kitchen staff'. Boyhood is a fascinating, romantic, imaginative thing!

Wednesday Drizzle, inspection at 9.30 a.m. Aerial ropeway constructed. Mr. J A Lear, ADC, arrived at our camp with his wife. He rarely fails to visit an 8th camp and enjoy a meal with us. Parents visit during afternoon too. 5 gallons of tea made. Parents leave at 6.00 heavy rain, then very heavy rain all night.

Thursday Still pouring down, camp rose 8.30 instead of early. Jeff to hospital with his PL due to bad bee sting. Bus to Keswick in afternoon for all but Skip and Alan, presents bought. After tea, rain stopped, swim in beck, rain again, supper for all in marquee, sing song

Friday Rise 7.00 a.m. first fine sunny day, string trail after inspection, swimming until dinner, then incident for 30 minutes with 15 minutes for change to next one. Incidents, as follows:-

- (1) Build brushwood shelter, then collect and name, also mount in book provided, as many leaves as Patrol can.
- (2) Treat patient for injuries, and carry him 30 yards then down slope on improvised stretcher. Interesting – if you're not a patient!
- (3) Devise a means of lifting a 3 gallon dixie of water 20 feet up a tree and light a fire in dixie lid – also up tree.
- (4) Arrange a way of getting the Patrol over an electrified wire 8' from the ground. PL is struck dumb during this incident. Gives the Second a chance!

During this scheme, each Patrol had an 'off' time when they had a short meal. Rain again at 7.00 p.m. Supper in marquee again.

Saturday Dull, although not raining, inspection, scoutcraft training all morning, now a fine hot day, with Fancy Dress Parade and Sports all afternoon, events included Hammer throwing, shot putting, 100 yards, Chariot race, Obstacle Race, Three legged, various relays, fell race and finally Wide game, then bed.

Sunday Early rise 5.30 a.m. Strike camp, lorry arrived at 12.00 midday, off by 1.00 p.m. Stopped at Appleby for meal, back at Cockerton at 4.45 p.m.

This fairly detailed itinerary of a typical camp in the sixties will allow for comparison to be drawn with other camping eras, for camp programme content. This camp cost £97.19.4. – we were nearing the £100 Annual Camp at this time too.

In September, the Troop entered a team in the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy, held at Clairveau Castle, near Croft. The team consisted of Brian Deighton, PL, John Hall, Second, Ian Webster, Tony Dinsdale, Ian Theakston and David Rowley, but we did not win.

Another larger than ever jumble collection took place during 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th September. This time we had 4 reasonable bogies made from only two tea chests and a pair of pram wheels. The remaining Patrol used a handcart. This transport certainly helped our problems in collecting, although the life of the wheels was about 2 collections only!

The Swimming Gala on 17th September saw the Troop in 4th place out of 15 Troops competing.

The new hall was still progressing well, £700 having been put to it since the 1st March; evening work was curtailed from 1st October due to darkness and new work sessions were pursued from 9.00 to 5.00 on Saturdays and Sundays from 9.00 to 4.00 p.m. The steel roof trusses arrived on the site during September, these were assembled ready to be positioned when all of the ten pillars were built.

The Cub Pack again supplied the Troop with a fresh group of keen youngsters, this brought the 'bulge' problems to an acute stage in the Troop again. The Pack at this time had 28 boys on its waiting list.

Roger Williamson was appointed Troop Leader, the office having been vacant for a few months. The 8th has never appointed any ranks just for the sake of it – Roger had the right attitude, he got the job in October.

On 15th October, the Group's second (and last) attempt at an Autumn Fayre met with fair success. It did not justify the work involved, or make enough money.

Badger Patrol training meetings started in October.

Foot and Mouth disease in the surrounding area saw the cancellation of any hikes during the last three months of the year. However, Gang Show rehearsals started in November at Corporation Road Schools just to keep us busy.

A Troop day at Hunger Hill completed the Cook Badge, the Examiner spending another cold day standing about with the 8th, 26 of whom spent a useful day.

The combined Pack and Troop Party on 23rd December was enjoyed, the Brown Six winning the Inter Six Pack Shield, the Otters the C D Pawson Patrol Cup.

And so another VERY progressive year, with several momentous moments had come to a close. Certainly a better year, we had a vigorous Pack of 26 boys with a waiting list just as long, a combined Troop and Senior Troop again presenting problems with 5 x 9 Patrols, plus a TL making 46 boys in all.

Finally, the Rover Crew was jogging along with 6 chaps, although Rovering never seemed to be what it had been, even in the 8th. The Scouter position was improving too.

1961

With regular work each weekend, the new building progresses well; through hard work, Mr. Abel and his Committee helpers and Scouts had almost completed 35,000 bricks. The roof trusses of 30' span and 9' to apex were all in place by the end of March, a large steel girder weighing $\frac{3}{4}$ ton being hoisted across the opening for the stage at the northern end. Working only at weekends, we soon found out that one wet weekend meant that work was not possible for 14 days – a critical length of time!

Storage now became a real hazard for the Group, so extra facilities were sought around Cockerton. Fete sideshows were stored at Mrs. Parker's, 69, The Green; she kindly loaned us a spare ground floor room, other things at Mr. Cottam's Garage and yet more Group impedimenta was stored at Mr. C Williamson's dairy, 13 Cockerton Green, this included our handcart.

We were certainly better off for Scouters now, although the Pack was being run single-handed, Miss B Wetherill having moved away. The Troop had Mr. A Dodd assisting, also a Mr. Peter Middleton, new to the area, with Bryan Howson still with the Rover Crew. George Rowlings was now in 'civvy street' again. It was the normal things for all adult Leaders to attend Training Courses in post war scouting, the first of these was a Preliminary Course of one weekend. Although the next step of the Wood Badge Training Course had only been undertaken by one Scouter since the war, Mrs. Beadle camped for 4 weekends to take the practical Cub Scouters' Course during the year with a written course for six months and final assessment period. There is no doubt that one certainly felt more confident after a Woodbadge course.

Alan Dodd and Peter Middleton attended the Preliminary Course at Barnard Castle School in May, which brought us to a well trained standard.

Another badge was presented to a layworker at the Annual General Meeting on 19th April. This was the Thanks Badge to Mrs. V Rowlings; this small token of gratitude expressed the fine years of work of Mrs. Rowlings in the past 11 years on the Group Committee, being a founder member.

The 8th would not do as well without this kind of background helper that Mrs. Rowlings, and earlier, Mrs. Pawson, were. They play a large part in the wellbeing of the 8th but are not in the limelight. In her reply, Mrs. Rowlings stated her intention of remaining on the Committee for further work.

The Troop Easter Training camp took place at Hunger Hill over Easter from 31st March to 3rd April, in moderate weather. The main theme of the camp was Second and First Class Badge work, the Camper, Campwarden and Pioneer badge. The training team of F Beadle, GSM, P Middleton, ASM, Mrs. Beadle, CM and Roger Williamson, TL, put in the usual intensive course. Roger cycled home early each morning and returned by 9.00 a.m. to do his milk round.

The Jumble Drive, Scout Job Week and St. George's Day Parade all happened in April, with the usual support from the Group.

Camping was under way quickly after the Easter Camp when 21 boys attended a weekend camp at Hunger Hill on 13th/14th May. During this camp a large tree to be used as a pillar with the bar stall at the fete was felled in the wood, then with great effort, in the same way as they built the pyramids, the T.L. organised its removal to the farmyard half a mile away.

At the District Annual General Meeting, we again learned that we had come second in the Scout and Senior Selwyn Austin Shield, now given for the best all round troop and formerly the Camp Trophy. We were usually 2nd or 3rd out of 26 Troops and our records and Log Books gained many points, although all competitions were included as well as badged gained. The 18th Air Scout Troop at Middleton St. George won again, all the credit to their GSM, Peter Simpson.

The Headquarters was still cleaned each week by patrols in turn, this entailed 2 hours of hard work, sweeping, polishing, dusting and sorting equipment. The Leaders supervised on a rota basis.

The 1961 edition of 'Spotlight on the Gang' took place in the town. It was always the custom of the Group to donate complimentary tickets to Mr. & Mrs. Pounder of Hunger Hill as a gesture for their help.

The Group bought another Pioneer tent for £26.19.6. also a flysheet for the 7' x 5' Scouter tent. We were still using the fawn cottage tent and the old Nigel bought by the Cub Pack in 1950 – so with two new Pioneers we were nit that well off for tents at this time.

On 2nd June, the use of the Cockerton Cricket Club Field was again afforded the Troop and Seniors. This well planned sports evening on an inter patrol basis, sorted out the best teams for the District Sports far better than by simply asking who thought they could run or jump.

During the previous year, the new Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme came into being, this scheme, designed to attract boys and girls who were not members of any movement, seemed to attract those already in the Scout and Guide organisations, as several of our Scouts gained the Bronze Award during this first year in addition to their normal Scout Badges.

Skip Beadle now owned a Bedford van, this proved an asset to the Group on many occasions such as Jumble collection and camp transport. The Trevor Morris Team for the District Camping Trophy piled into it early in June to be taken to the bus to take 12 teams to Raby Park. Our teams was virtually the same as last year:

Brian Deighton PL	Edward Monahan
Tony Dinsdale Sec.	David Rowley
Ian Webster	David Gatenby

The Trophy again eluded the 8th.

On 17th June, the 10th Annual Garden Fete go under way at the Cockerton Club grounds again, this time opened by Horace D Robinson, Producer of the even popular Darlington Gang Show. To mark our 10th Fete, the men of the Committee devised an astronaut opening feature which involved a 'figure' sliding (apparently from the sky) down a wire to the corner of the fete, whereupon George Rowlings, ASM, emerged dressed in a R.A.F. pilots suit and helmet on loan from R.A.F., Middleton. The Garden Fete was as good as ever, equally as hard work, and again hit the target of £102.5.6. net.

The Scout Sports were held at Longfield Road Stadium one Wednesday evening with a victorious result for the 8th. We came first in 3 of the nine events for the Dr. Sinclair Trophy, a new magnificent cup to replace the original pennant.

We achieved this win by E Monahan being 1st in the 100 yards, J Hall 1st in the 220 yards, R Williamson 1st in the shot, plus a few 2nd places in the other six events for the Cup.

To end the evening, we came 1st and 3rd with our two teams in the Irving Tug-of-War Trophy, a good day was had by all.

During the weekend of the Garden Fete, we were unable to be at the District Camp held at Whorlton. However, competing in the Relay with two teams who went for the day on Sunday, we again came away with the Trophy coming 1st and 3rd. We could not enter the Senior Relay as it had been held at midnight.

One of the highlights of the year 1961 was the visit of the Chief Scout, Sir Charles McLean, to Gosforth Park on 15th/16th July. This was a combined Durham and Northumberland event and the 8th were allocated to the West Sub Camp – Plot W5. It should be noted that the Group simply applied and went self contained to the event; the District Commissioner, Mr. French, was pleasantly surprised to meet us on the Sunday morning.

About 3,000 were in camp and Horace Robinson conducted a very good camp fire in the Racecourse Grandstand on the Saturday evening. The Troop contingent was under F Beadle, GSM, and A Dodd, ASM. The Pack contingent came by our hired bus on Sunday under Mrs. Beadle, CM, Mrs. Emerson, a new ACM, and Miss A Webster, an Instructor.

A splendid weekend was had by all, especially those who shook the Chief's hand. The 8th had 52 uniformed members in camp.

Two more Troop camps were seen at Hunger Hill during July, the equipment being brought back in readiness for assembling for the Troop Annual Camp.

The 46th Annual Camp was held near the village of Caldbergh, 4 miles up Coverdale, from Middleham. This was the first time the Troop had camped here, the farmer being very apprehensive about 'Scouts' although giving a return welcome after the camp was over.

This site was another one to become one of the 8th's 'ideal'; the sort of site one reads about in books – it had

everything except easy accessibility, and this was dreadful! From a narrow road, the site could not be seen, as it was down in a concave curve of the River Cover with high banks of deciduous and coniferous trees opposite, downstream were the 'everglades' of marsh and tall white poplars. The site offered split level camping, the staff being 'elevated' as it were. The adjoining field, a different owner's, had a beautiful depression for a campfire circle and a straggly elderberry wood. The entire camp was a Scouter's dream – we must hang onto this one!

The camp took place from 29th July to 6th August and the Patrol Camps and staff were as follows:-

F A Beadle GSM
J Beadle CM
R W Williamson TL

<u>CURLEWS</u>	<u>TIGERS</u>	<u>OWLS</u>	<u>SWIFTS</u>	<u>OTTERS</u>
John Hall PL	Len Campbell PL	David Johnson PL	David Robinson PL	Brian Deighton PL
Ian Webster Sec.	Jeff Wetherill Sec.	Ian Dixon	Fred Robinson Sec.	David Rowley Sec.
Alan James	Colin Jackson	Gerald Elliot	David Gatenby	Brian Smith
Peter Greaves	Mike Richards	Ernest Greaves	Alan Baister	Robin Scott
Kenneth Blair	Edward Monahan	Anthony Foggin	Malcolm Harding	Michael Armitage

Yes, the ideal site, with the service bus calling once a week at a point over one mile away. An ideal safe swimming pool 200 yards upstream with deep clear water.

<u>Saturday</u>	Lorry at 9.30 a.m. arrive site 1.00 p.m. set up camp and gadget making. Boy cut end off thumb 1 hour after we arrived at camp
<u>Sunday</u>	Lovely sunny day, R.C.s off to church early, C.ofE. also during morning. Methodists to West Scafton in afternoon. Swimming session. After tea – pioneering.
<u>Monday</u>	Another fine warm sunny day. Inspection, Scout-work. Swimming during afternoon. Wide game at night, then campfire, prayers and bed.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Another fine day. Inspection, Flagbreak, Gadget making, Pioneering. Afternoon – hike and climb Penn Hill. Swimming in evening. Two hours heavy rain. Visited by a Field Commissioner – this is the only time, as far as is known, in the history of 60 years that a Field Commissioner (paid travelling Scouter) has ever visited the 8 th . He was very impressed and gave us a good report.

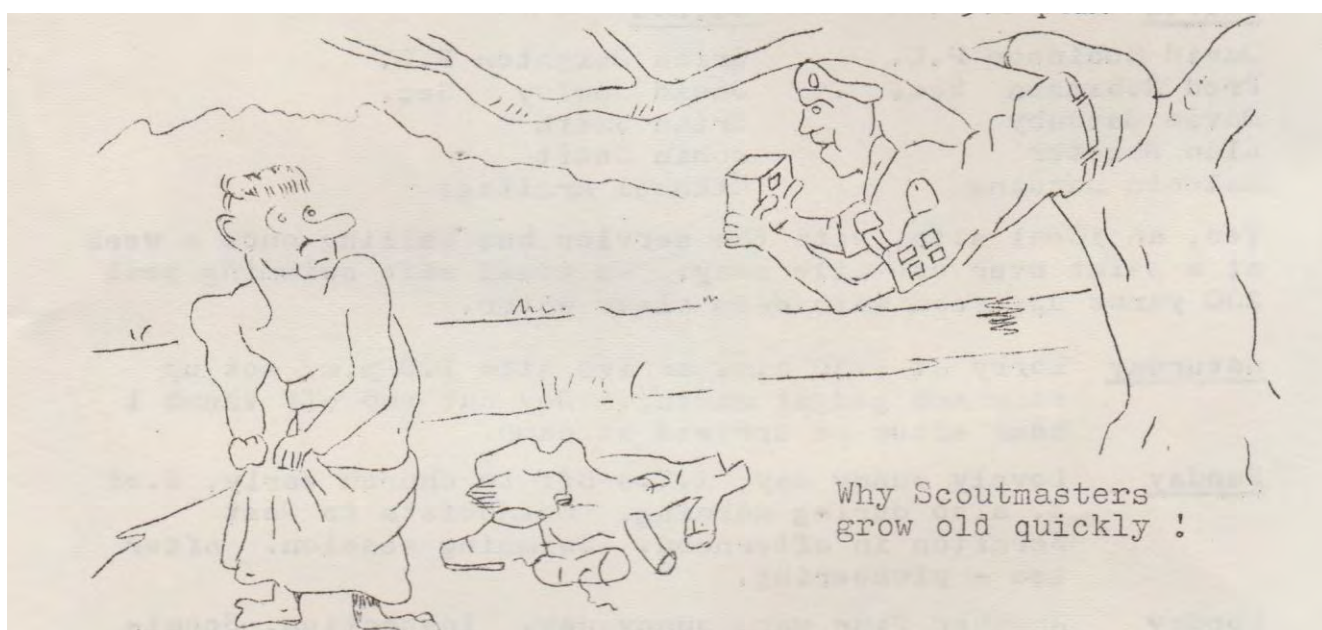
Wednesday Fine day, after heavy rain. Tiger Patrol taken into Leyburn, as they would be in camp on Friday. Scoutwork in morning. Parents' visiting afternoon when a dangerous wide game of 'Relevo' was in progress. Camp Fire at night.

Thursday Fine again, sting trail after inspection, Camp Sports Day with Fancy Dress after lunch and races etc. until 6.00 p.m. Heavy rain in evening. P.L.s to supper in the marquee.

Friday One end of marquee blew down at 5.00 a.m. Morning fine and sunny. Other four Patrols into Leyburn, visit Middleham Castle, return walk. Games evening with cricket and rounders. Mr. Lear, A.D.C., visited Camp. Camp Fire 9.15 to 10.30 – hilarious turns by 'vigilantes'.

Saturday Aerial runway across river after inspection, training for Second and First Class. Visit of Group Chairman, L.D. Williamson. Wide game at night.

Sunday Overcast and dull, then bright sunshine, struck camp, lorry arrived at 2.00 p.m. Farmer's muck-spreader helped to get heavy gear up steep hill to road. Arrived back in Cockerton 5.00 p.m.



There were several highlights of the camp. The three vigilantes who ran the TL's shirt up the flag pole, then ceremoniously laid a new wet pit top! with all watching. The 'fur-long' race to see who had the longest hair on his head. The first pioneering item of a derrick crane with a jib of 21' embodying all the four movements and lifting half a ton at a 10' radius, and so on.

There were 43 separate visitors to this camp on the two visiting days.

The Cub Pack was doing very well and sent many new youngsters to the Troop during the year, among the typical badges they held were such as the Athlete, Collector, Cyclist, Entertainer, First Aider, Handicraft, House orderly, Sportsman

and Swimmer, no fewer than 28 Proficiency badges in the first 5 months of the year.

Another Jumble Collection took place in September. This time, we were using Skip's van, two or three Committee cars and 5 bogies of the 'Mark I' type of two tea chests.

The Seniors were completing their Venturer Badge 20 miles hike test the weekend after. Then on the 9th, the Troop came 3rd in the District Swimming Gala out of 10 Troops.

On 22nd September, the Pack had a day at Hunger Hill, with meals cooked by the Troop. For the main theme, Akela chose a real story from the Cub stories of 'Scouting for Boys'. Scout Colin Jackson was 'painted' white with a mixture of Persil and water, wearing only a loin cloth, then with stabbing 'asidi', he represented the 'Zulu' boy from the story; Nimble darting to and fro in the wood to avoid contact with 30 Cubs. Colin's dad's consent was of course obtained before he was daubed white.

During September, many actual and practice First Class journeys were undertaken. At this time, 16 miles was the distance and it was the custom for a Scouts actually doing the journey to take another boy for the first time, after which the journey was done again with the 'other' boy and different route ensuring each did two actual hikes before passing the test.

In November, the Troop again undertook to deliver 5,000 handouts for Messrs. Piggfords to earn more cash.

On Friday, 15th December, Roger Williamson was presented with our 7th Royal Certificate, in a short ceremony by Mr. W French, the District Commissioner. Roger did not like fuss but always did work quickly and well.

To gain the Queen's Scout Badge, the following general route was normal:-

UNDER 15 YEARS BADGES:- Tenderfoot, Second Class, Backwoodsman, Stalker, Swimmer, Messenger, Bookman, First Aider, Weathermen, Cook, Firefighter and this qualified for SCOUT GREEN CORDS.

OVER 15 YEARS BADGES:- First Class, Ambulance, Despatch Rider, Handyman, Fireman, Venturer, Meteorologist, Camp Warden and these qualified for the BUSHMAN'S THONG and QUEEN'S SCOUT BADGE.

It will be noted that at this time the equivalent under 15 badges had to be passed in order to gain the corresponding Over 15 Badge, e.g. Weatherman – Meteorologist, Firefighter – Fireman.

The Scout Troop gained a total of 92 badges since March 31st.

On 29th November, the Group Committee tried a new venture to raise money by organising a dance in St. Mary's Hall. The well packed patrons were under the direction of Ernie Abel as M.C. and sweated to the music of the 'Tornadoes' Group. This Dance made £29 and a further one £16.

On 22nd December, the Christmas Party took place, the 'eats' at the event organised by the ladies of the Group Committee. First Class Badges were presented to L Campbell and I Webster. Eddie Monahan won the Best Scout Cup, the Tiger Patrol the C D Pawson Cup.

So ended a very busy and eventful year, with regular building work going on all over the holiday period in a reasonably mild winter.

1962

During the previous year, we were once again faced with the problem of having too many boys in the Group, still hampered by accommodation even though we had the Methodist Hall for one evening each week for 3 ½ hours in return for a donation not representative of its worth in real terms of heating and lighting – we were really very lucky – words cannot be put here to express our thanks for a regular weekly roof over the heads of an OPEN Scout Group.

One could see just a sea of faces at Troop Assembly each week at 7.30 on Fridays, games were becoming impossible in a hall 45' long x 24' wide. So after several meetings of the Leaders over the holidays, the Senior Scout Troop was again to be a separate entity and the entire Group now looked like this:

CUB PACK Mrs J Beadle CM, Miss A Webster Inst., Miss D Williamson Inst.

BROWN SIX

Robert Clark
Barry Shield
Teddy Lunn
David Dinsdale
Anthony Hudson
David Johnson
Roy Rejewski
Paul Binks

GREY SIX

John Thompson
John Marriner
Philip Addison
John Watson
Ian Brown
Paul Harpin
Jeffrey Harding
James Griffiths

RED SIX

Richard Atkin
Leslie Barras
Paul Shute
Paul Rutherford
David Turner
Kevin Mahon
Philip Shute
Jeffrey Blair

BLACK SIX

Colin Stead
Steven Powell
Philip Galloway
Michael Dixon
Michael Dent
Michael Moon
E Richardson
John Forbes

SCOUT TROOP F A Beadle GSM, SM Act. G W Rowlings ASM

CURLEWS

Michael Richards PL
Kenneth Blair Sec.
Peter Greaves
Ernest Greaves
Alan Wintersgill
Brian Blair

OWLS

TIGERS

Edward Monahan PL
Colin Jackson Sec.
Graham Whitehead
Alan Brown
Kevin Mahon
Alan Auld

SWIFTS

Alan Baister PL
Ian Dixon Sec
Gerald Elliott
Malcolm Harding
Richard Barras
Vincent Dresser

David Gatenby PL
David Rowley Sec
Robert Waddington
Anthony Bowman
David Stead
Michael Small

OTTERS

Brian Smith PL
Jeffrey Banham Sec.
Michael Armitage
John Dinsdale
Tony Foggin
Michael Woodward

Note: There was no TL at this time in the Scout Troop

SENIOR TROOP Michael Straker SM (S) Temporary from 6th Darlington, Mr. A D Dodd, ASM (S)

STEVENSON

Len Campbell PL (S)
Brian Deighton Sec. (S)
Ian Webster
Tony Dinsdale
Graham Donald

SCOTT

David Johnson PL (S)
David Robinson Sec. (S)
John Hall
Fred Robinson
Jeffrey Wetherill

ROVER CREW B N Howson, ARSL Crew very inactive at this time, Roger Williamson going off to University. Meetings fortnightly on Thursdays.

At this stage, there were 32 in the Pack 30 in the Troop, with 10 in the Senior Troop and about 4 in the Crew, together with six Scouters making a total of over 80 uniformed personnels.

Mr. P Middleton had moved south and Mike Straker, an experienced SM (S), came to give a hand and set the Senior Troop on the right lines – accommodation was provided in the 3rd St. Mary's H.Q., a small building built by the 3rd Scouts on the land behind the Parish Hall. The reformed Senior Troop of the 8th had the here use of this hut during 1962 – we were grateful for any accommodation.

We longed to have a real HQ of our own, where permanent items could be put upon the walls, where the constant worry of losing a meeting place every now and then would not occur. Even the old School on the Green had now gone, the entire area laid to grass. Nevertheless, a meeting place was actually taking shape behind the Group HQ of the two cottages – eventually we would have a place of our own. At the start of the year the Pack had £7.10.0. in hand, the Troop £31.0.0., the Senior Troop only £1.0.2. The Rover Crew were in dire straits with virtually nothing at all!

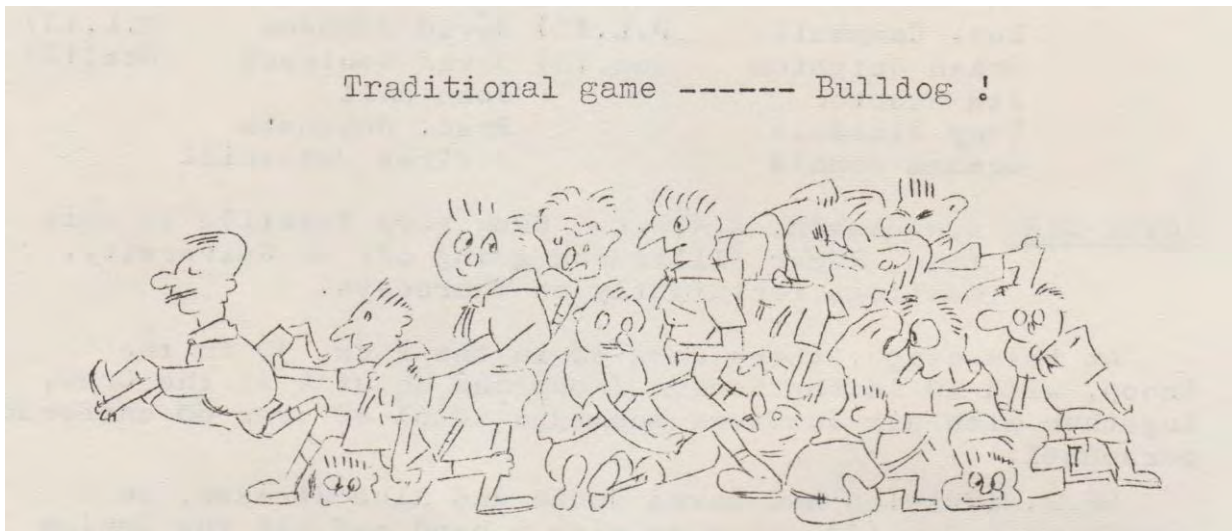
13 of the Scout Troop attended a hike on a dismal day early January, taking in Calva Hill near Reeth, where Kenneth Blair cut his hand severely and had a few stitches put in at the doctor's. Transport by Skip Beadle's van and a car allowed hikes further afield for single days.

The Badger Patrol (brainwave training idea of Mark Scarr way back in 1949) got under way again with new PLs and Seconds, a full day at Hunger Hill took care of tracking and axemanship.

The proverbial Jumble Drive took place again at the end of March, each collection now realised about three good sales, although about 40% of all we collected was rubbish, or to be designated for the rag merchants who did very well from the 8th.

The Senior Troop held a long hike from near Darlington to follow the Tees as far as possible.

Before the end of March, several new boys were admitted to the Scout Troop to bring the numbers up to 40. It is very worthy of note that only ONE boy was admitted to the Troop in the entire previous 12 months (apart from boys from the Pack) the reason ? – simply no room! David Johns was transferred from the 5th at the end of March. Subscriptions were 3d. per week, the Pack 2d. per week.



During the winter, George Rowlings, ASM, trained a team for the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy; the team competed on 3rd March, being placed 5th, nevertheless gaining valuable experience.

On 1st April, a Church Parade in Cockerton saw a very good turnout and parading to three respective Churches – over 40 uniformed members being on parade.

With some transport now available, a new idea for practice First Class Journeys was tried. Pairs of boys were taken out on a circular route with a radius of about 10 miles – as the crow flies – not as the Scout walks. The pairs converged on a centre previously chosen for their second meal of the day cooked by the staff. The centre point in this case was East Harsley village in Yorkshire.

Easter was later this year – thank goodness, when 11 attended the Scout Troop PLs and Seconds Training Camp at Hunger Hill. Nevertheless, it was dull on Friday, wet all day Saturday, quite bright on Sunday and boiling hot on Monday. The Backwoodsman badge again saw everyone sleeping in

shelters in the wood, then cooking breakfast without any utensils. A trek cart was used and pushed both ways to Hunger Hill, with the heavier gear in Skip's van.

Meanwhile, during the same period, the Senior Troop held a hike camp round the Lake District, Mike Straker in charge with Alan Dodd assisting. How very smart they looked all in identical uniform – navy blue shorts and maroon berets. Tents were borrowed – these were of the 3-man or 2-man lightweight type such as the 'Wanderlust' or 'Good Companion'.

Bob-a-Job week came round again, the Pack, Troop and Seniors began with great enthusiasm. Most sections gave prizes of some form of equipment to the highest total earned. Mike Armitage in the Scout Troop won easily with £4.4.0., a very good effort.

On 22nd April, over 50 of the Group attended St. George's Day at St. Paul's Church, and with smart uniform and boney knees once again put Cockerton Scouting on show as a very stable organisation.

The Troop and Senior Troop notices had, for over two years now, ended with the words 'Building work this weekend' rarely did this not occur – up went the hands for volunteers, lists of any odd slackers were consulted and these sought for good reasons of absenteeism. Saturdays and Sundays every week the building work continued – we had set ourselves a task. During the summer 200 square yards of concrete sub-floor were mixed and laid by hand, over 100 tons of top soil had been put into Mr. Abel's lorry and taken off the site, many other jobs to be eventually covered up and not indicate the vast amount of hard work were undertaken during 1962.

Weekend camps again kept the grass low at Hunger Hill, these camps usually ended at 7.00 p.m. on the Sunday, churches having been attended during the previous morning. Several weekends saw only the Scouters sleeping in tents, everyone else sleeping in the wood, either up trees on improvised platforms, or in brushwood huts – what funny people Scouts are! Tenderfoots looking on, gazed in awe when older Scouts slept in trees. One PL said 'Hey, Skip, there's a bloke here who's never slept in a tree! – who was the normal or otherwise – is questionable. All sleeping platforms and huts were inspected for stability and danger of falling out of 'bed' before the occupants took up residence.

On Friday, 1st June, practices for the Sports were held on the Cricket Club Field, in readiness for the District Sports on the 13th, where we won nothing and missed the Sinclair Cup by 2 points only.

Another weekend camp at Hunger Hill on 16th/17th June then the Darlington District Camp at West Tanfield in Yorkshire over the weekend, 23rd/24th June. This camp almost 30 miles away was attended by 16 boys, the grass was about 2' high in our camp area which made an interesting difference. During the camp, a night hike was held for Senior Scouts, and a jolly good Camp Fire was enjoyed on the Saturday evening.

The Junior Relay took place on Sunday morning and, as two of our first team had not returned from church, we substituted

and lost the Trophy through this unfortunate programming. However, we came 3rd and 6th out of 12 teams, had a good weekend – except for the grass!

During June, Ian Webster became TL of the Scout Troop although still attached to the Senior Troop at that time.

The 11th Annual Garden Fete of the Group was on Saturday, 30th June. Opened by Mrs. Ada Seymour, wife of the previous owner of the land now in possession of the Scout Group, she emphasised the need for funds for building, our paramount concern. Again the Fete was better than the previous year with a net profit of £121.14.5., our best yet!

Another Cooks Badge test camp with Scouts and Seniors took the Troop further along the Badge trail on 14th/15th July at Hunger Hill – it appears something happened every weekend in the 8th at this time.

The 47th Annual Camp was held at Kings Meaburn, near the town of Appleby – regular three year visit seemed to be becoming the pattern of this favourite spot.

26 attended, the first few days of which were rather dull with short breaks of sunshine, it poured down on the 6th day in camp, got out fine on Friday and Saturday, then a real deluge just as we struck camp in the wettest weather for many years – hair oil tasted lovely! We were wet through from head to foot as the lorry climbed out of Appleby on the A66 and over Stainmore summit.

From Saturday, 18th August, to Sunday, 26th August, the total cost was £89.4.6 ½ . Highlights of the camp were – a long suspension bridge containing over 60 treads of greenwood, the visit to a fairly intact watermill nearby, the Fancy Dress parade when Mike Richards and Colin Jackson went as a 'tree', the aerial runway as an alternative entry into the camp and many other memories. Mike Armitage won the prize for the best story of the camp, Tommy Harrison donated the prize.

We arrived back at Cockerton Green, which was once again festooned with tents, a passerby seriously asking 'When was the Garden Fete?' Cockerton always knew when the 8th had had a wet ending to a camp.

On 8th September, the Group were out in force and heading to the Baths in Gladstone Street for the District Swimming Gala. The Cub Pack had a worthy win and came away with the all-round Cub Shield out of 18 packs competing. The Scout and Senior Trophy, tied jointly with the 5th in second place out of 10 Troops.

A weekend camp over the 22nd/23rd September completed some boys for the Stalker and Tracker badges, both badges essentially elements of the Scout Cords and Bushman's Thong.

The end of September brought changes in the ranks of the Troop. A well-trained ASM, George Rowlings, took over the job of SM with Len Campbell becoming his ASM. Frank Beadle as GSM devoted his time to the administrative side of the Group and had one job to do instead of two. The organisation of the Group itself was now solely a job requiring the services of one man, we had a large Group, a Committee of 20, and a big

job in hand with the new HQ.

The September Jumble collection yielded just as much material as ever, carefully sorted by the Committee.

The QM's Store in No.80 was the rear upstairs room of 18' in length, since 1950. During the past few years, one third of the old plaster ceiling had fallen down, exposing the pantile roof. This derelict portion was luckily the northern end furthest from the door – it was boarded up and tentage moved into the front room. During winter, however, the middle third fell down, as if to urge us on with our building, the temporary 'wall' being moved again, seriously curtailing our expanding stock of equipment at this time. There was nothing we could do as we had to channel all our funds into the new building.

The following list of results of various competitions was to be seen at the end of the year:

FERRIER AMBULANCE TROPHY	TROOP	5 th place
BAKER WHEELER	PACK	8 th place
TREVOR MORRIS CAMPING	TROOP	2 nd place
SENIOR RELAY	SENIORS	Did not enter
KIPLING CREW TROPHY	SENIORS	4 th place
SPORTS TROPHY	TROOP	2 nd place
CUB SPORTS	PACK	No entry – on Fete Day
CUBS SWIMMING SHIELD	PACK	1 st place
SCOUT SWIMMING SHIELD	TROOP	Joint 2 nd

Rehearsals started for the Gang Show, 9 of the 8th were in the cast, Jeffrey Wetherill for his third Show.

1963

The early part of the year, in fact, the first two months began with a long hard winter which brought things to a standstill in the way of building work; sheets of asbestos standing on end were frozen solid one to another.

During the first three months, there were many changes in the composition of the Lay side of the Group. Les. Williamson relinquished the post of Chairman and Mr. Abel was not able to help with the building any further, although without the three years' help he had given, it is very unlikely that the brickwork would have got so far as it had among the other big jobs.

In February, other changes in the Scouters' side of the Group were – Miss Anne Webster and Miss Diane Williamson took out warrants as ASMs, Mr. Michael Straker went back to the 6th Group as SM (S) leaving Alan Dodd with the Senior Troop, Bryan Howson had to give up his position as ARSL. Amidst all this turmoil, Mr. Dodd could not guarantee regular attendance at Senior Meetings for at least 18 months, and Roger Williamson, one of our stalwart helpers, had gone off to University.

Although things looked rather hopeless at the start of the year, we looked forward to a brighter Spring and Summer after a long, hard Winter!

For the first time for many years, there was no Easter collection of Jumble, partly due to the winter and other things. Bob-a-Job week, however, got under way again and the Group began to look forward.

The Gang Show had taken place at the Civic Theatre (the former Hippodrome now taken over by the Corporation) The Show itself had been almost as successful as ever, although again attendances on long cold winter evenings had hampered rehearsals.

The Troop Easter Training Camp took place from 12th to 15th April, in wet, very cold weather. 10 attended, including the SM and ASM. Scouters could now wear long trousers as an optional extra although they had to be of Group uniform pattern. Scouts, however, still had shorts at all times at camp, never 'longuns'. At these Easter Camps, it was the custom to take the 'Cottage' tent, a heavy 18 Oz. fawn canvas ex W.D. tent, acquired by the Cub Pack in 1950. This tent, 14' square, proved a great asset in poor weather such as this.

The Cub Pack, busy recently too, had once again attended the Gang Show. 5 Cubs were ready to go into the Scout Troop. The Pack was in a settled situation for Leaders at this time, all of whom helped backstage at the Show.

Another Group Church Parade was well attended. Work again commenced with renewed spirit on the building after Easter and a cold 3 months.

In the Baker Wheeler Trophy for the best Pack, the Selwyn Austin for the best Troop, we again did not win, the Pack being 4th out of 20 Packs. The Troop in second place again.

The Otters and Swifts held a weekend camp at Hunger hill. Following this, the first really experimental Group Weekend Camp took place over the weekend, 15th/16th June.

Skip Beadle and the Seniors camped from Friday evening to erect various 'playthings' and 'devices' for the Cubs. 16 Scouts came to camp on the Saturday morning and pitched tents, made kitchens etc., then 20 Cubs and their Leaders came over the Hill, having arrived at Dinsdale Station by train and hiked.

This Group Weekend idea was a great thing to encourage Seniors to do something for the Pack, to give Cubs the chance to gaze on a 'great big Senior arm' and hope he would be like that some day – this fine weekend would not be our last GROUP CAMP.

This year, the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy eluded us again, although our young team trained by SM G Rowlings came into fourth place.

The Garden Fete was well under way by this time, when it was decided to renew the roof of the QM's Store – the last part of the ceiling having fallen in now! Starting in June and ending in July never was such vigour seen on a Scouting project, which meant taking 400 pantiles, 1 ½ tons of plaster, as well as old rafters off, the only thing left being the collar type beams.

Working three sessions, including Saturday evenings, plus Sundays, new timbers, gutters and secondhand asbestos sheets were fixed in place, the entire insulated floor covered to be in use again by late July, shelving of considerable length was erected. We had a fine new store for £20 only, decorated in powder blue and white woodwork.

On 22nd June, the Annual Garden Fete again, opened by a 'Cockerton V.I.P.' – the Cub John Watson – this novel idea was to instil the fact that 'the boy' was the most important person! The Fete guard consisted of the SM and ASM and Seniors who, being prepared, dealt with a car accident during the small hours outside the 'Garth' where the Fete was again held with the courtesy of Cockerton Club. The Fete made rather less than last year and a net profit of £117.2.0. was the result, again to help us on the building.

From March, when Mike Straker returned to take the 6th Seniors, we had again had Leader problems. To make things more difficult, we could not meet in the 3rd Darlington's HQ in Stoopdale Avenue, so the Senior Troop again met in the Group HQ in the top front room, as it were. Skip took over as SM (S) and Alan Dodd had to resign completely in May due to work in the evenings. This meant the loss of two good Scouters this year, although one would imagine that constant weekend building work demanded of the Seniors may have the effect of losing boys! Quite the reverse, the Seniors flourished on set, purposeful work of building our HQ as well as Scouting. It was at this time that several boys were actually attracted to Scouting through the medium of the building rota, Michael Younghusband being one example, joining at the age of 15 ½, and having to be told that he would either have to curtail his eager work on the new building or else join the Seniors – he joined! Meanwhile, Jeffrey Wetherill had been preparing for his attendance at the 11th World Jamboree in Greece. The total cost was to be £80 for him although the Scout District helped in this, as well as the Group.

After the bad winter, the summer of 1963 proved very not; it was decided to fix all the timber on the roof of the hall including the spaced cladding for the ceiling, before the sheets of asbestos were put in place. 14 purlins, each of 60', were joined and bolted on the ground, then dismantled and lifted into place, 7 on each side of the roof, bolted again and treated for insect damage. After this, a further 1500' of timber was put in place ready to hold the ceiling, the roof was complete as far as timber went by the end of August, with the help of two experienced joiners.

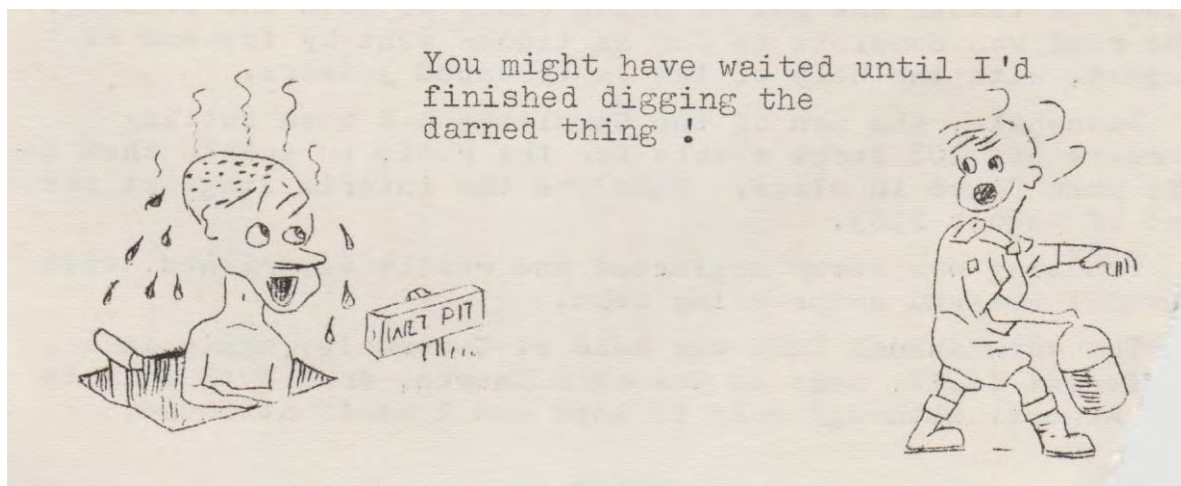
Meanwhile, the men of the la had been cutting corners off 108 large sheets for the roof, to enable them to fit when fixed in place. This was the interim stage at the end of August 1963.

Scouting was never neglected and really flourished, with several weekend camps being held.

The 48th Annual Camp was held at Coverdale, again in a different field, next to Coverham Church, from 27th July to 4th August, although only 15 boys and 2 staff attended,

possibly due to new Scouts with the intake in January, when the over 15's were 'drawn off' again. The camp was one of the driest for some time, enjoyed by all in this favourite Dale. A bus load of Cubs came to the Camp on visiting day, as last year, to wet their appetites for their future in the Troop. The camp was organised and run by the SM, George Rowling, with Len Campbell, his ASM, A brief programme of events was as follows:-

<u>Saturday, 27th</u>	9.30 lorry leaves Cockerton, arrived at site at 12.00 noon setting up camp, game, retire.
<u>Sunday, 28th</u>	Church at Coverham, R.C.s to Church Ulshaw bridge, swimming in afternoon, sunbathing, wide game in evening.
<u>Monday, 29th</u>	Hotter than Sunday, Scout training all morning, pioneering across river Cover in afternoon, then cricket during evening.
<u>Tuesday, 30th</u>	Another red hot day, scout training, swimming in afternoon, sports postponed too hot. P.L. taken to hospital with splinter in eye – hoped to return to camp, P.M. stalking game.
<u>Wednesday, 31st</u>	Hot again, free morning, 1.30 Cubs and Parents arrive, swimming all afternoon. Mr.J.A.Lear, Darlington A.D.C., visited camp, Cubs leave 5.00 p.m.
<u>Thursday, 1st</u>	Hike for older P.L.s, training for remainder, swimming in afternoon, camp sports evening.
<u>Friday, 2nd</u>	Area D.C. of Loyal Dales visited camp, p.m. the Swifts stayed in camp, others to Leyburn, camp fire at night after wide game.
<u>Saturday, 3rd</u>	Another hot day, scoutcraft training in morning. Swifts to Leyburn with A.S.M., wide game afternoon, string trail and football after tea.
<u>Sunday, 4th</u>	Final day, hot again, lorry arrived 3.00 p.m. to return us to Cockerton. Camp cost £67.13.4 ½ .



Jeffrey Wetherill had been chosen to attend and had also honoured the Troop by being selected as a Darlington representative in the British Contingent for the 11th World Jamboree which took place in a large area near Athens, in Greece.

Jeff brought many memories back from this vast international gathering, fine stories of scouting. He was honoured to be the only Scout to represent Darlington.

In August, the remainder of the Senior Troop had a week's hike camp in the Lakes following more or less the same pattern as last year, although a different route, of course. 8 Seniors attended this camp but no positive records can be found to elaborate upon it.

At this time we were desperately short of money and were negotiating for another grant from the Youth Advisory Committee. Tentage, too, needed to be renewed but the building took first claim on any funds.

The Cub Pack had a very busy year, competing in all Cubbing events and also had another bus outing apart from the Annual Camp and Gang Show visit.

In September, the Pack sent 9 Cubs into the Troop, of whom 7 had the Leaping Wolf Badge. There seemed to be no problems in the Pack or any other sections at this time. The Group had in the year attended St. George's Day, Mayor's Sunday and Commonwealth Youth Sunday too. Still finding time to organise other Cockerton Church Parades.

In October, Mrs J Beadle was one of a team of six Scouters in Darlington who spent three months on an exhausting enquiry into all aspects of Darlington Scouting, ready for the Advance Party Report Committee in London.

During the Autumn, the tentage rack which had been for several years in the front first floor room of No 80, was not now required as we had the finest QM's Store in the area. The tent rack was dismantled and the entire front room decorated in pleasing colours and fitted with electric lamps just before Christmas. An alternative doorway at the rear of No 80 was made instead of the original side door leading onto the privacy of our tenants.

Between October and the end of November, all the 108 large sheets of asbestos, all bought new, were fixed on the new hall roof, apart from the south east corner, where we had another large truss to fit in to take the loft floor.

A Church Parade was held in Cockerton on 15th December, then the Pack, Troop and Senior Troop Party took place in the Methodist Schoolrooms shortly after. Using both halls, it was decided to have separate meals for Pack and Troop, due to the lack of space.

Before the end of 1963, two further incidents are worthy of note. For the last nine Garden Fetes we had hired a large fawn marquee from S G Baker (Stockton). This extension of the refreshment tent at the Garden Fete was imperative as our own marquee and another borrowed from the 5th (Holy Trinity) Group were each year inadequate to house the ever growing fete.

Also, we had to collect, erect and return this marquee from Stockton, at a reasonable fee of £3 per day. At the end of the year, Skip negotiated and the Group purchased the marquee, the first, purchased in 1932, was still in regular use.

The other point worth noting, concerns the new building. Plans for an extra heavy roof truss, capable of taking a central load of 3 tons were drawn up by a friend in the steel trade. This truss had to be delivered on Boxing Day 1963 when the steelworks were open and members of the Group were not working. The parts arrived through Sleightholme's front door at 9.00 a.m. then were, with difficulty, hoisted by scout pioneering equipment, through the space left by the few roof sheets not yet fixed. The entire 30' wide truss was assembled on its pillars, bolted to the lighter truss, by drilling with an extension cable drill from a point 100 yards away (we had no power at that time). The job was finished in pouring rain at 4.30 p.m. in darkness.

So ended the year, progressive, many changes on the lay side of the Committee, with Scouting looking very healthy indeed.

1964

The year began with the Group very short of money. We already had a loan of £300, borrowed and used in 1960. This had to be repayed by the end of March.

Both the Scouters Meeting and the Group Committee had met in the holidays to decide how we could somehow get more money more quickly than previously. It was decided to approach the problem as follows:-

- (a) To ask the District Scout Council for an extension of three years to repay the £300. To ask for a further £150 loan with a 5 year period before repayment.
- (b) To allow anyone in the Group to make interest free loans, one Scouter loaned £50 to help immediately at this time.
- (c) To hold coffee mornings, fairly regularly, both at member's homes and the HQ. Also to step up Jumble Sales and Drives.

With these arrangements then, things looked healthy for the time being although a discordant note was that the Scout HQ in London had asked for 5/- each for Capitation Fee for 1964.

In January 1964, it was decided to raise all subs in every section – a sign of the times? Cubs from 2d. to 4d., Scouts from 3d. to 6d. and Seniors from 6d. to 9d (but only 6d. if still at school).

In February, 6 members of the Group Committee and the GSM attended the funeral of Arthur Theakston; his passing quite suddenly was a great loss to the Committee and the Group. His sound advice and connections with the right people had been a great help to the 'know how' of building the hall.

The first three months of the year, much milder than last year, saw general training evident throughout all sections. The Troop had days at Hunger Hill, the Seniors hiked and pressed along the badge tests for the converted Queen's Scout, the Pack had all sorts of busy little activities under way.

Another great collection of jumble at Easter, a 'Mark II' bogie appeared for the first time. These were of three tea chests with special wheels, obviously to carry more weight – we were getting televisions in our collections now!

Scouts Bob-a-Job week took place with targets of £1 per Cub and Scout.

Having had such a wet Easter last year, the Troop decided to leave the Training Camp until a later date this year. The Seniors, however, ventured to the Lakes again, this time camping at Thorneythwaite Farm, Borrowdale, as a Base Camp.

Also on the site, by pure coincidence, were the 3rd Darlington and 6th Darlington Seniors, in a combined camp, although the 8th Seniors did not know this, having not seen them until they met on Scafell Pike one cold morning.

Down in camp, it was fine though cold, at 1,500 ft. it was colder and windy, at 2,000 ft. very cold and snowing, over 3,000 ft. it was difficult to walk in blinding snow and extreme cold. This was the first year that Seniors were allowed to wear long trousers, and certainly the first year the 8th had ever worn them at camp – they were very useful too!

Apart from Scafell Pike, approached up that dreadful grind of Grain Gill, other smaller peaks were accomplished, churches attended on the Sunday, after which the weather deteriorated and the camp returned in Skip's van on the Monday afternoon.

After Easter, Mr. Christopher Sherwood, one of our former Scouts, began to help with the Senior Troop.

The Scout Troop certainly made up for having no Easter Camp as several weekend camps took place early in the year. The first of these for PLs and Seconds was over the weekend 18th/19th April, in good weather and the entire camp was successful in its training programme at Hunger Hill.

During April, the Cub Pack had an outing to the new Flamingo Park Zoo, near Kirby Misperton in Yorkshire, hiring a coach for the occasion. The Pack featured again on the Group Weekend camp.

Only four boys attended the Darlington L.A. Camp at Coverham, on the same site as our previous summer camp. They enjoyed a fine weekend. The Troop were again at Hunger Hill on a Backwoodsman camp on 23rd/24th May.

During May, the Senior Scout Troop had another go at the Kipling Crew Trophy Competition for Senior Scouts. Working in teams of two over the weekend, 11th/12th May, our team consisted of Ian Webster and Mike Armitage. It carried them over the Askrigg Fells camping overnight near to the Buttertubs, in a very weekend in which the rain never ceased at all. Many incidents had to be dealt with en route, Ian and

and Mike came back as the winners with 360 points out of 400.

Chris Sherwood moved away and the Senior Troop were once again short of Leaders.

The next weekend, a team of six set off for the Trevor Morris Camping Competition, which took place at Raby Park, on the High Pond site. We came 5th with four teams better than we were. Led by Richard Barras, a young P.L., the team was:

Richard Barras PL
Brian Blair Sec.
Kevin Wilkinson
Paul Bennett
John Irwin
Leslie Barras

From early June, the preparation for the Garden Fete came into its own, the Committee having been busy since March. The Senior Troop concentrated its last three meetings before the Fete to get everything ready.

This, our 13th Fete, was to take place at a new venue, in the Cockerton Church of England School in Newton Lane. For 12 years, we had been offered every facility at the Cockerton Band Club but now they had built a new hall there which extended into the ground used for the Fete. A word of thanks will not come amiss here for the help given on 12 Fetes by the Club Committee, we certainly had some good ties and put the Group on a good financial footing since F Beadle had approached the Club in 1951 (No Fete was held in 1952) and we had a progressive Fete ever since.

There was just as much work in this fete as its predecessors, opened at 2.00 p.m. by Mrs. W Storer, L.E.A. Youth Organiser. The programme included the Cockerton Silver Band, who always did us proud. Other displays were given by the 'Craigroyal' Scottish Dancers and the Miniature Steam Railway, always a great attraction and owned by Mr. Charles Richardson. The Fete took up only the first field immediately in front of the school, the Headmistress offering all the help we needed too.

New problems, new layouts, new sideshows all overcome and a net profit of £135.

Still the building progressed, the main work during the Spring and Summer had been the installation of 400 yards of cable for lighting and heating and the tiring task of fixing over 200 square yards of insulation panels on the ceiling, all of which were backed by glass fibre to ensure heat retention. A large retaining wall adjoining the builder's yard next to us was built during the Summer and completed before Christmas. In a confined space, it involved the removal of 8 tons of soil and placing of 10 tons of concrete. One of the trickiest operations was to shore up the former outhouse of No.82, remove the wall for 20' then settle the roof back onto the wall we had built, then complete it with a valley gutter.

Other work which was done would fill a book, there were no lack of volunteers. Work was organised the weekend before

the materials bought and on the site for the next weekend, if a person knew what he would be doing next weekend – he came – he was interested in it.

Boys contested to see who had the most building work hours to date, strict records were kept of all working on the project.

On 4th July, at Eastbourne School Field, the Troop and Senior Troop in charge of the SM, competed in the District Sports. We had many 2nd and 3rd results as well as a few wins in the 9 events for the Sinclair Cup – and won it! That is not all, however, the combined team of Seniors and Scouts also won the Tug-of-War Trophy. What a glorious day and encouragement for those labouring back at the new building when the Troop returned.

The Scout Troop held another weekend camp at Hunger Hill over 11th/12th July, well attended in fine weather, again putting the 'out' in Scouting, the 6th camp this year.

The Seniors, apart from their regular contributions to the building, had several passes in the Ambulance Badge at St. John's in June, while others attended the District Venture Badge Weekend at Raby Park; both these badges were obligatory for the Queen's Scout.

The 49th Troop Annual Camp was at Frosterley in Weardale from 25th July, to Sunday, 2nd August. A new site, found by the SM, G Rowlings, and Len Campbell, ASM, after many miles of motoring, was at Willow Tree Farm, between Wolsingham and Frosterley. A slow start to the camp was made by forgetting the poles for the marquee!! I've heard of those who forget their mug! But really! This was soon put right, however, and the camp was well under way by supper time.

<u>Saturday</u>	Leave Cockerton 10.00 a.m. Arrive site 12.00noon. Pitch and make gadgets, dip in River Wear during afternoon.
<u>Sunday</u>	Rounders in afternoon, church at night. Fine day.
<u>Monday</u>	Fine day, scoutcraft training, pioneering across the river after dinner, visit by Frosterley SM then rounders after tea, camp fire.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Cricket in morning, Scoutcraft training, wide game, PLs to supper in marquee. Windy wet night.
<u>Wednesday</u>	Marquee nearly blown down during night, Sports Day and Parents Day, evening visit to Frosterley Troop HQ.
<u>Thursday</u>	Reasonable day, walked into Stanhope, gorse cutting competition to help farmer, free time, retire.
<u>Friday</u>	Inspection, investiture of Scout, remainder went to Stanhope during morning, cross country walk, camp fire.
<u>Saturday</u>	Scout training and then free time, dinner, string trail, Fancy Dress Parade, wide game.
<u>Sunday</u>	Rise early and strike camp, lorry back to Cockerton.

The Scout Troop (11 to 15 years) enjoyed the Annual Camp, but this was really only one Annual Camp in 1964, as the Senior Troop toured several countries on the continent in the GSM's van, to which had been fitted a trailer for the purpose.

Plans for the tour had been started in November the previous year, much booking and preparation had gone into the earlier work before we set off at 4.30 a.m. on 26th July, the day after the Scout Troop went off to camp.

The tour cost £20.2.6. each and a brief itinerary of the event was as follows:-

<u>Sunday, 26th</u>	Leave Cockerton, travel to London, stay in B.P. House.
<u>Monday, 27th</u>	Arrive Dover, board ferry, arrive Calais, travel to Brussels, stay with friend of GSM, also a Scouter. They had bought tea specially for us.
<u>Tuesday, 28th</u>	Sightseeing in Brussels.
<u>Wednesday, 29th</u>	Leave Brussels via Namur, Marche, Bastogne to Luxembourg, camped near City.
<u>Thursday, 30th</u>	Sightseeing Luxembourg, then via Metz to City of Strasbourg on German border, camped near City.
<u>Friday, 31st</u>	Through mountain pass to Freudenstadt and into Black Forest, camped near Sciltach in Germany
<u>Saturday, 1st</u>	Sightseeing Rottweil, crossed into Switzerland, at Scaffhausen, saw firework display.
<u>Sunday, 2nd</u>	Church early morning, got separated into two parties, found others at lunch time.
<u>Monday, 3rd</u>	Made way via Zurich to Lucerne, went on cable car, had van serviced, sightseeing in Lucerne, camped at Swiss farm in beautiful valley.
<u>Tuesday, 4th</u>	Swim in lake first thing, travelled via Sempach and Olton to Basle, stopped in traffic when Geordie voice bellowed 'D'ya ken any good fish shops roon he'a' – they had seen the Group title on the rear of the van trailer.
<u>Wednesday, 5th</u>	Long drive via Epinal to St. Quentin, got good camp site on French farm after 390 mile drive.
<u>Thursday, 6th</u>	Shopped in Cambria, 92 degrees, moved off p.m. via Bethune and St. Omar to Calais, camped on beach.
<u>Friday, 7th</u>	Rose 4.00a.m. embarked 5.30 a.m. on 'Enterprise', had breakfast in Dover at 7.50 a.m. then via London to have supper at home 10.45 p.m.

Although immensely enjoyed, with good weather, the holiday was cut short, whereas we had intended to stay at BP House again on our return via London, but Mrs. Beadle CM had been

taken ill and the stay was cancelled. Roger Williamson, Rover, though on University vacation, was co-driver during the tour of 2,000 miles.

The collection of Jumble again occupied the first week of September, usually the week that the schools recommenced. As the areas were completed, we had again covered over 2,000 houses with 7 patrols to fill the HQ rooms with material for the next few sales.

On 18th/19th September, rather later than anticipated, the Group Weekend took place at Hunger Hill. The real value of these 2 day Group weekends cannot be estimated at the time, but we are now convinced they knit the Group together and allow Cubs, Scouts and Seniors to meet each other for longer periods than during normal weekly routine meetings. If one Cub gazes at a Scout – then wishes to be one, or similarly, a Scout to a Senior Scout, well! The weekend is justified. 50 attended although the Cubs did not camp overnight.

All those able to swim well took part in the District Swimming Gala. The Cubs had a hey day as they again won the Cub Swimming Shield, the Troop and Senior Troop did not win their joint shield but were not last by any means out of the 12 Troops competing.

We had used Veritas and Bialladin lanterns for 14 years having to maintain and struggle to light them before each of our meetings. The luxury of electric lights was from an ordinary single phase main in the front room of No 80, the heavier main for the new hall could not be installed at this time because the wall on which it was to be fixed had not yet been built!

Before Christmas, lamps were in every room with two 500 w. lamps illuminating the inside of the partly built hall to allow work to progress in the darker evenings.

On October 2nd, another Going Up Ceremony when Cubs went from Pack to Troop and Scouts from Troop to Senior, was held. Perhaps a word about the procedure may be enlightening here. The Pack had their usual meeting from 6.00 to 7.30, then the screen was drawn across the Methodist Hall, whereupon the Troop assembled with the Senior Troop in the empty half of the room. At 7.30, the screen was withdrawn, the GSM started the ceremony by asking the CM to let the Pack do the Grand Howl, flagbreak, then any presentations and handshakes to the boys moving from one section to the other. A simple ceremony, lasting only about 10 to 15 minutes, but it was very impressive for the Cubs and Scouts, who realised that we had them for at least 10 years as a Group.

Changes were taking place in the Cockerton area at this time, the new Motorway was well advanced in its construction, the new Mowden Housing Estate was being built. The Seniors mapped the new Estate with a view to further Jumble Collections.

We would need this new HQ if they were building two or three thousand houses on what was the Mowden Hall Estate where the Drum Head Parades with the Band in the early years were held. The area had seen many changes.

The Senior Scout Troop meetings in the HQ were of very varied content, in fact, the new hall with concrete floor was first used during the Autumn for Judo (with appropriate mats, of course) much pioneering, first aid, very apt training for the Handyman Badge on the new hall, were all part of meetings.

On 5th/6th November, four Seniors and the GSM spent a weekend at the Bark House Mountain Base, near Ashness Bridge, in Borrowdale, climbing Skiddaw on the Saturday. The same weekend in Darlington, two of our Seniors carried the Mayor's Wreath on the Cenotaph Parade on Remembrance Sunday.

As a good turn, the Seniors cut the St. Mary's Vicarage hedge, which had got hopelessly out of hand during the change of clergy.

With the building and its activities, the Senior Troop offered a very attractive programme which did attract new Seniors, with more intellectual discussions on such subjects as 'The abolition of Capital Punishment', 'The Advance Party Report', 'The diseases common in our Society', etc.; these discussions had a Seniors as Chairman each time.

The Pack held a happy Hallowe'en Party in October and an enjoyable Christmas Party, whilst the Troop Party on 18th December was as pleasant as ever. The Senior party, attended by 9 took the form of a five course meal in the HQ two days before Christmas.

1965

During the winter, a contractor was engaged to plaster the inside of the new building, this work having been completed before Christmas. Due to irregularities in some places, and also to make the building 'Cub proof', he had put cement rendering on before 'finishing'. This took quite a lot of material, in fact, 8 ½ tons, with 5 men working nearly two weeks, yet the physiological aspect greatly encouraged all – something was being done skilfully and quickly, the contractor agreed to belated payment after the Garden Fete too!

In the first three months of the year, the Seniors and Scouters, together with Committee men, joined the old buildings of No.80 with the new hall, by demolishing the entire rear wall, building a two storey foyer and entrance to the hall. Anti-freeze was used in mortar to ensure progress of work in very cold weather, work continued on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

On 17th January, the PLs and SM George Rowlings set out in good time to look for the Annual Camp site. Whilst the Senior Troop were at work with sights set on the Ambulance Trophy, the Scout Troop were also training 2 teams for the same event to be held in March.

In all this, many of the Troop and Senior Troop had been attending rehearsals for the Gang Show to be held in March, as well as constant nonstop building work at weekends.

On Friday, 19th February, Ian Webster was presented with the Queen's Scout Certificate by Mr. R C Luck, President of the

Darlington Local Scout Association. The entire Group assembled for this presentation with an unusual gimmick which Ian was quite unaware of. After the introduction and presentation, Ian was asked to sit on a chair in the centre. Mike Younghusband opened a book and said 'You were born on such and such a day – joined the Pack one sunny evening – passed your 1st Star etc. etc. and one by one the Seniors read a passage giving the entire Scouting life of Ian, with incidents he had almost forgotten, then, with the final closing of the book, Kenneth Blair handed it to him and said 'Ian – this is YOUR Scouting Life'. Needless to say, the recipient was most surprised.

Both Ambulance teams gave a display in front of the Group and the Committee to accustom them to spectators, then on the 6th March, the competition took place with the Seniors' team, trained by Mr. Yarrow of B.T.C., and the Troop team were placed as follows in the results, the Senior team gaining all but 7 of the possible points.

8 th 'A'	143 points	The winning team were:- Michael Armitage PL (S) Richard Barras (S) Kenneth Blair Sec. (S) Michael Younghusband PL (S) David Johns (res.) Sec. (S)
26 th 'B'	139 points	
26 th 'A'	126 points	
6 th	116 points	
8 th 'B'	115½ points	
26 th 'C'	112½ points	
8 th 'C'	112 points	
25 th	108 points	

The District Gang Show was staged from 13th to 18th March, with many of the Scouts and Seniors in the cast. The Theme song for the show was 'Happy Land'. Several Committee members helped as dressers, as well as the Cub Scouters. The entire Pack again saw the show and enjoyed it at the Hippodrome.

With the Gang Show, building work, ambulance training and the Easter Camps, it is doubtful if more work could be put in than the 8th Group managed to cram into each week at this time.

The Troop Easter Camp took place at Hunger Hill from 16th to Monday, 19th April. It was rather cold and windy, but the theme of the camp was based upon the Patrol system and attended by all the ranks and run by the SM and ASM.

The Senior Troop camp was also a training camp designed to complete the Pioneer and Backwoodsman as well as the Camp Warden Badges. It was attended by all the Seniors and held at a new site just below the village of Girsby on the banks of the Tees. Again it was cold from Thursday, 15th, to Monday, 19th, the camp being run by the GSM and Mrs. Beadle. Many fine pioneering structures were constructed. We had a good camping start to the year.

At the District Annual General Meeting, held in the Town Hall, we again heard that the Pack were second in the Baker Wheeler All round Shield, the Troop likewise in the Selwyn Austin All round Shield. From these constant results, one can draw the positive conclusion that the 8th catered well for a great number of boys, being very consistent. The top Packs and Troop varied through the years – the second place rarely did, we were invariably in it!

Work on the building progressed. It had been decided, with Scout knees in mind! to have a 'Weyroc' sheet floor, this, of course, meant that 2,390 ft. of floor joists had to be a 2'0" centres, and very accurate. Sleeper walls, each of 60'0", had been completed with much difficulty and levelling of the entire width of the hall. Other jobs were always available at weekends, we were still completing over 80' of drainage, which, on passing within regulations, the Building Inspector said were some of the best he had seen for jointing and layout. Working almost every evening again, we tried to put the first 9 gallons of emulsion paint on the ceiling as well as working below laying flooring joists.

This extract from a log at that time will give some indication of the keenness and actual amount of work put in on the new hall, quote:

"The amount of time, self sacrifice, sheer determination given by all who have worked on the new building in the past, will, in years to come, be difficult to visualise – let alone believe. Mr. Abel completed the brickwork in 1960, 1961 and 1962 with the help of others, then from March 1963, Scouts, Seniors and Committee, under the direction of the GSM, have worked hard, unceasingly, 9.00 to 12.00 and 1.00 to 5.00 every Saturday, and 9.00 to 1.00 every Sunday, it is only 3 months ago that we saw no urgency to work Sunday afternoons as well, as had been the custom from March 1963 to September 1964. 120 men/hours' work in one weekend was a peak, although 80 or 90 is usual for any weekend. From a sweltering 72° F. in the summer, with asbestos hot to work under, to many degrees of frost in the winter with bricks frozen together – the 8th boys for sheer enthusiasm and hard work must be beyond reproach in this seemingly endless task".

Two large trestles were made to allow work on the ceiling and it was on these that the Group assembled in uniform in April 1965 for the photograph of 50 years with the 8th. Those who expected a re-union that year were asked to forgive those in the Group at that time for not organising it – they were very busy!

The District Camp in 1965 was to be held at Alwent Hall, near Staindrop, on 14th, 15th and 16th May. Early notification was circulated by the District, each Group was to adopt a country as a theme – the 8th set to work, as a Group, in the following manner.

The Troop Court of Honour decided, strangely enough, on Denmark as our country, the Seniors endorsed the idea, reference and research was made in the library on costumes, a member of the Group Committee got to know the promise and motto in Danish. The only thing that Skip did was to design the 16' long and 18' high gateway, ALL the work being done by Scouts and Seniors from timber we had lying on the building site.

By the Saturday, we had 30 Scouts and Seniors in camp, as well as 5 Scouters and the four Sixers from the Pack. The gateway in light and red represented a Viking ship with



Winners Trevor Morris Camping Trophy 1965

John Watson, Michael Burbridge,

Alan Auld, Kevin Wilkinson,

John Irwin, seated Brian Blair P.L.

Winners Ferrier Ambulance Trophy 1965

Michael Younghusband, Richard Barras,

Kenneth Blair, Michael Armitage (capt.)





HALF A CENTURY OF PROGRESS — 8th DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) GROUP 1965

Trophies gained that year: Ferrier Ambulance Sinclair Sports Selwyn Austin Shield Cub Swimming Shield Trevor Morris Camping
(Top row): J. Watson, R. Rejewski, J. McPhearson, R. Day, C. Britton, J. Blair, R. Wood, B. Green, M. Dixon, D. Johnson, J. Griffiths, S. Powell, J. Marriner.

(Second row): A. Auld, J. Irwin, T. Foggin, P. Harpin, L. Barras, B. Blair, M. Burbridge, K. Wilkinson, T. Allen, P. Bennett.

(Third row): K. Blair, D. Johns, I. Webster, Miss A. Poyzer A.C.M., Miss A. Webster A.C.M., Mr. G. W. Rowling S.M., Mr. F. A. Beadle G.S.M., Mr. J. L. Campbell A.S.M., Mrs. J. Beadle C.M., Mrs. B. Hill A.C.M., R. Barras, M. Armitage, M. Younghusband.

(Second row front): C. Clough, A. Gardiner, J. Harding, S. Thomas, M. Atkinson, N. Thomas, C. Galloway, D. Wilkinson.

(Front row): N. Harding, R. Gill, K. Robson, M. Campbell, P. Brown, J. Newton, N. Foster, N. Raper, D. Giles, K. Blewitt, D. Waddington, R. Galloway, R. Day.
(There are ten boys missing from the photograph.)

Brian Blair perched on a small platform 10' high working its 10 oars through a rack system. There was a prize for the best effort which the 8th won, the wording being:-

Velkommen til denne lejr – meaning Welcome to this camp.

The entire weekend was a great event and enjoyed by all, most of the meals consisting of foods of Danish origin!

During the preparation for all this we again entered a team for the Kipling Rover Crew Competition for Senior Scouts, with another win by Mike Younghusband and Mike Armitage, a splendid effort in arduous conditions – though not quite as wet as last year.

The Pack also keen to get out and about, hiked to the Motorway and along part of the route on the day of its opening in May 1965 by Mr. Richard Marsh, Minister of Transport, at the West Auckland Road A63 intersection – a long way from the cart track known as a 'coal lane' when the Troop pushed a loaded trek cart past that same point 50 years ago to their first ANNUAL CAMP at Coalsides Farm – such is progress!

Meetings of the District were held once each month, with separate meeting had a representative from the 8th although with so few Leaders, it was not possible. F Beadle served on The Executive Committee, Development Committee, Badge Revision Committee and Finance Committee during 1965 and the following year.

As the District had no meeting place of its own, meetings were held in various Headquarters, as had been the custom even from the early days. Several such District meetings took place in the 8th H.Q. often having to be scheduled to fit in at times other than Garden Fete clutter from Easter to June, or Jumble several times each year.

Sales for the Group were always in the Methodist Church Hall, which meant the Troop being without a home, alternative halls in the village were used when possible, such as St. Mary's and Holy Family School. Jumble Sales in 1965 were very regular as records show – 15th January, 19th February, 12th March, 2nd April, 30th April, 21st May – gives some indication of the work involved in earning cash alongside spending it on materials to build a hall. The proceeds of these sales varied between £12 and £30 net.

A further grant from the Education Committee put us in a good state of affairs during the year, the total grants since the hall was started now totalled £600.

Very little was spent on equipment at this time, we just could not afford to spend anything, with such items as the floor surface sheets alone looming up at £139. The Group Treasurer paid all accounts by cheque and these often totalled as much as £75 per month to the 12 or so trade accounts the Group had all over the town.

The only capital expenditure on equipment in 1964 was £10. During this year, out of absolute necessity, two tents called Supremes, chosen as an ideal food store for each patrol and

being 7' x 5', were bought for £7.6.3d. each.

Twist or Damper-----
--- and now it says, Wind
neatly round a green
peeled stick !



Not to be outdone in any wins during the year, the Troop team for the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy comfortably won. The PL had led the team last year and almost the same team got down to the business of camping for a weekend with examiners watching every move, tasting everything cooked and seeing that they carried out the programme.

This competition was held over the weekend 23rd/24th May in fair weather on a different site, no troop competing having camped there previously.

It was good news when the team was brought home from Kipling Hall, near Scorton, with the Camping Trophy.

The members of the team were:

Brian Blair PL
John Irwin Sec.
John Watson

Kevin Wilkinson
Michael Burbridge
Alan Auld

But, alas, shortly after, on Saturday, 3rd July, we were dogged with being second again in almost every event in the District Scout Sports at the Eastbourne School Fields in the Fairway, Yarm Road, the results of the day being as follows:

2nd in the All-round Sinclair Sports Cup

2nd in the Junior under 15 relay

2nd in the Senior over 15 relay

We won the Tug-of-War just pulling out
the 26th in the final from 12 teams

On the weekend, 18th June, the Group weekend camp took place at Hunger Hill again. Seniors camping on Friday evening, Scouts from Saturday and Cubs later. What fun for the Cubs in the mud bath in the beck, how they gazed in awe at the aerial ropeway antics of the Seniors. How we lined 52 Cubs, Scouts and Seniors up in one immense line with every person wearing TWO stockings, and STILL had ONE ODD sock left? The Group Camp had come to stay as an annual event.

On 26th June, it was all hands to the Garden Fete, our financial hopes pinned on this day as it was opened by

Mr. Roger Fairfax, Chairman of the Darlington Scout Association. The crowds came, it kept fine, the Cockerton Silver Band played in the arena, the display of Morris Dancing went well, the steam railway gave rides to happy youngsters, then at 6 p.m., we all breathed a sigh of relief and dismantled the Fete.

Perhaps it is as well to mention at this point that from our meagre beginning in 1951, when we decided not to hold a Fete the following year because St. Mary's Church always had one in the even year. This was a courtesy to fellow Cockertonians, and alternate years would have been the pattern, but the 1952 Fete of St. Mary's was their last so from 1953, we continued every year.

Other organisations were not so considerate – some contested and copied our fete in programme and everything else – even to holding a fete on the same day. Our Fete was our bread winner and this caused many worrying times; others too in the town enquired of our entertainments such as the steam railway, which was a great attraction.

But by 1965, things were reversed, whereas we had worried about other fetes, ours had grown so large and popular that they now began to worry about us!

There is no moral here, but others were quite ruthless in the quest for ideas, and various people at our Fetes simply said so – we have come to copy your sideshows! The 8th Fete continued to be looked forward to as 'The Cockerton Garden Fete'.

The Pack came – you'll never guess – 2nd in the Cub Sports in June, would this bogie of being 2nd never be broken as far as some competitions were concerned? They had been 2nd in the Baker Wheeler. During July, at Elm Ridge Church grounds, they competed in the B.P. Guild Cub Shield with activities such as firelighting and compass work; in this event the Pack came 7th out of 22 – at least they were not 2nd!

Due to the fact that the only Scouters to run the Senior Troop was the GSM and also to the pressure of building work under his management, no Senior Troop camp was planned in 1965. Plenty of other things took place on the Senior Calendar as mentioned earlier.

The County Senior Weekend, organised each year by John Malcolm CC for Seniors, was as good as ever and took the name of 'Bolihope Bonanza'. The place – Upper Teesdale on a very, very wet weekend. The event was competitive and our team came 9th out of 24 County teams.

Mike Younghusband however did get away on 24th July to the 'Four Countries Senior Jamboree' in Norway, the other three countries being Sweden, Denmark and Finland. He had a great time and we were justly proud as he wore the Queen's Scout badge.

Maintenance of equipment was always a feature of our bright well lit QM's store; although we had bought little in new items, a very high standard had been reached in the storage of equipment. When the 'joining' of the old building to the new had been completed the store would be 30' long.

The Troop found it easy to pack for camp with everything in its place in neat white cubicles of storage shelving, offset by scout green coloured boxes now numbering 14 different types.

Some changes of Leaders had taken place during the year. The Pack, headed by Mrs. Jean Beadle, still had Anne Webster as the ACM, and we were lucky to have Mrs. Barbara Hill during the year as a capable Assistant. Diane Williamson had left us to be married and Miss Angela Poyzer had given very good help until she went to college in September.

The Troop Scouter position was very stable with George Rowlings as SM and Len Campbell as ASM although another assistant would have been helpful. Michael Armitage was Troop Leader to the Scout Troop as well as being in the Senior Troop.

The Senior Troop was run by F Beadle, the GSM, although many times without any Scouter at all. Tribute should be paid to the conduct of boys of that age when meeting on their own on many occasions. Mike Younghusband's steadying influence and 'hand' helped a lot. Things did look brighter when an experienced SSL (Senior Scout Leader) as the 1965 rules now said, came down from Scotland, complete with kilt, and settled on the new Branksome Estate. Within a week he was located and came to his first meeting at the HQ towards the end of July – so we had a SSL in Ben Westmorland.

The 50th Troop Annual Camp incorporated the Seniors for reasons mentioned above and 24 boys attended the camp at Kings Meaburn from Saturday, 21st August to Sunday 29th August. This favoured spot once again saw the green Pioneer Tents of the 8th pitched in its field on a curve of the River Lyvenett.

After arrival at camp, gadgets, which are always a strong inter patrol aspects of any camp, were soon devised to make life easier for all. Each Patrol now had a reasonable tent to eat in in case of wet weather – and it was wet this year.

We had borrowed two tents for food storage from the 3rd Troop – the 8th help the 3rd and vice versa.

The camp was organised and in charge of George Rowlings, SM, with Len Campbell as his Assistant, others at camp were:

Michael Armitage TL	James Griffiths	Kenneth Blair
Brian Blair	Ian Dixon	Tony Allan
Robert Waddington	Jeffrey Blair	Kevin Wilkinson
Neil Thomas	Roy Rejewski	John Irwin
Tony Foggin	Paul Bennett	Ronald Wood
John McPherson	Alan Auld	Stuart Thomas
Paul Harpin	Steven Powell	Michael Dixon
Christopher Elstob		

Although a fairly wet week, the camp had the attractions of Kings Meaburn. If one stands in front of the marquee at dusk, watching the sun sinking down, the Owls busy with supper, the chatter of the Curlew Patrol preparing their tent, the stillness of the trees and the babble of the river over stones – there is no other reason to be anywhere else!

From September, the usual collection of Jumble took place and filled the HQ with everything from clothing to furniture. We had leaflets printed in lots of 9,000 now and had made £90 on Jumble since April.

The September Church Parade saw an alteration in our usual routine of parading then going off to three churches at 10.30 a.m. The Church of England changed the time of their main service to 9.30 a.m. that year, so our C. of E. boys had to parade at that earlier time and the Methodists and Catholics at the usual time of 10.30 a.m. Such a Parade was held on the first weekend in October.

The Senior Troop were now meeting in the HQ on Wednesdays to fit in with evening classes, the Troop also used the HQ on Tuesdays for the PLs training meetings.

A new District Competition, run for the first time on 30th October, attracted the Scout Troop. It was the Indoor Scout craft Competition with separate events for Second and First Class. It was a proud day for the Troop when they came joint 2nd in the Second Class Contest, the 13th Troop winning out of 10 Troops. Even better, when they won the First Class contest out of six entrants, giving a good idea of the efficiency of the under 15 Troop at this time, in a new competition which was designed to test most parts of the badges.

The year ended with the usual round of parties, the Cubs with their in December, the Troop following, the Senior Troop in the HQ with Ben Westmorland, tucked into half chickens in a buffet form of meal.

And so ended another memorable year – the 50th in the 8th.

1966

After only a few months, Ben Westmorland had to leave the town, in these days of job fluctuation. He had been a valuable asset to the Senior Troop, most of all to Skip who had the job of taking the Senior Troop again.

The Troop Scouters remained the same. The Pack had now lost Miss Angela Poyzer who was away and gained Mrs. McFee. Mrs. Hill had also moved south and was a loss indeed. Mrs. Beadle could not attend meetings for a while and Anne Webster did good work in the running of the Pack.

Roger Williamson did great work on his weekend vacations on the building. Jobs unfinished one weekend were often completed before we worked the next, not by magic – but by Roger. He agreed to become QM for the Group and began to keep things in order in the Store.

In January, 1966, the Group funds were at their lowest ever. A drastic situation was tackled in the following ways:

- (a) That the sections would put some of their separate funds into the Group Building Fund. The Pack £10, the Troop £20, the Senior Troop £5.
- (b) That we would have an extra collection of jumble during January and hire a hall in town, to take the jumble to the people – as it were.

- (c) That Old Scouts, who had already made donations, would again be approached and anyone else who cared to donate.

Holy Trinity Hall in Portland Place was used for Jumble Sales, tea sold in the interval, helped to raise more cash. These measures were scraping the bottom of the barrel, they had to be, we needed more money for materials than we could raise.

The colour scheme for the new hall had been devised by one of the Committee qualified for such. The second coat of emulsion on the ceiling of the hall had taken only four gallons, against 9 the first time and the lemon and grey overall scheme was indicating that the upper parts of the hall were completed but work still progressed on the main floor joists and foyer. The Electricity Board had now been approached to put the full three phase mains into the hall foyer, now nearly complete. In one single day the Group did its part of the installation, that of laying a dry 4" duct 42' long under our tenant's floor in a 3' deep trench, beneath two walls and out to the front steps of No 82, replacing carpets by 5.00 p.m.

During the first three months of the year very little else than the building occupied the Group, although meetings were as healthy as usual in the sections. Job Week came and went but the Troop and Senior Troop had no Easter camp that year.

The Troop P.L.s and their Scouters toured about 200 miles to look for a camp site. The caravan was now a far better profit to a farmer who had suitable fields near river or beck than a Troop of Scouts who only wanted one field one week!

The Troop had its first camp of the year at Hunger Hill over the weekend 14th/15th May. It was a training course mainly for PLs and Seconds with the remainder of the test work the following weekend, 21st/22nd May. Both these camps had a good attendance and enjoyed fine weather.

As soon as Easter was over, things pointed towards the Annual Garden Fete which had grown just about as big as we could manage. The field was usually booked in October the previous year, the booking of the band and entertainment, opener, railway were all completed before March. Advertisements for the programmes were gathered from 25 shops, sometimes having to be re-arranged when one required changing or omitting. The programme was in print by April ready to sell by the beginning of June.

The first contact with the Fete for Scouts was to sell programmes for three weeks, this was carefully done on a street basis to sell 3,000 programmes. Prizes of camping items were usually given to the Scouts. All parents were contacted.

From Easter, all stalls and sideshows were checked, painted, poor ones discarded, new ones devised. All stalls were weather-proof, painted and contained no card or paper now.

Two weeks from the Fete, bran tub articles were packed, crockery checked, other things such as prizes, ice cream,

minerals ordered, and the treasurer put floats ready for 25 stalls etc. On the Friday evening before the actual day, work began at 5.30 p.m. with two handcarts and this year's van to take the material to the fete site. Marquees were up at 7.30 all stalls laid out or partially erected by 10.00 p.m.

Scouters and Seniors sleep at the site all night, others are there before 7 a.m. on Saturday. Work goes on all morning, with ladies arriving at 10.00 a.m. to attend to catering, all ready by 12.30 lunchtime. The programmes, tents and marquees help to advertise the Fete as well as large posters and press. 1.30 all Cubs and Scouts arrive, parents and helpers arrive, told which stall they are on, collect float, scout helper gets prizes and properties, anything from a drawing pin to a rifle, nothing is missing – usually.

1.50 Band heard in distance, opener gets onto dais, band and crowd arrive en masse – there is no turning back now – ITS ON.

Such men as Jack Baister cannot be missed out of mentioned when we think of the 8th Garden Fete. He is one of several who have certain jobs which they do well and efficiently every year with unstinting help, without this continuity it would be difficult to put this show on at all.

Problems arise during the afternoon –one stall losing too much, a lost child, running short of crisps, the weather – will it keep fine? Eventually it's all over and the field is cleared about 6.0[0] p.m. Cubs, who have relieved Scout assistants on a stall during the afternoon, line up behind a rope and collect about nine sacks of litter.

Scouts under supervision of the Committee dismantle Fete, leaving the treasurer's tent until last. Two men stationed at HQ with a Patrol of Scouts put things vaguely in correct places. By 8.00 p.m. (if dry) very little remains, handcarts still carry load after load to HQ.

Treasurer has still been known to be counting at 9.15 p.m. although usually it is 8.30, then his tent comes down and back to HQ for everyone. Scouts sent home about 9.00 p.m. and so ends the day – if wet, the story is different! Sunday morning – filling in post holes at site, searching for odds and ends, sorting out several tons of things at HQ into reasonable order, bundling stakes, etc.

Monday evening, stowing all away in loft carefully until the next year. The only thing now is to pay the bills and write letters of thanks, deliver items back to here and there and another Fete bites the dust!

The Fete involves the help of 50 adults, all the Cubs, Scouts, Seniors and Scouters – gone are the days when two small Cubs could look after a sideshow, our second Fete taught us that adults were needed, as some people come to the Fete just for a good time – and they get one too.

The 1966 Garden Fete was opened by Mr. J R Madden, ADC, on 25th June, at 2.00 p.m., everything happened as above and the gross proceeds were £263.14.3. with the net profit £163.5.6.

The Troop entered a team again in the Trevor Morris Camping Competition, this time they drew a joint first with the 26th. Our team composed:-

Paul Bennett	John Irwin
Kevin Wilkinson	Alan Bee
John Watson	Tony Allen

At the A.G.M. of the Local Association, we had to provide a Scout and a Senior Scout; we had actually won the Selwyn Austin Shield for the year ended 31st March, 1966.

Now that we had achieved this end, there was no space to have our small silver shield put on, so Skip made a new larger oak shield to allow for another 30 years – surely we would win it again some time?

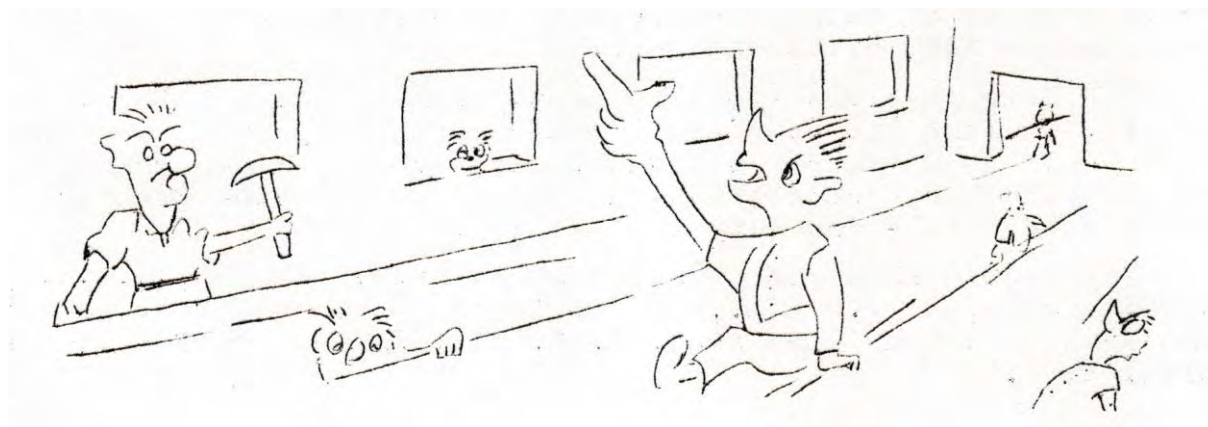
The Group contributed to the late Lord Barnard's Memorial Fund, set up since the passing of this great Scouting man in 1965. There must be few in the 50 years of the 8th who have not seen or met Lord Barnard, or camped at Raby Park. His example and encouragement to Durham Scouting left little to be desired. Mr L G Ridley had been appointed as the County Commissioner since Lord Barnard's death.

After the Garden Fete, the sheets for the 'Weyroc' floor arrived at the HQ. These would be put down on the joists which had been a hazard to walk across for months now resulting many a bruised tibia. An opening date could, or dared, be thought of now and this was decided to be early in the New Year – we pressed on weekend after weekend after weekend!

The Group Camp at Hunger Hill was on 17th/18th July. Roger Williamson was on vacation and in charge of the 7 Seniors who, on Friday, fixed up pioneering 'playthings' and very well they were fixed too. Seniors organised games and a jolly good time was had by all at another Group weekend, especially the Cubs as they walked a tired mile to the station at 6.00 p.m.

During the summer holidays, many devoted an entire week or more of their time to the new building. Toilets and light fittings being installed. One of the Committee men had done nothing but paint every weekend for two years, from the first coat on the ceiling in late 1964, when 5,000 nail holes had to be plastered before painting.

The laying of the floor presented problems, the cutting out of boxing ring post holes, pioneering pickets and electricity socket holes, a slow job in large sheets!



The 51st Annual Summer Camp moved off by lorry from the Group H.Q. on Saturday, 21st August, to a new site found by the SM and ASM earlier in the year. Different countryside between Alston and Penrith near the village of Glassonby.

27 attended the camp which was organised by Len Campbell, with F Beadle and Mrs. Beadle present. George Rowlings, SM, was unable to attend the camp, which was situated in a large field with patrol sub camps at least 100 yards from the staff tents and marquee.

<u>Saturday 21st</u>	Arrived at camp 11.30, site allocated, set up tents and kitchens, made gadgets.
<u>Sunday 22nd</u>	Rain, R.C.s to church in Penrith, C.ofE. to church in village, heavy rain in afternoon. More gadgets made in evening. Methodists to church 6.00 p.m.
<u>Monday 23rd</u>	Fine morning, Scoutcraft work, heavy rain during afternoon, fine in evening, rounders game.
<u>Tuesday 24th</u>	Fine morning, Seniors build suspension bridge, others scoutcraft training, went to Lazonby pool for swimming in afternoon, others played rounders, PLs meeting in marquee.
<u>Wednesday 25th</u>	Games in morning, Camp Sports in afternoon, Cross country run evening, camp fire.
<u>Thursday 26th</u>	Scoutcraft training, others harvesting for farmer. Hike in afternoon for youngsters to hill called 'Little Meg', harvesting.
<u>Friday 27th</u>	Pioneering, harvesting, Scoutcraft work, the wide game in afternoon, games in evening, camp fire. Birthday Party tea for one PL John Irwin.
<u>Saturday 28th</u>	Fine sunny day again, complete harvesting and activities, wide game in afternoon, camp fire at night.
<u>Sunday 29th</u>	Up early, dismantle camp, lorry arrived but we had to carry kit two fields away to lorry. Then back to Cockerton.

During the camp, at which there were many Seniors, a good turn was done for the farmer, in helping to move 20 tons of corn from combine harvester to barn, also 300 bales of straw.

On 8th September, the Troop, Pack and Seniors competed in the District Swimming Gala at the Gladstone Street Baths. We came second again with only 9 points between the first five Troops, the 'jinx' of being second was again with us.

A further grant of £150 received from the L.E.A. had been used now, the £35 donated by sections and Jumble Sales had also gone, these sales now being held for the first time at St. Hilda's Hall in Parkgate.

The unfinished building was insured for £5,000 and this amount was raised progressively as it was completed further.

The usual autumn Jumble collection helped to offset the deficit which loomed up towards the end of the year. Coffee evenings held in the GSM's home and elsewhere brought in about £5 each, a further sum coming from the former Scout

Donation appeal launched (or revived again) in the year. Even with all this, we were to be £50 in debt at the end of the year.

Cubs did not work on the building although they were put on the list as soon as they set foot in the Scout Troop. Such a Cub was John Newton, who would perhaps not have started school when Mr. Abel laid the first brick in 1960. John joined the Pack at 8 years in 1963, his first job as a Scout in September 1966 was to punch over 5,000 nails below the surface of the floor – he did this, every one was attended to by John. This was just one boy's work. Brian Blair, another ardent worker, spent over 400 hours on the building in his 3 years.

To the end of 1966, work continued at a feverish pitch on the almost completed hall, doors were painted, locks and handles fitted, imitation stone replicas of the Scout badge were made, painted and sand blasted in yellow for the stage surround, heaters fitted, lamps hung, and decorative mahogany timbers to the stage and proscenium arch put in place, finally on Christmas Eve, at 6.00 p.m., Mike Younghusband and Kenneth Blair put on the final coat of floor sealer – it was complete on 24th December, at 8.00 p.m.

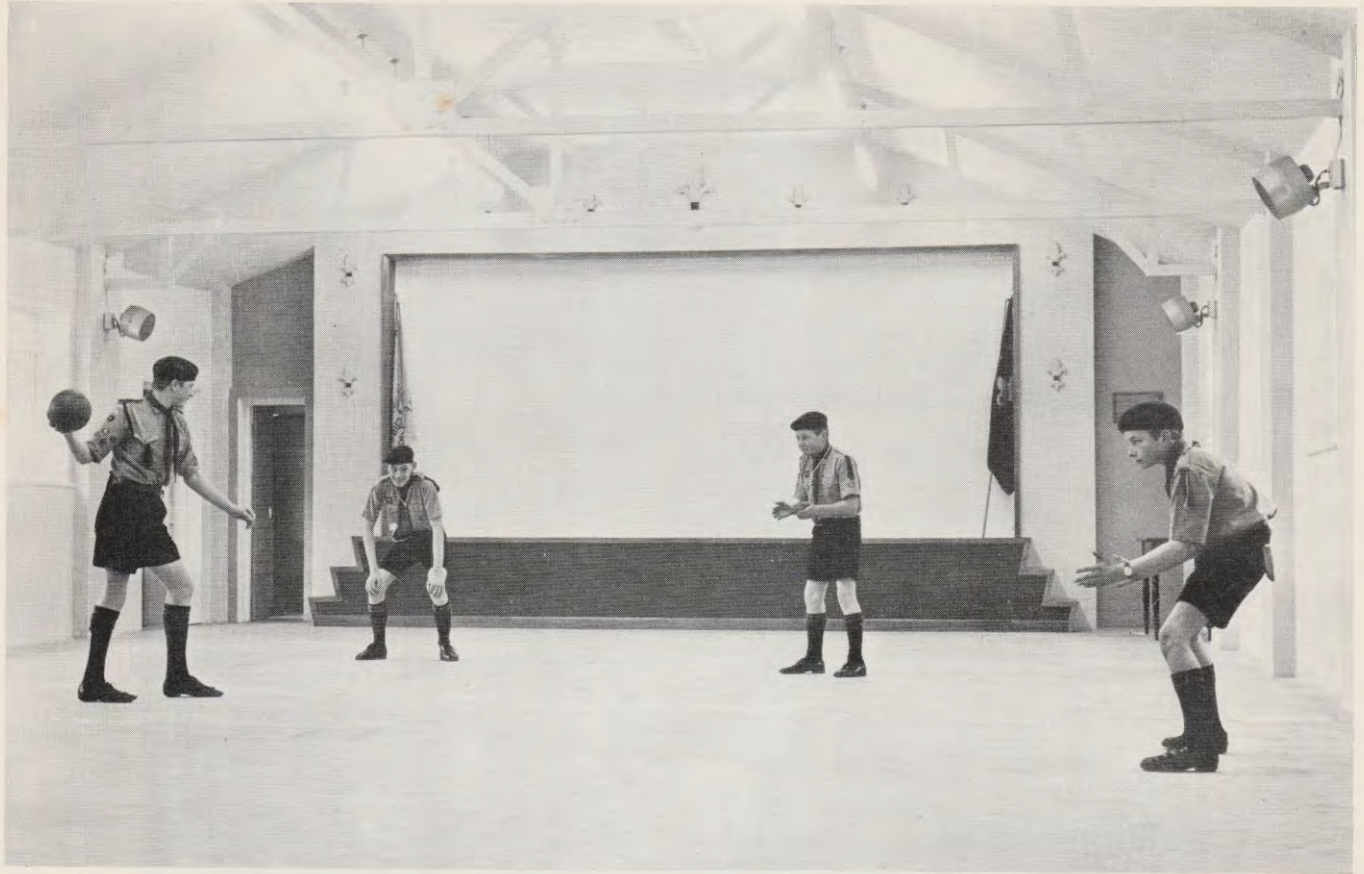
It was sad that Miss Cilla Sleightholme passed away just two weeks before the hall was opened. As our tenants, the Sleightholmes had put up with constant work – almost in their house at times, every Saturday and Sunday for 7 years. The GSM attended her funeral at St. Mary's Church.

On 22nd December, the last meeting of the Pack and Troop took place in the Methodist Schoolrooms. For 35 years (apart from 1940 to 1945) we had been offered every facility and given wonderful help, without this the Group may not have continued as well as it had, or even failed.

1967

On Friday, 6th January, 1967, the official opening of the 8th Darlington (Cockerton) new Scout Hall took place at 7.30 p.m. Every Cub, Scout, Senior and Scouter of the Group as well as the Group Committee were present. 200 specially printed invitation cards had been sent out in December, those invited were all ex Committee members, District Scout Officials and one representative from each Group, the Borough Surveyor's officials, L.E.A. and representatives of all the 14 trade accounts we had in the town.

The highlight of the evening was when three 19 year old men recited the same poem they had presented so well as boys of 13 years when we commenced this immense project in 1960. In reply, and unknown to Brian Deighton, Ian Webster and Alan James, three 11 year old Scouts jumped to their feet as the former sat down and repeated with equal verve and enthusiasm, another poem, as set out below; these three new live wires were Lewis Wilkinson, David Johnson and Christopher Elstob.



INTERIOR OF NEW HALL JANUARY 1967

Showing four Scouts, Brian Blair, Stephen Powell, Michael Dixon and Christopher Elstob, four boys who each worked several hundred hours on the new building.



HEADQUARTERS: 8th DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) SCOUT GROUP:
80-82 COCKERTON GREEN.

Just a minute, Ian, Alan and Brian,
Thanks for the poem, you really were try'en,
I'm Dave, that's Chris and little Lue
We've seen this building built right through,
Or nearly so, right through you see –
- Cos when it started we were AGED THREE.
When you three were 18 and gone,
Somebody else had to carry on.
We speak for 160 boys –
Who've come down here to make a noise.

We'll tell you the story quickly now,
Of not just why and when, but HOW.
In winters 60' and 61'
Nearly 35,000 bricks laid on.
Then there's six steel girders in the roof,
They're all up there – look there's the proof.
Above the stage, one weighs half a ton,
Donated by some kindly one.
Beneath the floor – all over the hall,
200 square yards of concrete – all.

With English climate we had to contend,
In winter '63, things came to an end,
When three months solid did suffice,
To stop almost through snow and ice.
In early '64 we saw a lovely Spring and what is more,
We put a new roof on our Q.M.'s store.
This was just an extra job.
It took 9 weeks and a canny few bob,
During that summer, again there's proof,
Of sixty foot purlins on the roof,
With 2,000 feet of wood besides
For various parts the ceiling hides.

In October '64, lay all around,
100 roof sheets on the ground,
All fixed in place we're glad to say,
Completed all by Christmas Day.
Some Committee men have been with us,
All of the years, all six and plus.
When new Cubs came from Pack to Troop,
Straight into the building workers group,
There's many a boy, thought time well spent,
Saturday and Sunday mixing cement.

The Scouting side was not neglected,
In a good Scout Group it can be expected,
We entered everything going,
And usually had a fair good showing.
Then in August '63,
Jeff went to the Grecian Jamboree,
To Gosforth Park we've also been,
To shake hands with Sir Charles McLean,
The Queen's Scout Badge, we aim to cope,
Our 12th certificate soon we hope

Our Garden Fete just grows and grows,
Where it will stop – nobody knows!
From £48 nett – in their first rhyme,
To £163 last time.

So this year don't forget the date,
24th of June – for the Fete,
We've Jumble Sales every three weeks,
Clothing piled in great big heaps.
We've earned £3,000 to date –
Since your rhyme in 60', mate.

We pressed on with building in '65
The place as busy as a hive,
350 yards of wire,
An emergency door – in case of fire.
Then 50 panes of glass – all told,
A sub contract in winters cold,
The plastering too, done by a friend,
Over 8 tons that man did rend,
The painting too – a gigantic task,
Is 25 gallons too much, we ask?
In early 66' we saw,
Lights all in – a start on the floor.

In seven years, we've rarely shirked,
On only NINE weekends not worked,
It took six months to lay the beams,
For the floor you stand on – so it seems.
The surface sheets then for the floor,
In October last, brought through the door,
There's thousands of jobs – too many to mention,
In any case, we've no intention,
There's over 10,000 hours here,
Of blood and toil, and sweat and tear.

And now it's built to see for all,
Our smashing brand new Scouting Hall,
A tribute to everyone – worth shouting,
Right from the very heart of Scouting,
Three thousand pounds in all it cost,
And regular Scouting far from lost,
The Group is stronger than before,
Seven years hard labour and a wee bit more.
Skip hopes to have two Packs and Troops,
And a Venture Unit – like in the new books!

Our Cub Pack has its waiting list
And many a dozen boys are missed,
In '67 then we say, don't impedus,
But help us just to find more leaders,
If you have some time to spare,
Consider then that you could share,
In this great thing – we shout aloud –
8TH DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) Boy! We're proud.

When this recitation was over, short speeches were made by the District Commissioner, Mr. J A Lear, the clergy of Cockerton, then a review of the past work by the GSM, after which, Mr. Charles Rogers, Assistant County Commissioner for Leader Training, gave his opening speech and cut a cord with appropriately enough a sheath knife, when two neat little Scout flags in silk fell to one side and displayed the engraved plaque – the new Hall was open. Light refreshments were served to all.

We were £50 in debt, we also owed the Local Scout Association £600. The Northern Echo and the Northern Despatch carried favourable comments and large prints of the opening ceremony. A full half page was given to the Group on Thursday, 5th, with a photograph of four Scouts in the Hall, as well as trade advertisements.

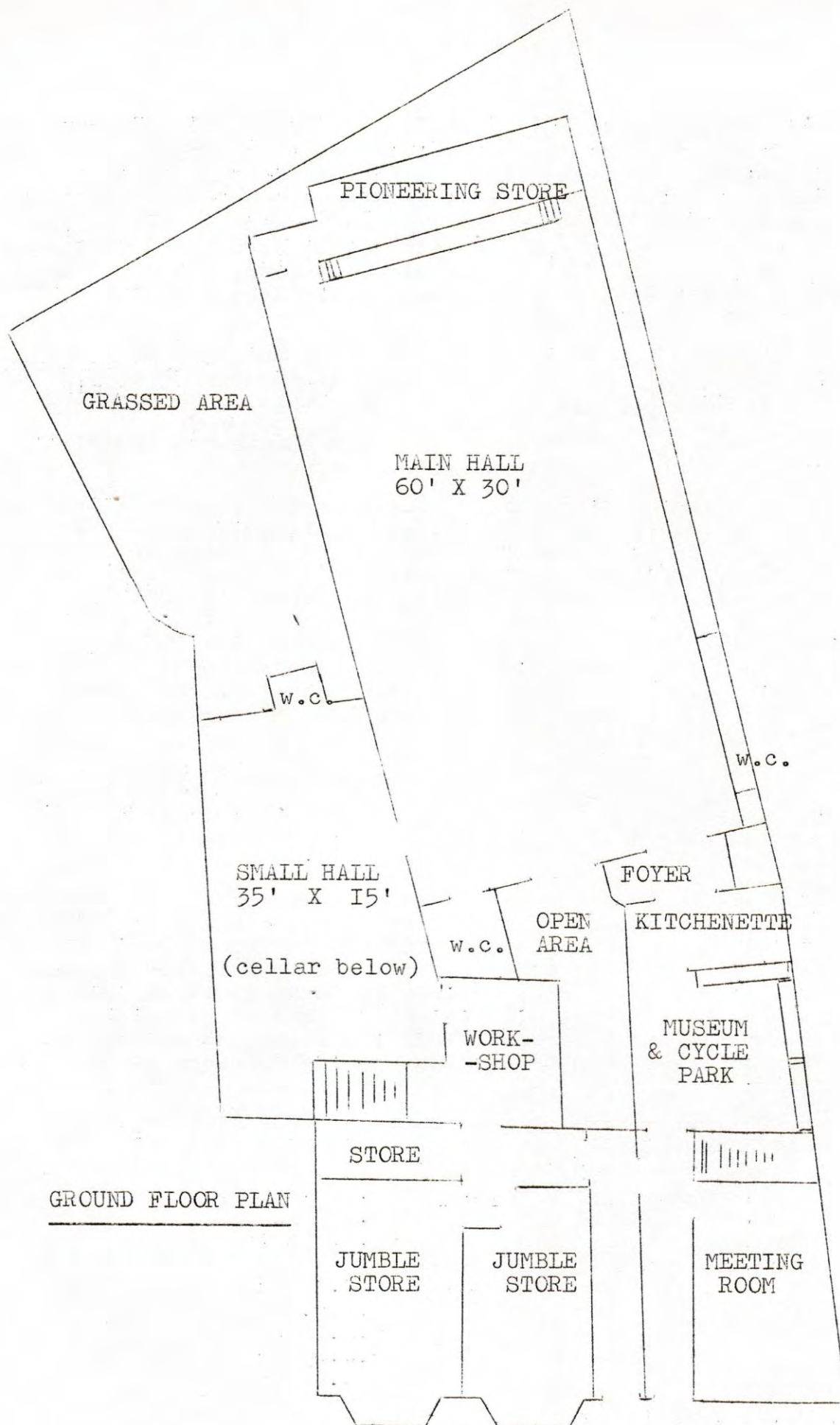
On Saturday, 7th, a coffee morning took place to allow the public at large to visit the new building, many people came purely out of interest to see one of the largest halls in the area. Mr. Richard C Luck also paid another visit, he had been present the night before. He handed the Group a donation of £200, the same morning a letter arrived at the GSM's home with a cheque for £100 from Mrs Gladys Pawson, wife of the late Daniel C Pawson. We were speechless at these gestures, which would leave us little need to worry about debts. Other smaller donations helped to make a start to repay the sums we owed.

The Pack Meeting took place on Tuesday, 10th January, this being the actual first meeting in the new building, six 3 kw. heaters donated by Mrs. Pawson as a specific item, were switched on easily by lady Cub Leaders. The first Troop meeting took place on 13th January, 1967.

The Scouter situation in the Group was very serious indeed at this time. Skip would not be available for some time. George Rowlings had resigned during the summer as SM and moved to Newton Aycliffe, this left Len Campbell on his own with the Troop. In March, Mrs. Beadle found it impossible to get to Pack Meetings at 6.00 p.m. although John Witty, one of our prominent former members, took the reins and set out to look for Scouters even before the opening ceremony had been completed.

The following list of new adults gives some idea of the persuasive ability of John Witty. Not all were experienced ex Scouters but we were, however, glad to have them:-

<u>PACK</u>	Mrs E Peverley Mrs Wood Mrs Bird	<u>TROOP</u>	Mr J L Campbell Mr E Appleby Mr J Lycette
		<u>SENIOR</u>	Mr J C Witty Mr B N Howson Mr A Dodd Mr J Usher Mr J Morgan
QM	Mr R W Williamson		



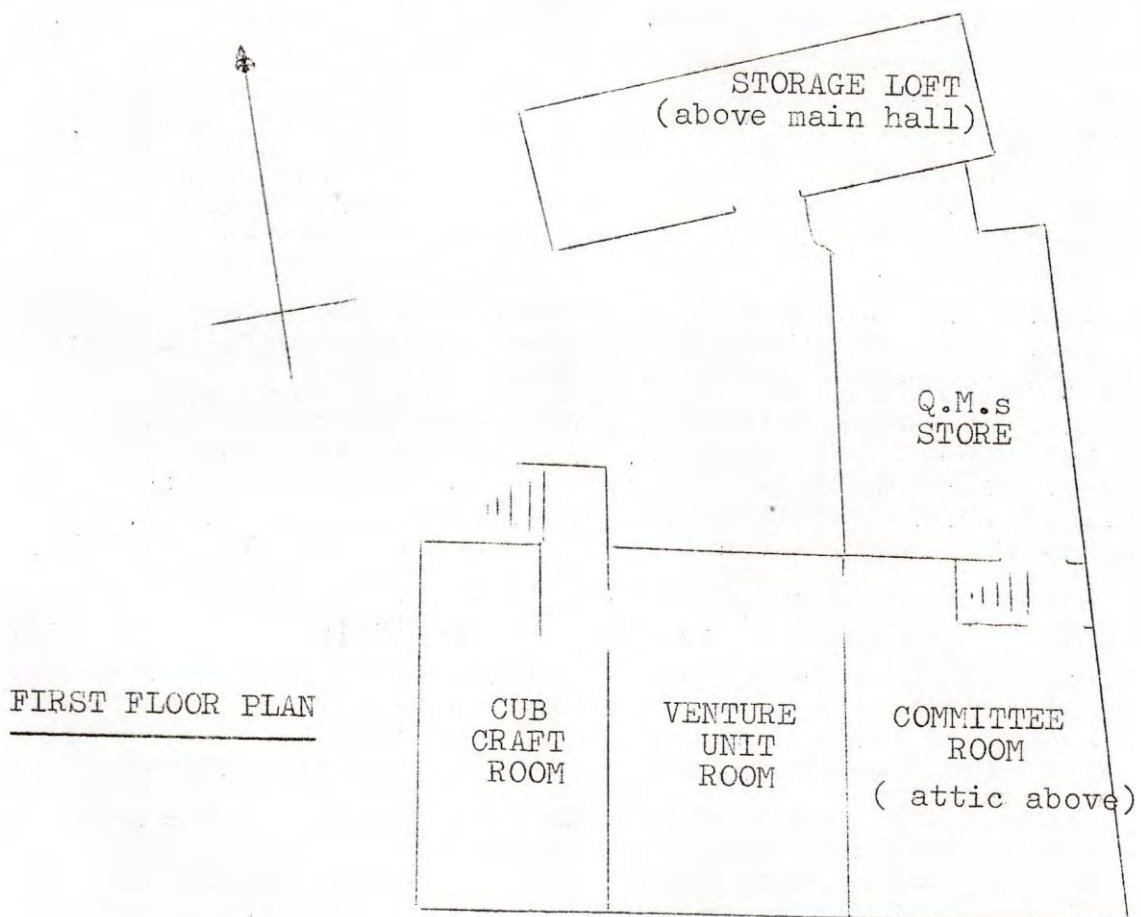
8TH DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) SCOUT GROUP

Diagram showing general layout of H.Q.
as from year 1967.

Note: Doorway to give access between
No.80 and No.82 entrances was installed
in August 1967 on Ground Floor level.

Doorway in similar position at First
Floor level was installed in 1973.

SCALE: 1 c.m. = 5 ft.



This situation looked good, the Senior Troop, meeting Wednesday evenings, had almost as many chiefs as Indians! There is no doubt that the regular building work on the Troop notices each week for the past seven years had been a 'cementing' factor in more ways than one. Now, there was no work at weekends. The boys had enjoyed the work, it would stand them in good stead for their future lives with practical knowledge.

The January collection of Jumble commenced – the Group Committee carried on with Sales – we still owed money! The 1967 Garden Fete was planned. The first Jumble Sale in the new Hall was on Thursday, 26th January.

From January, the Group had the full use of No 82, due to Mr. Robert Sleightholme moving away to live with a relative. The only entry to next door was by way of the new hall; the Group now had 10 rooms to use, a general plan envisaging use of all rooms saw the Senior Troop meeting in No 82. Jumble was stored in the 'Band Room' or 'Dance Hall' of No 82, which had been an inn until 1907. This band room was 35' long and 15' wide – it was to be termed the 'small hall'.

Seating for the main hall was found through a friend at the right time, the Group purchased Victoria Road Methodist seating forms. Other forms and three tables were donated by Cockerton Methodist Church when new items were bought for their premises in late 1966. We could now seat 150 people.

Scout Job Week in April, with no Easter Camp for the Troop or Senior Troop that year, a team was entered for the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy on 4th March but without success.

The Cub Pack progressed quite well with the CM being unable to attend the early part of meetings. Badgework was at a good level, St. George's Day Parade saw a good turnout of all sections.

In the Senior Scout Troop, there were the original nine members, three of whom were just one badge from the Queen's Scout, they pressed on this end.

Another Garden Fete soon loomed upon us on 24th June in the Cockerton School grounds, organised entirely by the Group Council (formerly Group Committee –new rules!) and it realised a net profit of £153, declared open by Mr. R C Luck, who had the honour for his kind gesture earlier in the year.

At the Group Council Meeting in July, it was proposed and agreed to repay £300 of the loan to Darlington Scout Council.

One of the biggest District events seen for some time took place during the summer in the grounds of 'Woodlands', the house bordering Woodlands Road and Milbank Road, This special effort was to celebrate the Jubilee year of Scouting.

Various Troops put on camping displays, Cubs sold programmes, stalls and sideshows were in operation for the general public to patronise. The 8th Seniors erected an aerial runway in convenient trees in this picturesque ground. Two of our Group marquees housed the HQ and exhibition of Scouting.

Extensive HQ cleaning presented a very different task. It had been the custom since 1950 to have a Patrol clean the four roomed Den. This system was altered and patrols cleaned on Friday evenings with a Scouter in charge.

A long hike from Middleton in Teesdale, over Outberry Plain, was enjoyed in good weather by Scouts.

The Troop had 36 members in April. None of the Leaders were able to take any weekend or Annual camps that year; only one weekend camp took place at Hunger Hill in August.

By July, the Leaders of the Senior Scout Troop had sorted themselves out, and the Senior Troop began to have 3 Leaders regularly from August.

Jean Beadle had to resign as CM in March, the Pack was now in charge of Mrs. Wood, and ex Scouter from the 3rd. St. Mary's assisted by Mrs. Peverley. Changes of Leadership tended to instil life in some sections, yet just let them tick over in others. Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Woodhouse did a fine job as adults new to Cubbing, yet they had to resign for various reasons before the year was out.

In 1964, the Scout HQ in London asked for opinions about future changes in Scouting. The ADVANCE PARTY REPORT COMMITTEE sat for three years and produced the new changes by June 1966, actually formulating ideas as far back as early 1963. The 8th could not be accused of failing to forward their ideas of how Scouting should look in the future! No indeed, as we sent 7 foolscap sheets of ideas and suggestions, related to each of four sections, one uniform, the other two to the Group system.

The new rules in the report were to come into operation on 1st October, 1967 – they were not just slight, mild alterations not even mildly drastic – they were sweeping, utter and complete in the extreme – Scouting had not been given a face lift, it had become almost a new movement!

The writer makes no apologies for going into detail about the opening of the new hall in 1967, or the changes brought about by the 'Advance Party Report' findings, given briefly on the next page. These two events in the year affected the 8th to a very great extent and therefore must be included in this book.

Queen's Scout Badges were produced through the hard work of Kenneth Blair, Michael Armitage and Richard Barras, just in time for 6th September.

From 1st October, things would look as follows in the 8th.

SUMMARY of 'ADVANCE PARTY REPORT' CHANGES THE CUB SECTION

Still for 8 to 11 year olds. The main uniform change being dark green jerseys for all Packs, the 8th had worn Navy Blue since 1916. Badges were of different design, tests were entirely changed, replacing the old structure of –

Tenderpad, 1st Star, 2nd Star and Leapin Wolf with the Scout Badge, Bronze, Silver and Gold Arrows.

All Cub books were in new format, omitting the Rudyard Kipling Jungle theme for more formal training. Many of the Cub Tests incorporated parts of the Scout Tenderfoot and Second Class badge.

THE SCOUT SECTION

Now for boys 11 to 16 years old (formally 11 to 15) stipulated that all Scouts would wear dark green shirts, mushroom coloured long trousers instead of shorts – drastic! All badges were re-designed in small squares and of a plastic material, the test structure was altered completely:-

Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class and Scout Cords would now:- Scout Badge, Scout Standard, Advanced Standard with the Chief Scout's Award the ultimate aim.

The entire badge structure was changed, such favoured badges as – the Backwoodsman were omitted.

THE VENTURE SCOUT SECTION

For young men of 16 to 20, replaced the Senior Scout and the Rover Section, both now abolished. In this, we saw the biggest change of all. The uniform would be of mushroom shirts, brown tie, mushroom long trousers! The beret was retained but now in green.

The badge structure (the Senior Scheme had been the continuation of the Scout Scheme) was changed completely to Scout Badge, Venture Award, Queen's Award.

The utter age limit for other than Scouters had been 65 until the mid 1950's, then reduced to 24, and now 20. From this can be derived two things – that the age span of all the sections was lowered, that the aim was to get more Scouters aged 2- plus, otherwise one could not be in the movement after the ripe old age of 20 years!

The ADVANCE PARTY REPORT caused more controversy in Scouting than anything ever has, even the Scout Laws were revised from 10 to 7. Scouters resigned up and down the country – the 8th sighed, rolled up its sleeves and got down to reorganisation. Only one rule was not fully implemented by the 8th – all male Leaders (as they were now called) decided to continue to wear Royal Blue Scout neckers instead of green ties.

Nothing changed overnight of course – in the first place, the new uniform was not available. We were to see 8th Scouts wearing navy blue shorts and khaki shirts for at least two more years, similarly, Cubs wearing the navy blue jersey. In theory, Senior Scout shorts and uniform should have been worn by Venture Scouts until the new uniform was available but this was not the case in practice and civvies crept in as 'uniform' until we saw the first Venture Scout shirts late in 1967.

In September, the Troop won the District Scout Swimming Gala in which Senior Scouts competed for the last time in the

District gala. The 8th had had Senior Scouts for the whole 21 years of Senior Scouting from 1946 to 1967.

So with all this upheaval and turmoil, the 8th struggled to the end of 1967. A momentous year of progress, a year of drastic change.

1968

At the start, a crisis arose in the Cub Pack. Mrs. Peverley had moved back to the Midlands, Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Woodhouse had moved or had family commitments respectively at the end of the year, now Mrs. Wood had to resign to leave us with exactly no Leaders at all! The GSL spent all Christmas searching for new Leaders, the District luckily notifying us of an experienced Cub Leader who had just moved into the town. Jenny McKay started as CSL (Cub Scout Leader – new title under new rules) on the first Tuesday of the New Year. Two things are worthy of note here, firstly that Jenny was, as far as can be ascertained, the first Leader the District had ever found for the 8th in its 53 years, secondly, that she came from a Glasgow Group with four Packs and several Troops – so the 8th had a long way to go yet!

Before long, a newcomer to Cubbing, Pat Beck, became ACSL and the Pack was settled again.

In the Scout Troop, Ian Campbell, still as ASL, had less time for work other than Troop Meetings, Edward Appleby and Jim Lycette also had less time, and both had to resign before Easter. The GSL took over again the first week in January.

In the Venture Unit, things looked much better, we had an experienced Leader from January, who had a few months of actual Venture Scouting in London, from last October. He and Brian Howson settled themselves as AVSL (Assistant Venture Scout Leaders) John Witty and the other Leaders having ceased at various times during the year.

During Easter, several of the Venture Unit spent the weekend in the Lake District hike-camping, two other long hikes were held and well attended during the year.

As an indoor activity, the Venture Unit repaired two canoes to use on the River Tees, one trip starting from near Neasham and lasting until after midnight. The question of cost for activities of Venture Scouts became apparent, most suggested ideas involving extensive travel and special equipment. At the start of this new section in Scouting there were 5 good Venture Units in the town, although the 8th could be said to be the largest.

This is how the Leader position looked the first week of 1968 – more settled than the previous year. It should be now noted that there were no hard feelings to any of the helpers during 1967, all resigned for good reasons.

The Sections looked as follows, March 1968:-

VENTURE UNIT

Mr B N Howson AVSL
Michael Younghusband
Kenneth Blair
Richard Barras
Michael Armitage
David Clarkson
David Johns
John Watson
Kenneth Naisbitt
S Wormald

Mr M Rackham AVSL
Robin Laycock
John Tomlin
Paul Harpin
Chris Elstob
Leslie Brown
Brian Blair
Alan Auld
Allan Bee
R Wormald

With the Venture Unit looking very good it is interesting to note that one member is said to have been on the Pack waiting list for 3 years, from 1960, then transferred to the Troop list, he was finally admitted to the Unit at 15 ½ after being on waiting lists for 7 ½ years! A good thing and yet, not a good thing for Scouting! Leaders do matter immensely.

SCOUT TROOP

F A Beadle GSL Act SL, J L Campbell ASL

OTTERS

Martin Wilson PL
John Newton APL
Peter Foster
Michael Campbell
Steven Flynn
Terry Hutchinson

OWLS

Stuart Thomas PL
David Wilkinson APL
David Giles
Stewart Morley
Martin Osborne

SWIFTS

Michael Dixon PL
Chris Clough APL
Nigel Harding
S Freary
Ian Wilkinson
Michael Hull

CURLEWS

Jeffrey Blair PL
Lewis Wilkinson APL
Alister Gardiner
Norman Foster
R Rowntree
Oliver Godwin

This was the smallest Troop we had seen since 1946, not representative of having the largest Scout Hall in the area, but the lack of camps had taken its toll – boys joined for camping.

It will be noticed that the rank of second was changed in the Advance Pack Report to 'Assistant Patrol Leader' from October last year. No new uniform was yet worn by any Scout, shorts were retained in the 8th for some time yet.

CUB SCOUT PACK

Mrs. J McKay, CSL, Mrs. P Beck, ACSL Miss G Bell, Inst.

Four sixes comprising a total of 24 cubs.

With 52 ranks on the Census figures at the end of March, this represented the smallest total for many years, there was much work to be done, the previous year had not been a very good one.

The Troop Easter Training Camp at Hunger Hill from 12th April to 16th April, 5 days this year to ensure plenty of time for training. Basic work such as tent pitching and cooking was carried out, although everything was different in the new

tests, the main theme of the camp being centred round the Pioneering Badge. The five days were cold but dry, the entire camp was attended by all ranks.

Bob-a-Job week took place, this time the HQ Capitation Fee was 10/- each plus 1/- to Durham County, the days of rising costs were upon us!

The Venture Unit Easter Expedition took the form of a Base Camp at Cotherstone and hikes from there, overnight or one day.

A further camp at Hunger Hill, 8th/9th May, gave other than ranks a chance to camp, being attended by almost all the Scout Troop.

Mrs. V Rowlings had to resign from the Group Council in April due to health reasons after 19 years of valuable service – she was nominated an ‘Associate Life Member’ of the Group.

The 16th Annual Garden Fete in 1968 presented many new problems. We were unable to use the Cockerton Church of England School fields as contractors were demolishing the old air raid shelters. The use of Alderman Leach School field was obtained for that year only. We were very grateful for this although it gave us many headaches, surmounted as usual by the diligence and integrity of the 8th.

Calor gas burners were used for the buffet, water was tapped from the allotments electric cables were brought from nearby houses, all the handcart loads had to be manhandled up Stooperdale Avenue to the gate opposite Hunstanworth Road.

The Fete was all ready by 10.00 p.m. Friday, then for once in the Garden Fete history of the 8th, it rained – ALL DAY on 22nd June – no one came to the Fete at all!

The entire evening and following morning were spent dismantling and carting everything back to HQ. Over 75 phone calls were made on Sunday and Monday to arrange a fete the following Saturday. Everyone was just a little greyer. One marquee left on the field for a week was torn by vandals, sideshows were damaged, equipment strewn about.

The following Friday, we started again, with new vigour, re-ordering everything, goodness knows how the ladies of the Group Council sold 500 bread buns in the middle of Alderman Leach School field last week in torrential rain!

The Fete was opened at 2.00 p.m. by Mr. Jim Harris, Chairman of Darlington Scout Council, on 29th June, the public came to support us on the usual entertainments, such as the steam railway, due to other engagements. Naturally, the takings were less at £122.

Another camp at Hunger Hill on 6th/7th July, with a further camp incorporating the Air Pageant at Teesside Airport as part of its programme on 3rd/4th August. These camps were well attended and enjoyed.

During June, July and August, building work again became a regular feature although consisting mostly of painting. The small hall of No 82, the kitchen and other rooms were decorated by the Troop and Senior Troop, with Committee men

putting new gutters and paint on the frontage of the HQ to give it a bright new look in royal blue. This change carried a large 9' x 4' sign with Group motif.

During the year, two more new Leaders appeared on the scene to provide much needed help. Rolf Wormald, a complete newcomer to Scouting, soon fitted into the Venture Unit in which his two sons were keen members. David Johnson, an ex-PL and Senior of the 8th, joined in September as an Assistant Scout Leader, with his wife, Brenda, as an ACL with the Pack at the same time. Things were looking better in September 1968!

For various reasons, the District Scout Sports day had been abandoned from 1967. This is a pity as the day was looked forward to. The tug-of-War and Junior Relay were retained but incorporated in other District Events.

The family holiday had a different trend too, changing into a spread pattern in the last few years, no longer was there such a thing as 'North Road Week'. Darlington was not a railway town anymore. Family holidays extended from June to October and in most cases, were at least two weeks at least now. With this in mind, the Annual Camp was tried at a later time, in fact, the last week of the school holidays.

The 53rd Troop Annual Camp at our Kings Meaburn site was held from 30th August to 6th September, quite short also very moderately attended due to the Troop gathering itself into shape again. F Beadle was the only Leader able to take the camp, Mr. J A Lear, DC, camped for three days and Rolf Wormald, VSL, for the last two.

Saturday 30 th Aug	Leave Cockerton by lorry 9.15, Arrive camp site, Set up camp, make gadgets. Rained most of afternoon. Swimming and canoe in evening.
Sunday 31 st Aug	Fine day, R.C. boys to church in Appleby , C. of E. to Morland. Game in afternoon. Methodists to the village chapel in evening, camp fire, retire.
Monday 1 st Sept	Slight rain, scoutcraft, work in morning, games in afternoon, two patrols made ropeway, other two monkey bridge until dark.
Tuesday 2 nd Sept	Heavy rain in morning, walked to Penrith part of way, bus rest of journey, now very hot. Only two stayed in camp, swimming later, football at 6.00 p.m. Camp fire at which DC sang song.
Wednesday 3 rd Sept	Scoutcraft training in morning, very warm. Fancy Dress and Sports all afternoon two boys went as a cow complete with rubber hand glove! Visit to old water mill in evening, wide game.
Thursday 4 th Sept	Up early, packed lunches, shuttle service in the DCs car to start hike 12 miles away near Haweswater, orienteering for 7 miles across moor, hike ended 8 miles from camp – shuttle back in only car, some were to walk right back to camp with Skip – 18 miles! Game at night, camp fire.

Friday 5th Sept

Last day, struck camp, fine morning, lorry came at 6.00p.m. as arranged , back home by 9.00 p.m.

One thing different in the content of this camp, for the first time for 20 years we had no staff kitchen due to there being only two, or, at times, only one Leader at the camp. Patrols cooked meals in turn for the staff.



The Group Jumble Drive took a revised form, two separate Drives being held in September and October. All the boys in Troop and Senior Troop collected with an enormous area being covered. It was very hard work, the reason was that we simply needed much more material – we got it!

Two events during the year concerned the Scout Troop. The Trevor Morris Camping Trophy was competed for at the District Camp Site, Windlestone, near Rushyford, resulting in the Troop coming third out of 7. The team being as follows:-

Jeffrey Blair PL	John Newton
Michael Dixon APL	Peter Foster
David Wilkinson	Lewis Wilkinson

The other event could not be entered due to the later than usual Annual Camp. This was the District Swimming Gala, in which the Cub Pack competed.

During the year, our Hunger Hill Camp site saw a change of ownership. It had seen 20 years of 8th camps. Mr Wilf. Pounder and his wife were present at the 1968 Garden Fete where the 'Thanks Badge' was presented jointly to them, also an inscribed clock from the Group. They were both delighted with this in appreciation of their 20 years of supporting us in the weekend and Easter camping. This Scout Association badge is presented to those who do Scouting a good turn, Wilf Pounder and his wife certainly earned it. Hunger Hill was now owned by Mr. Herbert Walton, who, on being approached, offered exactly the same facilities for as long as we like in the future!

The only setback was that Ashdale Plantation across the beck had been bought separately by another landlord who intended to plough out the entire wood. This was done soon after the transaction but a strip of about 60 yards wide was left as scrubland along the beck, we are glad to say.

A series of break-ins caused concern now that we had our own HQ (without resident caretaker). It was vulnerable to vandals, a 'Scouter' type tent, 'Good Companions' lightweight tent and other articles being stolen, although one tent was retrieved. The worst entry was when two vandals smashed many of the 30 lights in the building and changed the 24 fuses, causing much damage. Measures of sealing up windows and barbed wire seemed to prevent further trouble.

Other things which had to be bought regularly for the HQ, now a separate entity, were items such as soap, towels, brushes, window cloths, floor treatment material etc.

During the year, Tom Harrison met with an unfortunate fatal accident, his funeral being attended by Les Williamson, Harold Wetherill and Frank Beadle. Tom had been a Group Trustee and Harold Wetherill agreed to take his place. Tom was one of those former members of the 8th who was almost part of Cockerton itself.

Another source of income started off in a small way in late 1967 when more people needed to use our marquee. These were charged at £2 and £4 per day, the hirers erecting them. This was proved to be very unsatisfactory as tears and damage became normal, so in 1968, it was decided to erect, dismantle and transport the marquees as a means of raising cash. The Unit did the work, the fees being £4 and £6 per day, dependent on the floor area. In 1968 the marquees were hired about 3 times.

In September, another building programme got under way, this time a ladies toilet. The former pantry which projected into the small yard of the cottages was demolished, drains put in and weekend building work of bricklaying on the 13' x 8' toilet began.

On Friday, 22nd November, a GROUP CAMP FIRE was tried as a new activity in the main hall. This met with great success, the words of songs were printed on large sheets, a spotlight illuminated them, the portable pagoda type fire, used for many years, gave the desired effect. About 80 of the Group enjoyed a sing song with Skip as M.C. Venture Unit and Troop comic turns were enjoyed and eats of crisps and pop were in charge of the Lady Scouters.

On 1st December, a Group Church Parade was held with the boys for St. Mary's attending at 9.00 a.m., the others at 10.00 a.m. – this arrangement was not satisfactory and was reviewed by the Scout Leaders Meeting that month.

Many applications were received from the moment we opened the new hall, enquiring about hiring, in fact, over a dozen organisations ranging from the Accurist Society to Pop Groups, from 'The Canine Club' to the Townswomen's Guild. All these were rejected for two reason (a) we were rated on the Youth Charity rating scheme which reduced fees (if we let the hall

the rating would be higher) (b) every room would have to be locked, camping gear could not be left, bits of uniform and fittings would be damaged or stolen, also, as we had no caretakers, someone would have had to lock up – and no one was prepared to do this!

However, we did loan the hall every Monday for that year to the 3rd St. Mary's Cub Pack who could not meet in the Parish Hall due to the extensions to St. Mary's Church.

The Group Council were now running Jumble Sales at St. Hilda's in Parkgate at least once per month, on a regular basis, each sale making £30 or £40.

Hikes were undertaken by all three sections during the early winter months, the Venture Unit held a car rally. The last Troop hike was held on Sunday, 29th December, in very heavy snow around Winston and Piercebridge.

1969

There had been some very worrying times regarding the Leader situation in the last two years, quite desperate at times, especially in late 1967. However, the new year saw a new and encouraging change in the circumstances, which allowed Skip to stop worrying for a while.

<u>CUB PACK</u>	Jenny McKay as CSL was assisted by Pat Beck, Brenda Johnson having joined us in the last year also as ACSL Robin Laycock joined the staff of the Pack as an Instructor as well as his own Scouting life as a Venture Scout. Julian Harris, an experienced ASL, arrived in the area from the 17 th Harrow Troop.
<u>VENTURE UNIT</u>	Things looked settled here with Bryan Howson, Rolf Wormald and Martin Rackham, all very capable to handle a Unit, which was the largest in the town.

The Pack Christmas Party was under way soon after the New Year with much merriment, paper hats, games and balloons. The Troop Party followed the next week with equally a much noise and laughter. The Venture Unit had their meal in an hotel in town instead of a party in the HQ.

February saw yet another round of Jumble collecting taking two or three evenings for every Scout and Venture Scout, once more, the three rooms used for storage became full of all kinds of curious things.

On 8th/9th February, a full weekend Patrol Leaders Training Course was run by the District. They had asked for the use of the 8th's new premises as these were the largest in town. This we allowed as it was Scouting. It was now apparent that we were stepping into the 70s with uniform as every boy wore long trousers – including the 8th, who had just changed, over 1 ½ years after the new rules. Four PLs and three APLs of the 8th attended this new District Event based on tests and the job of the PL. As there were 48 boys, it proved that one could easily run a Troop of this size in our new hall.

On Saturday, 18th February, a sad blow hit the Troop and Group when Lewis A Wilkinson, an Assistant PL, was killed one snowy morning in a road accident on his milk round. Lewis was one of those boyish faced, nimble, mischievous youngster always a great laugh at camp fires.

This tragedy hit the Troop hard, 20 of the Group attended his funeral at the little chapel in Albert Road the following week, the Troop meeting being cancelled for that Friday night.

Since early December, the Troop Team for the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy had been training under the skilled tuition of Mr. Albert Wilson. This training was displayed on the floor work at St. George's Church Hall, Elmfield Street, and judged by the St. John's. The 8th team won easily from the 8 other Troops. The team was:-

Christopher Clough	Stuart Thomas
Jeffrey Blair	Martin Wilson

Reserves: John Newton & David Wilkinson

During March, a Scout's Own Service had been held in the Group Headquarters instead of the normal Parade Service as an alternative to the parade now that the churches had services at different times. An address was given by the Curate of St. Mary's, on Friday, 7th March.

The District St. George's Day Parade now took on a new form too. Instead of being held at various Protestant churches in the town, it was, from this year, an inter-denominational service during the evening of the 23rd at St. Cuthbert's Parish Church.

With the advent of Hunger Hill losing its plantation, the GSL set forth to find alternative camping for weekends, in any case, we needed two Group Camp sites now with an expanding and active Scout Group. A splendid site on Canny Well Beck, with its entry road from the Croft – Middleton Tyas road was located on the map, then, after much negotiation and pow wow, Mr. W Chaytor, the landowner, gave us the use of the site, to be known as 'Paradise Farm' site. This site had a spindly scrubland wood known as Little Stranbourg, it was ideal with the Canny Well beck nearby.

The Troop Easter Training camp of 5 days from 4th to 8th April, was based on more specific badge work including the final parts of the PIONEER started last Easter. The menu was detailed by Julian and the PLs, the new terrain offered plenty of exploring and pioneer work to exploit some of its potential.

Some lengthy fir poles became part of the camp gear and four large structures took shape including a 'ducking' stool, crane, 20' signalling tower and a self-propelled ropeway – all of which worked very well. The weather was cold but fine.

The Cub Pack were now well advanced into the new realms of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Arrow schemes. The only trouble with all of the new tests in each section was that one had to make constant reference to rule books for the requirements – whereas before one knew the Cub and Scout laws off by heart. Tests such as Tracking had gone and were being

replaced by things such as packing a rucksack properly and lighting a primus stove. Semaphore signalling was now omitted completely.

New equipment bought during the year included a 'Good Companions' lightweight tent and flysheet, this mark of progress was the first specific really lightweight tent, others would follow.

The Group Weekend Camp, now a positive item on the annual calendar was at Hunger Hill over the weekend, 3rd/4th May, the wettest two days on record at that site. Shocking weather, heavy rain, misty and cold could not dampen the spirits of the 51 Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts who attended the camp. The normal procedures of older chaps camping from Friday to erect various projects, the Troop camping in two composite patrols, was followed. The kitchens were soon quagmires of mud 4" deep. All the tentage was to dry out on return to Cockerton. Skip said 'Very wet indeed' in the gravest tone when relating the camp to a father awaiting his son. A Cub said to his father 'It was GREAT just GREAT! ???

On Wednesday, 14th May, Lord Rowlings, former Chief Scout, was the principal speaker at the Darlington District Scout A.G.M. in the Town Hall, he requested to meet PLs Stuart Thomas, Chris Clough, John Newton and Jeffrey Blair attended the PLs talk to hear the ex Chief.

A change of religious policy took place within the Group when our church parade procedures was revised to fit in with the fact that all three churches did not commence morning services at 10.30 a.m. We paraded at St. Mary's Church as an entire Group with a turnout of over 40. These were the days of much closer unity especially in Cockerton where the Rogation Day Service in May was now a combined effort of all three Churches, whereas it had formerly been solely for Anglicans. The 8th Scout Group now had many faiths within its ranks, including Methodist, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Congregational and Mormon, we really were on Open Scout Group.

The Cub Pack certainly made their presence felt in the District at this time, entering every competition available. They came 2nd in the B.P. Guild Shield for practical Cub work and 3rd in the District Cub Sports at Eastbourne Schools.

The Troop were busy too, four entered the District Cycle Rally on 17th May, this new event proving very enjoyable and interesting, requiring a well serviced cycle.

On 14th/15th June, the Troop Team came 3rd in the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy, held at the District Windlestone Camp Site. Our team was as follows:-

Jeffrey Blair PL	John Newton
Martin Wilson APL	Kevin Pratt
David Wilkinson	Michael Hull

The 18th Group Garden Fete, for which preparations had reached fantastic pace, on 21st June, was opened by Miss E Gatenby, former Headmistress of the School. The programme included demonstrations of Karate, Judo, Khendo and Mikedo, Cockerton Silver Band again played in one of the arenas all afternoon. A steam railway and ponies augmented the two

dozen side shows. Once again it was larger and better attended than ever – 133 people ran it, 800 bottles of pop were sold, countless packets of crisps, 12 gallons of ice cream, over 2,000 programmes. We ended the day with a net profit of £194.18.8.

On Wednesday, 16th July, the Troop competed in the District Swimming Gala, with very good results. They won the G L Tossel Shield which entailed several events, came third in the Jubilee Cup and 2nd in the Rescue Trophy, making up for the previous year when we could not enter due to being in camp.

It should be noted that there were no District Events for the Venture Scout Section at this time. At the outset of Venture Scouting in October 1967 there were 5 Units – though now only 4 in the town.

The 54th Annual Troop Camp was held at Caldbergh, Coverdale, from Saturday, 23rd August, to Sunday, 31st August. This camp was to present quite a worry to the DC, Mr. Lear, with regard to staffing and hard luck. Julian Harris, who joined us in the early part of the year, could not attend as he was in camp with his former London Troop, David Johnson was in hospital for a few weeks in June and July, when to cap it all, Skip Beadle had an emergency appendix operation the last week in July, leaving only John Tomlin, a 17 year old Venture Scout, on the original staff. Mr. Lear contacted several former Scouts and others. The summer camp did take place as intended, although Skip spent most of the camp sitting on a Troop box, recuperating.

The staff, therefore, was as follows:-

F Beadle, GSL – 8 days in camp – though static most of it.

J Tomlin, V/Scout – 6 “ “ “ – extremely helpful.

J A Lear, DC, - 6 “ “ “ – invaluable.

R Wilkinson ex Newcastle Scouter and Troop, 4 days, two each weekend, great help, sang ‘Lambton Worm’ at camp fire.

The camp was nevertheless highly successful. Perhaps it will be better to mention briefly the main events for a change and give a detailed menu to compare with camps in the 20s and 30s.

The camp included all the usual items, camp fires, day hikes, night hikes, wide games, training, attendance at church, incidents course, gadget discoveries, visits of the Cub Pack and Leaders, Sports Day, visit to places of interest. Other highlights were the making of sisal soup!

Menu of 1969 Annual Camp

Saturday 24th

Lunch: Packet from home, tea supplied.

Dinner: Potatoes, sausage, carrots, green beans, gravy, cake, coffee.

Supper: Oxtail soup, bread, biscuits, cocoa.

<u>Sunday 24th</u>	Breakfast: Cornflakes, egg, bacon, marmalade. Dinner: Potatoes, chicken, cabbage, turnip gravy, rice creamola, coffee. Tea: Sliced peaches, jelly, butter jam, cake, tea. Supper: Bubble and squeak, cocoa, bread, biscuits.
<u>Monday 25th</u>	Breakfast: Sugar puffs, omelette, toast, marmalade. Dinner: Potatoes, meat fritters, carrots, peas, gravy, sponge, angel delight, coffee. Tea: Tuna fish, tomatoes, lettuce, egg, break, cake. Supper: Baked beans on toast, biscuits, coffee.
<u>Tuesday 26th</u>	Breakfast: Porridge, jam fritters, marmalade, tea. Dinner: Stew, potatoes, carrots, onions, mince, Sponge trifle, custard, coffee. Tea: Apple, cheese, bread, jam, cakes, tea. Supper: Tomato or Ham Soup, biscuits, bread, cocoa.
<u>Wednesday 27th</u>	Breakfast: Grapefruit, bacon, egg, marmalade, tea. Dinner: Lamp chop, potatoes, carrots, broad beans, gravy, Oranges, evaporated milk, coffee. Tea: Luncheon meat, lettuce, tomato, egg, cake, tea. Supper: Pancakes, treacle, biscuits, cocoa
<u>Thursday 28th</u>	Patrol Choice for entire day bought by the Patrol Leader.
<u>Friday 29th</u>	Breakfast: Rice Crispies, meat egg, toast, tea. Dinner: Liver, sausage, onions, baked beans, Apple crumble, custard, coffee. Tea: Twist and damper, cheese, jam, bread, tea. Supper: Chicken soup, bread, biscuits, cocoa.
<u>Saturday 30th</u>	Breakfast: Porridge, sausage, egg, marmalade, tea. Dinner: Fish fingers, tomato, peas, potatoes, steamed pudding, custard, coffee. Tea: Celery, cheese, bread, jam, cake, tea. Supper: Spaghetti rings, toast, biscuits, cocoa.
<u>Sunday 31st</u>	Breakfast: Weetabix, jam fritters, egg, tea, etc. Dinner: Meat, tomato, egg, cheese, salad, tea. Tea: At home.

At the Troop Meeting following the Annual Camp it was the custom to let any boy, or any patrol, make short comments about the camp. Boys did not put their names with the

comments if they preferred not to. A selection of the comments:-

'Good, very good, very very good – phenomenal'
'We had to get too much firewood'
'I thought it would not be as good as it was – but it was!'
'Enjoyable and varied'
'I liked the Tuck Shop – but not the hike'
'It was good – pity about the Guides?'
'We did more pioneering than last year'
'The camp was very good – the weather was not'
'We would like more games'
'The meals were good with different things'
'Good camp – warmer weather would have improved it'

There is no better person to sum up a camp than the little chap in one of the Patrols! These comments are self-explanatory.

In September, the troop undertook a new past-time, having built up several old push bikes with 'antler type' handlebars during the summer, they went to Walesby Forest County Camp site, Nottinghamshire, to compete in the National Scout Cycle-Cross Championships. The five miles course over rough muddy ground entertained many laughs and spills. Mark Cooper came in 7th in the under 15s, after starting in 26th position, whilst Jeff Blair, Stuart Thomas and Martin Wilson competed in the over 16s with 70 entries. Martin, who led for a while, came in seventh too when his brake wrapped itself round his back wheel – great sport!

The Group in September collected more jumble on a fantastic scale covering almost a quarter of the town. Later in the month the Second Group Church Parade at Holy Family was held, when over 40 attended Church.

The Scouter situation improved during the year and looked as follows:-

CSL	Mrs. Jenny McKay	
ACSL	Mrs. Pat Beck	24 Cubs
ACSL	Mrs. Brenda Johnson	
Inst.	Miss Ann Wilkinson	
SL	Frank Beadle, G.S.L. Acting.	
ASL	Mr .J.L. Campbell	
ASL	Mr. J.F.L .Harris	
VSL	Mr. Rolf Wormald	
AVSL	Bryan N.Howson	
AVSL	Martin Rackham	

On 22nd November, the Group held a Sponsored walk – these at the time were all the rage, and good fund raisers. Very much preparation, contact with farmers, police and marshalls went into this event. The route starting at Archdeacon Newton Farm, where the main checkpoint offered rest and a cooked meal, the walkers consisting of all Scouts and Venture Scouts were started off at intervals via Walworth Gate,

Walworth Castle to Staindrop Road, through Merrybent and thence via the track to Staindrop Road over the old railway and back to base. 2 ½ time round counted exactly 24 miles to the very yard.

All the Leaders and many of the Group Council spent a dull but fine day, the Cub Leaders were involved in cooking meals. 13 Boys actually completed the full 24 miles, the Troop raised £50, the Venture Unit a lesser sum.

The accent on the Scout Group was encouraged on every occasion. Boys belonged to the 8th! Not 'The' Cubs or 'The' Scouts but the 8th. Another Group indoor camp fire was held on 28th November, with over 80 attending, again a real howling success, full of enjoyment and funny people!

The District again asked to use our hall for the Indoor Scout craft Competition in November. There were 26 teams of two in the event from 13 different Troops. David Wilkinson and Jeff Blair came 3rd in the ASS event. Alistair Gardiner and Peter Foster won the Scout Standard event from 26 teams.

The last of three Cockerton Church Parades was held at the Methodist Church in November with again a turnout of over 40.

The Venture Unit settled into a varied winter programme but their Leader, Rolf Wormald, had to curtail his work due to being ill for several weeks. The Troop Badger Patrol Training got under way again with sights set on the Chief Scout's award. The Pack settled down to a healthy winter of busy activity.

Building work was still a fairly regular feature at weekends, the ladies toilet on the way to completion but work was not hurried, as when building the hall. The old lead water main was found to be totally inadequate for the 9 services in the HQ, so several wet wintry weekends were spent digging under four walls and a flag floor of No 82, with the wall facing the Green 2' thick. This was a heavy task but the new black plastic main of 30' was laid before Christmas, then connected by the local Council.

By the end of the year, the Group had repaid all the £600 owing to the District.

CHAPTER 7 – THE SEVENTIES

1970

The Pack and Troop parties now tended to take place January on separate occasions, both these events made a start to the year.

The Scout District used our premises again for a Patrol Leaders Training Course. All our PLs attended, this being the first PL Course. The Headquarters lent itself well to this function, fully cooked meals were eaten in the smaller hall, cooked on portable cookers. The instruction consisted of the PL's job and the function of a Court of Honour.

The Scout Troop had taken to playing football in a Youth League and had 8 fixtures between February and March. ASL Julian Harris organised these matches in which we played the Star Minors, an Approved School, several Youth Clubs, our worst dreadful loss was 19 - 0 against the Star Minors, other results were not so bad. To compensate for this, we have played other Troops in recent years in friendly matches, our best win was 23 - 1. The present league happily finished with us bottom at the end of March.

In January another winter Jumble Drive saw the Venture Scouts and the Troop busily engaged covering a large area for material.

The plastering of the ladies toilet was completed, plumbing fittings installed by an old Scout during February. During this month, the Group also bought 50 folding chairs which would help to provide more seating.

At the evening, the first Gold Arrow, now the highest of the Cub Section, was presented to Cub Roy Weston.

The Pack were now using the card system of records so it is not possible to give an exact list of members at this time, although almost without exception all our Cubs became Scouts in the Troop at 11 years of age. There were 32 in the Pack at the end of March. 'Leakage' of members at 10 - 11 was a national Scouting worry - it was almost non-existent in the 8th.

The Troop was as follows:

<u>OTTERS</u>	Martin Wilson PL John Newton APL Peter Foster Kevin Pratt Ian Wilkinson Chris Bewley Paul Richmond Garry Willans	<u>OWLS</u>	Stuart Thomas PL David Wilkinson APL Geoffrey Small Mark Cooper Michael Campbell Paul Lucas Martin Harrison Kevin Morgan
<u>SWIFTS</u>	Chris Clough PL Oliver Godwin APL Alan Timothy Michael Hull Ian Wood Russell Scott Michael Teasdale David Lennox	<u>CURLEWS</u>	Jeffrey Blair Alister Gardiner APL Steven Chapman Norman Foster Neil Cooper Robert Barnes Martin Gaffney Robert Booth

In the Venture Unit, membership stayed at about 10 young men. Rolf Wormald had returned after three months' illness and took over as VSL, Bryan Howson having to resign as an AVSL.

Many amenities were offered over and above the Scout meeting when the Troop played table tennis or billiards until late on Friday evenings. The Venture Scouts had a social evening on Sundays from 8.00 p.m.

The St. George's Day Parade was attended at St. Cuthbert's on 23rd April. The Group had a good turnout.

The Section turned their attention to camping again with some more new equipment being bought, including another 'Good Companions' hike tent, plus a further 'Supreme' food tent.

The Troop Easter Training Camp, from Good Friday to Easter Monday at the Paradise Farm Group Camp site, was to complete some of the final tests for the Chief Scout's Award badges which it was hoped to achieve soon. Reasonable weather prevailed throughout in this attractive paddock near Canny Well Beck. The wood was very useful for Scouting activities, although part of it had been already cut down, much to our dismay.

The Venture Unit tackled a more arduous camp in the hills of Wensleydale in very heavy rain. The Unit also attended 'Wear One', a County event at the new Training Ground at Moor House, West Rainton, on the A 690 Sunderland Road. 'Wear One' offered a very wide variety of activities.

The uniform of the Group at this time had completed the all out change to the new, though still very expensive. One trouble was that with Venture Scouts one just had to pop one's beret into the pocket, and with the brown tie, a Venture Scout was, to all intents and purposes, not in uniform at all if wearing a jacket. The Cubs still wore their bright yellow striped caps, although the royal blue of 8th neckers did anything but complement the dull dark green. Many complaints about the new uniform rested with the long trousers at camp, almost useless and too expensive to misuse.

At the outset of the new 'Scouting' in 1967, badges had been of plastic; these either melted or folded up completely when the shirt was ironed and they were superseded by a cloth type later in the year.

There is no point in beating about the bush, many Scouts were very scruffily dressed in this transitional period, but it was through threat and effort that some neatness became the keyword of the 8th once everyone had the new 'gear'.

The Group Weekend at Paradise Farm on 8th/9th/10th May resulted in a much dryer weekend than last year. Wide games in the partly cut wood were played; several boys were invested during the camp. A Scout's Own service was conducted by the GSL on the convenient stumps of trees on a beautiful sunny morning.

The Pack entered Cub Competitions during the year with good results but not actually winning. The Troop competed for the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy, again being 3rd.

The 55th Troop Annual Camp was at Glassomby Beck, about 9 miles from Penrith, on the same site as 1966. The 7 day camp, from 23rd to 30th May, was planned as a full week's camp at Whitsuntide as an alternative to the difficulty experienced in getting good attendance during August - many people now had at least two, or even more, weeks' holiday at this time.

24 attended the camp which was organised jointly by the GSL and Julian Harris, the food was Julian's sole responsibility; he offered some new ideas at this, his first 8th summer camp. He had a sensible method of getting people out of bed - it actually worked! Another idea was a Tournament in which patrols took part in four games for several days in eliminating rounds.

The camp was blessed with reasonable weather and was well staffed with GSL, Julian Harris, ASL, David Johnson, and Mrs Johnson, ACSL, Jeffrey Blair and Martin Wilson, both now Venture Scouts, were also on the staff.

The PLs invitation of Leaders to supper on one evening reached yet funnier extremes when sealed envelope invitations were 'posted' to the marquee. Julian Harris, at the Otters and Curlews, was shown a 'wine list' before his meal - these 'wines' consists of various colours and potions from the tuck shop mineral department.

Martin, as a Venture Scout, was guest of the Owls, who sent two boys with a handcart to the marquee to collect him. Sitting on a red blanket, he almost finished up in the river en route to the patrol kitchen. Worse than that, after the meal, his toe nails were supposedly manicured during which he withdrew to save the amputation of his foot! Another event during the camp was when we lost a complete Pioneer tent when a large tree fell on it tearing it to shreds. The Otters were luckily out on a hike when it happened.

The camp cost each person £5 for 7 days. The entire cost of the camp was £144. 2. 1. - we were in a world of rising costs.

Just when the Scouter situation had settled down after many years of short staffing, Mrs. McKay announced that she was to leave the district in June. This was indeed a blow as the Pack had certainly progressed well since 1968 through the hard work of Mrs. McKay - steering it through the teething troubles of the new rules had been skilfully carried out.

Another Council Member and his wife emigrated to Australia at the end of June. Mr. A Foster was a great practical loss to the Group. Both these losses took place just before the Garden Fete too!

The 1970 Garden Fete, on 4th July, had several regular features changed. For the first time in 19 Fetes, Cockerton Prize Silver Band were otherwise engaged competing in the County Contest. The services of Newton Aycliffe Band were obtained instead. There was also a model display by the Darlington Model Aircraft Club. Mrs Piggford opened the Fete at 2.00 p.m., and we were once more in business.

It seems very easy to say that but difficult to visualise the amount of work and attention to detail, the months of preparation and hard work now needed to put this show on. It had become the biggest one day fete in the area, more and more patrons came to the Fete!

From the small start in 1951, we did not achieve £100 until our 1960 Fete, it is strange that our 1970 effort was the first to reach the double century - the fete realised £200. 9. 3. Net.

Another Parade rotating the three churches in Cockerton took place at 9.00 a.m. at St. Mary's on 12th July. This time, over 50 uniformed members of the Group paraded and filled the Church. Colours were always rehearsed and carried on these entire Group Parades.

In September, the Venture Unit attended a large County Event and did the unusual things that Venture Scouts do, including orienteering and dry skiing. Ranger Guides also attended and co-operation was much more apparent in the 1970s than previously. Antics of Venture Scouts were many, they will not mind the relating of the proposed see-sawing record (said to be 14 days) which they proposed to break. A long plank over a steel drum in the Group small hall was experimented with; when it was found that they could not eat, or drink orangeade whilst going up and down, they abandoned the idea - no comment!

It was now several years since the 8th had attended the Scout District Camp. It was decided again to take part in this event which had District competitions incorporated. Over 20 of the Troop set forth the same weekend as the Venture Unit were away of the County Scheme, to the County Camp site. Scouting was really in the 70s at this camp, cooking was entirely by primus or gaz - as we did not have enough primus stoves (always using the open fire) double burners were borrowed for the camp, at which there were no pits either, rubbish was incinerated.

The County camp site was still being developed at this time. The 8th took part, along with other Darlington Scouts, in laying 20 tons of shale on the entry road. However, we had

gone with the sole intent of having a go at the Tug-of-War, and came first and second with our two teams, although not to win the Junior activity Relay. The weekend was very much enjoyed and gave Scouts the opportunity to look round the now £27,000 County Training Ground. We still think open fires are the best - and returned the butane stoves borrowed.

A tragic blow struck in October with the sudden death of Rolf Wormald, the VSL. Rolf had never been in Scouting before but, at 45, he offered a fresh approach for the older chap, which he had the utmost respect for and they him. His funeral was attended by the GSL, AVSL Martin Rackham and Venture Scouts. He was also one of those useful people whom, if the Group wanted any odd item, knew someone who would have one - he was a great loss.

At the next meeting of the Unit, F Beadle took over as Leader for a while.

On a happier side of the Scouter situation, we had Miss Audrey Laycock join the Cub Section, two Venture Scouts also gave a useful hand with the Cubs. Then, alas, before the end of the year, Mrs Beck had moved to the Midlands and Mrs Johnson took a leading part in the running of the Pack.

On taking over the Venture Unit, the GSL handed the Scout Troop over to Mr J Harris as SL in September to make yet another change within the Group, so between September and the end of the year there were many changes indeed.

The Venture Unit itself changed considerably, four members had signed for long term engagements in the RAF and Army respectively. We said farewell to John Tomlin, Chris Elstob, Dave Clarkson and Phil Hasty.

Towards the end of the year events were as normal, a large extended collection of Jumble took place in September. These collections now fully involved all the Leaders as well as all Council members, much furniture, cycles and such things as televisions were now collected, cluttering several of the rooms for a week or two, though organisation was very good for dealing with such a large influx of material.

The Badger Patrol went under way from September to November when the first rehearsals for the 1971 Spotlight on the Gang started. The main base for rehearsals was in Reid Street Schools and was used Monday, Tuesday and Saturday evenings - Saturday now being the full cast rehearsal night.

The last hiring of a Group Marquee at the end of September was to Teesside Aero Club; this marquee was taken down in the darkness one frosty Monday night. Marquee hiring was beginning to reach a steady pace and the Group now had another larger marquee from late last year. This white square ended marquee was of 28' x 14'.

In November, the Venture Unit spent a weekend at Whernside Caving Centre in Dentdale. This was one of the three National Scout Centres set up recently for Caving, Gliding and Boatwork.

In the winter, very much time was spent on colour coding our three marquees which had over 60 poles which tended to get mixed up. The original 8th marquee bought was in yellow paint

poles, pegs, the lot. The marquee bought from Stockton in orange and the larger marquee in light blue. £36 was spent on repairs at Speedings of Sunderland where the first marquee was made in 1932.

Christmas Parties were held at the end of the year and a reasonable year ended.

1971

During the first weeks, final finishing work was put in to the ladies toilet. This project which had meant cutting a door into the hall, had been a long job and cost £230.

Gang Show rehearsals were held in our hall on Sunday mornings, going over certain numbers. The Show's augmented orchestra also rehearsed in the 8th hall, which proved useful for all sorts of District occasions, although only loaned to the Scout District.

The Gang Show, staged in the Civic Theatre, had many 8th Scouts Venture Scouts and Leaders in its cast, when it ended as the last curtain came down on Saturday, 3rd April. The Director was Mike Straker who asked Skip if the Group Council would organise a buffet supper for the cast of 100 and helpers. This function was to commence at 11.00 p.m. and ended in the small hours. The 8th Council responded and laid on a feed for 133 people. After the meal, various numbers from the show were demonstrated including the 'Ballet Comique'. In a brightly lit well set out hall, everyone enjoyed themselves and it must be handed out to the marvellous Committee of the 8th who did the entire meal and stayed at the HQ until long after 1.30 a.m. when the social ended. The noise was not heard by anyone as we are lucky to have an HQ hall bordered by no dwelling houses on the site of Sleightholme's and Nicholson's gardens.

The Easter period saw the usual activities with census forms, Scout-Job-Week by the Cubs and Scouts, then early in April, the Spring Jumble drive, yielding again a great mound of material. The Group Council now ran approximately 14 sales per year to make about £500 each year on jumble alone.

Further developments, of the rooms in the HQ resulted in one former bedroom being used as a Cub Craft room, decorated and set out with tables, soon filled with cloud formations of cotton wool, paints and leaf pressings. The former cellar of No 82, the old NEWTON KYLOE INN, was used for storage of bogies and materials such as glass etc., all but two of the ten rooms were now decorated.

The Cub Pack had a long waiting list and it was at this time that serious discussion took place about two Packs, but it was left in abeyance until the Leader situation resolved itself.

On 23rd April, 7 Cubs went into the Troop. Jeff Blair and Stuart Thomas gained the Chief Scout's Award badge - the highest Scout Award with a certificate signed by the Chief himself.

The Troop Easter Training Camp at our Paradise Farm site was on the usual training themes with several new ranks

having been appointed. One unusual feature was a platform made about 10' from the ground in a large tree, with a complete, tent pitched on it, upon which four Scouts spent the night - it did rain but they were quite safe and comfortable.

The Annual Group Weekend Camp on 7th/9th May enjoyed quite good weather and provided an opportunity for all members of the Group to meet each other in a camp situation - which is what Scouting is all about!

During the year we had two Leaders attached to the Troop for training, after which they would eventually work in the 2nd and 25th Groups, respectively. Mike Small and Keith Jeavons were with the 8th from Easter to September, they were very useful and would find out how a Troop functions in its week to week programme.

After St. George's Day Parade at St. Cuthbert's, the Group held another of its complete Group Parades at Holy Family Church, this time, colours being paraded, with a turnout of over 50 uniformed members.

Soon it was Fete time, preparations having been in hand since February, the field booked last September. Our 20th Fete was opened by Leslie D Williamson, a name which needs no explanation in the book of the 8th Group.

Cockerton Band supported us again, the other entertainment being demonstrations by the Wear and Teesdale Fell Rescue Association, for which the Group had a 30' high scaffold erected by Messrs. Taylor Woodrow Ltd. Once again, more people came, once again the weather held off, and on our first decimalised Fete we made a net profit of £270. This was also the first Fete to cost over £200 to stage, the gross being £480. Much work and alteration was carried out on the 24 sideshows to change to decimal prices. For several years now a van had been loaned each fete by a friend to augment transport of the two handcarts.

In June, the Troop team won the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy with John Newton as P.L.

The 56th Annual Troop Camp took place at Kings Meaburn from Friday, 20th August, to Saturday, 28th August. It had been decided to revert to having August Annual Camps again after the Whitsuntide week last year. 27 boys and 3 Leaders attended the camp in quite good weather for a change.

There was now an Annual Camp Trophy for the best all-round Patrol. This took the form of a shield designed and made by the GSL in memory of Lewis A Wilkinson. It was won by the Curlew Patrol.

Leaving Cockerton by Arthur Jackson's lorry at 1.00 p.m. on Friday, setting up camp occupied most of the time after arrival at 3.30 p.m., with a wide game after tea. The 'main activities of the camp are picked out in this brief account:-

<u>Saturday, 21st</u>	Rise 7.00 a.m. inspection 9.30, gadget making all morning, attended Kings Meaburn Village Carnival in afternoon, game after evening meal and camp fire, retire - 10:30 p.m.
<u>Sunday, 22nd</u>	Use, inspection, church, afternoon hike, tea, others to church in evening, wide game, supper.

<u>Monday, 23rd</u>	Rise, breakfast, inspection, training and pioneering, string trail in afternoon, swimming, tuck shop open usual times, camp fire at which each patrol made and played a musical instrument - also some weird noises!
<u>Tuesday, 24th</u>	Rise, inspection, some set off on night hike and camp overnight, training for others, swimming, lunch. 6 mile hike test departs - hardly anyone in camp, evening meal, hikers return, game, retire.
<u>Wednesday, 25th</u>	Training in morning, others on hikes, then swimming afternoon, wide game evening, to bed at 10.30 p.m.
<u>Thursday, 26th</u>	After inspection, incidents scheme, fancy dress and sports in afternoon, camp games tournament continued after evening meal, camp fire, retire - a busy day indeed.
<u>Friday, 27th</u>	Rise 7.00 a.m. inspection, P.L.s taken to Appleby 6 miles away, others pioneering, lunch, free afternoon, games, swimming, retire 10.00 p.m.
<u>Saturday, 28th</u>	Rise 7.00 a.m. dismantle camp, sites inspected at 10.30, lunch 12.30. lorry at 1.00 back in Cockerton by 4.30 p.m.

There were many highlights of the camp, the Incidents lasted well over two hours. One enthusiastic APL tested the elephant trap by charging at it and gained a fairly serious shock and slight injury - it worked.

Other amusing incidents of an unorganised nature just happened. One Patrol sent a Sedan chair for their Staff guest at the supper, the guest being entertained by 'dancing girls' after dinner, until the dancers' mugs fell out! One Patrol produced a rather belated meal and Robin Laycock as the guest had to perch in a precarious position on a flimsy seat above the pits!

So ended the 1971 Annual Camp with memories living on forever, the aroma of morning bacon, the yells from some unseen corner in a wide game, the lowing of cattle in the next field, the twinkle of patrol fires, the burst of the camp fire at the opening ceremony, the frog in a Scouter's kit.

The camp was organised by the SL and his Assistants, Skip as GSL being merely a happy guest.

Soon into September, the proverbial Jumble collection was undertaken, yielding a goodly haul, the Venture Unit attend-to the last marquee hiring.

Throughout the year, the Unit had been just ticking over due to lack of separate Lenders, this had again involved the GSL in another long search for the right people, when we were lucky to have Russell Wilkinson, an ex Newcastle Scouter, agree to take over as VSL. At the same time the District notified us of one Philip Lineker as an AVSL, who had just moved into town, so the Unit once again were fully staffed with the right combination or two Leaders of varying ages.

However, all was not well, the Cub Pack Leaders situation arose to a crisis again with one ACSL having to attend evening classes and another standing down for a while, leaving Miss Audrey Laycock to run the Pack. After a frantic search, a Guide was found to help with a Ranger from the College in Trinity Road.

The Scout Troop still needed another ASL as Len Campbell had to give-up regular active Scouting after many years and he settled down as a Lay helper on the Group Council.

The 1971 District Camp venue was at Low Dinsdale, on the bend of the road just before the toll bridge. After last year's numbers of over 100 from the District, we found it strange that the 8th were the only Group there with 28 Members, apart from 4 boys from the re-formed 2nd (St. Paul's) Troop. Nevertheless, the camp was enjoyed, by the 8th and the 2nd only, and looked quite large with 5 patrol tents, marquee and staff tent.

The Junior Relay was to have been run at this camp, but there were no other Troops to compete against. The Tug-of-war also should have been contested - and was, the 8th had three teams of 8 boys, this event taking place and being won by the 'A' team. As there was no further occasion before the end of the year, the Tug-of-War was deemed to have been won by the 8th for the ensuing year.

More progress was made in the Headquarters with various small jobs, maintenance was regular, gutters got blocks, the grassed area at the rear needed mowing every two weeks, additional heaters were installed in other rooms. The total heating when full on ran to 33kw with 21kw being in the main hall. There was also a gas fire in the Venture Unit room and water heaters in the kitchen - electricity accounts were quite high.

From 1971, the Group decided to have a paid cleaner, these duties to include cleaning the main hall, passages and other work each week. A lady was found to work for two hours at an hourly rate. The weekly cleaning of such a large headquarters had been a problem and a burden on the Leaders for some time now. We were, as far as can be ascertained, the only Scout Group in Durham with a paid cleaner.

In November, the Group Parade saw over 50 members at the Cockerton Methodist Church, when the Rev. Peter Jones accepted the Pack and Troop colours at the parade.

The year drew to a close, it had been a year full of activity the Scouter situation had improved considerably although we had been in a worrying position at times - such is Scouting.

1972

Several things happened at the start of the year which are in future to affect the Group. The re-roofing of the cottages of No 80 and 82, which comprised our 48' frontage, was now inevitable, the ceilings were low, unsafe, there were one or two leaks which needed constant attention.

We had an architect on the Group Council who drew up plans, these were passed, a grant was allocated but we could get no

contractor to do the work - we had the cash, no one was interested, probably due to improvement grants at the time.

The need for a Group Van was a positive and desperate requirement from this year. Marquees that we hired weighed over $\frac{3}{4}$ ton, without a half dozen hefty Venture Scouts to erect them, camp gear for weekend camps entailed several trips by car, jumble was now including beds, and large furniture, our sales were held in town every 4 weeks.

Another crisis in January was when the landowner of our Paradise Farm site ploughed out the field and part of the wood. After negotiations with the owner, the Group were offered another site on Clow Beck, which was accepted with open arms. We were extremely grateful to Mr. Chaytor for this barren desolate piece of real Baden Powell countryside, not touched for years and situated on meanders of the clean quick flowing Clow Beck. Access was not too difficult but it was a very overgrown site and required much work to make any campable places - even for Easter.

An extra Jumble Drive took place in January on 10th, 11th and 13th, filling the three rooms with good material and rubbish too.

At the implementation of the new rules in 1967, new 'minimum standards', both numerically and in efficiency, were set for each section, the 8th met all these requirements at this time.

The Scout Troop Christmas Party on Friday, 14th January, gave vent to laughter and fun, the meal being held in the now fully used small hail adjacent to the main hall. The Pack Party followed this on Tuesday, 18th, and set the pace for the year in fine style.

As Easter drew near, the winter project of the repainting of Group camping boxes was completed. There were now 15 boxes of varied size, all painted Scout green, the Patrol boxes of tea chests, complete with the Patrol symbol!

In March, Venture Scout John Newton took over as QM for a while and was in charge of £2,000 worth of stock. The brief list below will allow former scouts to draw comparisons as to whether we were well off or not:-

- 3 Marquees complete
- 5 Ridge tents, either 'Pioneer' or 'Nijer' type 10' x 8'.
- 5 Patrol food tents, 7' x 5', in green canvas.
- 1 large ex W.D. ridge.
- 1 Pyramid of 1934 vintage.
- 4 different types of latrine
- 60 Utensils ranging from dixies to small billies
- 1,000 feet of rope
- 12 pulley blocks
- Other items such as ladles, spoons, axes, bash saws, first aid kits, small utensils, etc.

It should be noted that all utensils were now aluminium and need not be dried out as the tin plate type used up to the mid 1960s.

Revised insurance for the HQ in 1972 set the HQ and the equipment at £13,900, with a premium of £36.40 per year. The

actual assessment by a professional Valuer of the Freehold property of the Group was calculated at £30,000.

The Cub Pack gained a place in the semi final of the District 'Battle of Wits' competition for general and Scouting knowledge; this was the final Pack Competition with a single Pack in the 8th. After many meetings of careful thought and consideration the final plan for two Packs came into being, the last ordinary meeting of the Pack taking place on 28th March, when the original Cubs formed part of one Pack or the other with 16 new boys from the formidable waiting list. Two separate and lively Packs met for the first the next week.

Mrs. Beadle, after several years out of Scouting, agreed to run one Pack; the other new Leaders were found after research and meetings of one kind and another.

This real work of expansion set the Leader situation as below:-

PANTHER PACK	Mrs B Johnson	CSL
	Miss A Laycock	ACSL
	Miss B Greenwood	ACSL
	Miss J Wright	Inst.
	+ a Venture Scout	
BEAVER PACK	Mrs J Beadle	CSL
	Mrs M Luhrs	ACSL
	Mrs F Weston	ACSL
	+ a Venture Scout	

The Panther Pack met on Tuesdays from 6.30 to 8.00, the Beaver Pack on Fridays from 6.00 to 7.30. Both Packs settled down to their new role very soon - we now had 24 Cubs in each with two waiting lists instead of one!

Joint activities and the fact that subscriptions would be equated for each Pack had already been decided.

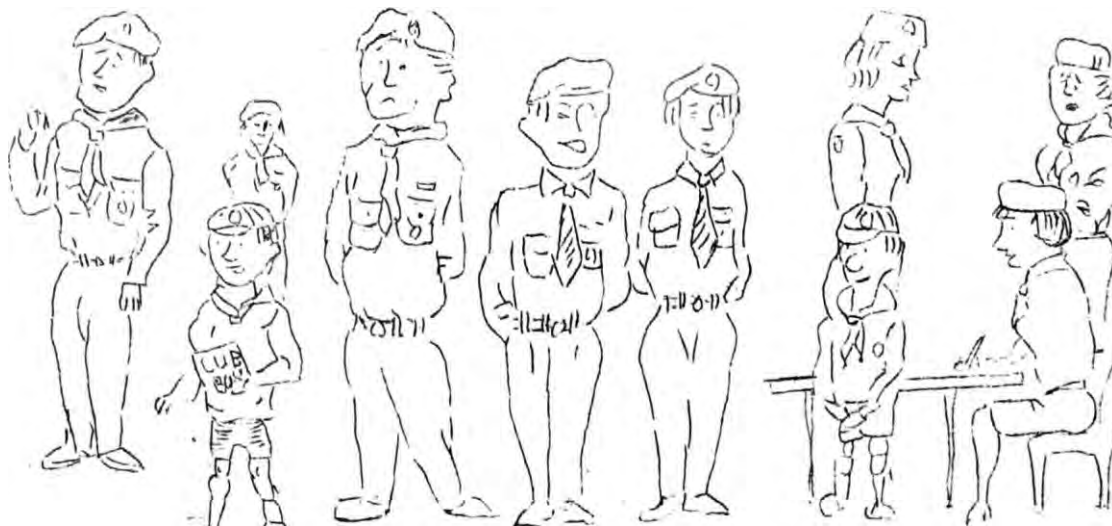
Scout Job week came along, both Packs entering the Shoe Shine Sponsored Job idea. The Troop did very well raising money for Section funds. Venture Scouts withdrew from Job Week as from this year.

Easter Camps were evident by the equipment being assembled in the HQ foyer the week preceding Good Friday. The Troop had our new Croft Grange site as its venue, although a motor scythe had been hired to cut down the dense long grass beforehand. The camp had fairly cold wet weather, but the excitement of a new site, with its exploration more than made up for this. The programme, organised by the SL, offered training to the 10 ranks who attended, it was enjoyed.

The Venture Unit went further afield to the Lakes in a van loaned by the Youth Committee, camping in Borrowdale, near Stonethwaite village, where, it seems, the 8th just cannot keep away from. The camp was organised by the VSL and AVSL.

St. George's Day, on 23rd April, was attended by 51 of the Group, F Beadle being the Marshall to and from St. Cuthbert's Church, where all re-affirmed their promise.

All sections of the Group met regularly - - - - -



On 27th April, the 57th Annual General Meeting of the 8th took the form of an Open evening for Parents, mainly to attract parental participation in Group affairs. Much preparation went into the displays by each section, the Venture Unit putting a fine show on in the small hall, with canoes, climbing gear, and more sedate things like the programmes of operas they had attended. The evening went very well although it was not attended by every Parent of the Group.

Another Jumble collection was made during the latter half of April, when preparations were then well advanced for the Group Weekend Camp in May. This event saw 69 members at Croft Grange, the grass having been previously mown by the Committee and Venture Unit. On a fine weekend, three kitchens named 'Apache', 'Cherokee' and 'Cheyenne' took 20 each for a meal - it was an inspiring sight with so many Cubs scampering all over the place, later enjoying a string trail which led twice through Clow Beck. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that the Group System did work, that all our boys belong to the 8th. The food account for the camp came to nearly £30 for two days.

With this new campsite, we did not neglect Hunger Hill, where the Troop or Unit camped for some reason, or simply just camped there - though we did miss the wood, now just a cornfield, the 8th did not stem agricultural progress.

Another indication of the use of our HQ was when the Scout District Gang Show Committee held a Reunion. The event consisted of slides and tapes of previous and last year's shows and was attended by 140. Outside caterers did the meal with two sittings of 70 in the small hall at half hour intervals for tea - the first of the sittings being effectively cleared when a District Scouter of Scottish descent played 'Road to the Isles' on the bagpipes!

The Venture Unit held several activities with Ranger Guides during the year; one of those evenings took tier for of a cooking competition, the Rangers winning easily with parsley garnished fish served in sea shells, the Venture Scouts dealing much 'plainer' food to their guests.

During May, the Unit undertook the Lyke Wake Walk again and 5 actually completed the 42 mile overnight walk from Osmotherley to Ravenscar to become 'Dirgers' as the old Yorkshire Folk Law deems one. The Ranger Unit helped in the organisation of the support party for this arduous journey.

Venture Unit activities were both expensive and well-organised. A Leadership Course in Mountain Activity was attended by the VSL, his Assistant and several members in very cold weather, which gave positive instruction in the dangers of hill travel and accidental hypothermia.

The Unit had many varied items on their programme; they entered 'Wear three' weekend and had a good time. At least 14 hirings of marquees were completed with efficiency during the summer. In July, the Venture Unit delivered and erected all three marquees 10 miles away, then journeyed on to 'Transylvania', a hectic County weekend Scheme at the Rainton County Ground. The weekend was highly successful with 'secret' police and passports relating to the fictitious country adopted as the theme. The 8th Unit won three of the five trophies offered then returned on Sunday evening, dismantling the marquees hired, on the Monday evening - our Venture Unit was alive and kicking, sadly the number of other Units in Darlington had now dwindled to two.

Another Group Church Parade in Cockerton in July looked very well turned out as 50 paraded from the HQ to the Holy Family Church this time.

Other midsummer events were the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy which again eluded the team by a few points as PL Michael Hull took the team to 2nd place, the BP Guild Shield which one Pack entered, and the Cub Sports in which both Packs participated.

The Annual Group Garden Fete brought a colourful gay day to Cockerton on 24th June, when the Fancy Dress Parade followed Cockerton Silver Band from the Green to Cockerton School. Lady Barnard opened the Fete at precisely 2.00 p.m. on a fine day, when literally thousands of people poured in to the grounds.

Many patrons have said 'What a well organized Fete' - we do try to make it so, but the crises and problems which we encounter during the afternoon have to be seen to be believed. 'There are too many people losing on the so and so sideshow' 'Too many winning too often on the --' 'Ice cream will run out shortly - some youths are creating havoc on the - this little girl is lost, will you announce it - when are the programme prizes to be drawn - have you seen a red purse with a silver catch? - are there any more rifle darts - the band has finished - the prizes must be announced.' One has to live through it, of course!

Lady Barnard spent two hours at the Fete, with the DC, Mr. J A Lear, kindly showing her round, finally having tea in the marquee.

The Eastbourne Methodist Youth Club 'GO GO' Dancers entertained with exotic modern dancing and a piano smash by the Venture Unit took place at 5.00 p.m. when, before a large crowd, four hefty chaps dismembered a piano, to put every piece through a small hole in 11 minutes 3 seconds or so. Mention must also be made of one stall organised by Mrs. S Baister, who spends nearly all winter preparing nearly new clothing. Each year the profit is higher, in 1972, the stall made £56.72. The final net profit of £383.13 made a worthwhile day.

The 57th Troop Annual Camp was held, as three years ago, at Caldbergh, Coverdale, one of the beautiful outbacks of the Yorkshire Dales, from 26th August to 2nd September. 30 attended the camp, including 5 Venture scouts; not a single drop of rain fell in the entire 8 days. Being near home, at 35 miles, the camp fee was £5.00 each. Organised by SL Julian Harris, there was a full programme of activities. One of the highlights took place on Wednesday, when 42 Cubs and Leaders arrived for the day by coach - they had to walk the last mile due to the obscure location of this wonderful camp site. In all, 72 of the 8th sat down to lunch and dinner that day, the meals costing more than a total camp in the years before the 1920s. The Tuck Shop, a traditional feature of all 8th camps, did a roaring trade twice a day, though a sensible allocation of confectionery and pop was allowed - otherwise there would have been nothing left by Tuesday!

Hiking was enjoyed during the camp, with several overnight hike camps for the older chaps; the camp sports day, during the Cubs' visit, was a hilarious and mad occasion, with the Fancy Dress Parade.

It is interesting to note that the camp could not be seen from the narrow winding road which led to West Scafton but the gateway sign, bearing the words '8th Darlington (Cockerton) Scout Camp' could be the only indication that a hive of activity was in full swing down below. This gate sign caught the eye of a lady staying nearby and she visited the camp. The wife of Arthur Readshaw, a prominent member of the Troop in wartime days, she knew the word 'Cockerton' could only refer to one Scout Troop - she was right!

This camp was as good as ever, and made even better by really fine weather. To list all the events would take far too much space - we leave it to the imagination - and exactly what Baden Powell intended a camp to be.

During the year, the Troop entered the Dryburn County Camping competition, gaining 5th place, a fine effort by Michael Hull and his Patrol in very severe competition, in which we have tried several times to achieve the ultimate.

Our Venture Unit ended the year by entering the Geoffrey Gordon Challenge Cup of County Durham - after a strenuous but great weekend in the moorland area of Teesdale, also came 5th.

There are too many smaller events during the year to relate all in this history of the 8th; almost every weekend, certainly every evening, something was taking place. During the year, we erected 1000 yards of bunting, which we now owned at Aldborough St. John at a Methodist Circuit Garden Fete. Our Cubs did a fine

job of clearing litter from the Green.

Periodically our Leaders attended courses which would benefit the boys - such a course was the Wood Badge Training for Scouters, which Robin and Audrey Laycock attended at Gilwell Park, in September.

The usual ever growing September jumble drive, covering six large areas, once again put us in good stead for jumble until Easter.

Winter programmes in hand, the full Group assembled on Friday, 15th September, to see Mike Campbell and Peter Foster go into the Venture Unit at 16 years of age – both joined as Cubs way back in 1964. At the same time, several new boys came from the Packs into the Troop, watched by nearly 100 members of the 8th.

Building work was less hectic after the 'toilet' project the year before, but a 30' long store for our pioneering poles was built, virtually from scrap wood and asbestos, across the rear of the main hall, as one had to go outside for pioneering poles previously. The equipment available, bought in 1968 as straight pine poles ready de-barked, consisted of the following:-

- 4 – 7 metre (23ft) poles
- 12 – 4 metre (13ft) poles
- 12 – 2 metre (6'6") poles
- 24 – 1.5 metre (4ft) poles

So ended another eventful year, certainly one of progress as far as membership was concerned, with the utmost activity in scouting carried out to give hours of pleasure to many more boys.

Before the year was ended, we were already rehearsing for the 1973 Spotlight on the Gang, on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday evenings.

1973

On 1st January, there were many changes in the District, some of which affected the 8th. Mr. J A Lear retired as DC, having been very helpful to the Group during his term of office, and formerly as an ADC visiting all our annual Camps for the past 12 years. He was always a source of encouragement to the Group. His successor was Horace D Robinson, of gang Show fame in the town since 1948. At the same time, Frank Beadle was appointed an ADC with responsibility for many of the Groups on the Cockerton side of the town, in addition to his work as GSL in the 8th. Russell Wilkinson agreed to act as Deputy GSL when the need arose; the Leader situation in the 8th was, however, probably the best ever, at the start of 1973.

In the first two weeks of the year, the Group acquired another loan from the District Scout Council; this was of £750 with a view to making us financially solvent for the roofing contract. We already had over £1,330 in our own funds. Any hopes of the rebuilding of the entire frontage had fast receded during the past few years, although it was imperative

that something was done about the roof of the two cottages of No 80 and 82.

During the winter, Gang Show rehearsals speeded up, with meetings in our hall on Sunday mornings to 'polish' certain numbers. The entire orchestra used the hall on several occasions before the show.

In March, nearly 100 uniformed members of the Group assembled one Friday evening, to see Gold Arrow Awards presented to Peter Wilkinson and Andrew Barr before they entered the Troop.

Soon the Civic Theatre was filled for the Gang Show, the 8th supporting it fully as usual. Once again, after the Saturday Finale Show, the 8th Group Committee laid on a splendid feast for 150 members of the cast and helpers. Starting at 11.00 p.m., the event lasted until 2.30 a.m. with big eats and visiting scouts from as far away as Glasgow and Edinburgh. The last of the Committee ladies was taken home at 3.45 a.m. - no need to say what a splendid and loyal team we have.

After the Show, in fact the very next week, the Troop and Unit prepared for Easter Camps. Scout Job Week commenced on Easter Saturday too so there was no rest at this time of the year. The residents of Cockerton had long since got used to the coming and going from the door of No 80, which, with its counterpart in No 82, looked for all the world like the cottages had always looked, until one saw the 9' x 4' Group sign in dark blue, grey and tan.

Other improvements were made during the year, a doorway at first floor level, had been a long felt need for some time, people actually got lost in the Headquarters. This doorway was completed during the early part of the year allowing access from the former 'bedrooms', and means of fire escape. New extinguishers were installed as directed by the Fire Authorities at our request.

On 1st April, when the census was taken, the full complement of the Group was as follows. It is interesting to note that the percentage loss of boys between Packs and Troop then Unit (a constant topic and worry to Scouting nationally) was almost non-existent in the Group.

PANTHER PACK Mr R Laycock CSL, Miss A Lycock ACSL, Mrs B Johnson ACSL, Miss J Wright Instr

BLACK SIX

S Petch
R Williams
P O'Hara
D Gardiner
S Barnes
J Ward

YELLOW SIX

G Bower
G Hull
M Taylor
M Fulleylove
N Allemby
T Kell

BROWN SIX

D Bilton
N Leech
G Ellwood
M Hodgson
N Dixon
D Allemby

GREY SIX

C Morgan
M Denham
R Black
M Layfield
C Brockbanks
J Dent

<u>BEAVER PACK</u>		Mrs J Beadle CSL, Mr M Luhrs ACSL, Mrs F C Weston, ACSL, Mr D Gardiner ACSL	
<u>WHITE SIX</u>	<u>BLUE SIX</u>	<u>RED SIX</u>	<u>GREEN SIX</u>
N Luhrs	M Amour	P Johnstone	S Rankin
S Hillan	S Newnham	G Sunley	P Lawrence
D Harbottle	B Tomlin	A Dodd	A Barr
M Atkinson	A Lamb	S Watson	S Hill
M Lowson	M Guest	N Hutchinson	G Smith
S Marsh	C Farman	A Dunne	A Harrison
<u>SCOUT TROOP</u>	Mr J Harris SL, Mr D Johnson ASL, Mr P Harpin ASL, Mr P Laycock ASL, Mr M Small ASL		
<u>OTTER PATROL</u>	<u>OWL PATROL</u>	<u>SWIFT PATROL</u>	
W Leeman PL	R Weston PL	M Hull PL	
P Glarvey APL	D Hull APL	Dennis Harrison APL	
Dan Harrison	M Wright	D Hill	
S Wright	T McCann	N Brooker	
C Newnham	S Trotman	N Ward	
P Nevison	A Barr	R Leeman	
S Smith	T Hughes	N Smith	
<u>CURLEW PATROL</u>	<u>TIGER PATROL</u>	<u>Recruits</u>	
M Greaves PL	K Morgan PL	A Scullion	
C Barr APL	R Pigg APL	A Dowe	
C Luhrs	A Nevison	K Stoddart	
S Greenwell	P Matton	D Christie	
E Chara	P Robinson	G Smith	
G Weedon	L Jaques	F Chara	
P Wilkinson	P Gardiner		
<u>VENTURE UNIT</u>	Mr R A Wilkinson VSL, Mr P Lineker AVSL		
C Clough	C Metcalfe	M Barker	
A Gardiner	D Wilkinson	P Foster	
W Hall	J Newton	M Campbell	

The Easter Training Camp for the PLs and APLs was at our Croft Grange site. The long grass had been mown but rather a wet cold weekend prevailed although this did not hamper training to any great extent and more use was made of the site than last year when we had first acquired the area.

The question of transport presented a great problem within the Group. Easter was a typical case with several loads of gear for the Scout Troop and equally as much taken to the Lakes for the Venture Unit.

For their Easter expedition to Borrowdale, the Unit used the Borough Youth Vehicle, a Morris van of moderate age. The Venture Scouts camped in the fields below Stonethwaite, chosen on many occasions by the 8th. The West Ranger Guides Unit stayed at Glaramara Youth Hostel and all outdoor activities were of a joint nature. The entire weekend was a great success through the Leadership of our two Venture Scouters.

It was apparent that for some years now, one needed money to carry out interesting and worthwhile Venture Scouting, the

ratio per member, per £1.00 spent per year, was very much greater than in Cubbing or Scouting. Our Venture Unit got this money through their own hard work in hiring out marquees. During 1973 this form of income reached a high level, we even advertised for customers, although this was hardly necessary as repeat hirings were always to hand. Marquee Hire is a very hard, back breaking, time consuming job usually done on Saturday or Sunday evenings, sometimes very early in the morning. Marquees were erected on no less than 30 occasions from March to September.

Scout Job Week in which the Cubs and Scouts were involved brought in over £100 for the two Packs and the Troop. This event had been undertaken in organised style by the 8th since it first began in 1949.

After Easter, yet another fantastic Spring Jumble Drive by the Troop and Unit was made with the HQ staffed for 5 evenings by three or four Council men, six cars were used as well as the five bogies.

The Annual General Meeting, held early in May, showed we were very solvent, over £590 on Jumble alone during the year, still a good means of income. However, we do have a very large HQ to run and maintain.

The event of the year was the Group Camp at our Hunger Hill Site over the weekend, 12th/14th May, with a total of 79 uniformed ranks in Camp on the Saturday. This camp marked the celebration of 25 years at Hunger Hill - a fair recommendation for our behaviour. Four kitchens were made complete with the gadgets and paraphernalia. These were named Celts, Danes, Picts and Scots. The weather was only moderate but this did not deter the 40 cubs from enjoying themselves and watching the Scouts cook their dinner.

Early in the year selected tenders had been sent out by the Group Council for re-roofing the two cottages, all these proved negative. No one was interested in being paid to put a new roof on the HQ so some patching up was carried out by the Venture Unit during the year.

With repairs and renewals of Garden Fete sideshows just after Easter, arrangements gained momentum as the weeks to the Fete ticked by. All the work on sideshows was carried out by Group Council the majority of Leaders not being affected until the actual day itself, although the Troop Scouters had the job of organising programme sales three weeks before.

The Scouting year seemed to get busier and busier, every week some event concerning one or more sections was in progress, a typical example being the District Sponsored Swim in which our Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts and Leaders took part, earning over £76, half of which went to the District, the rest to the section funds, whose members were taking part on 9th May.

The Cub Packs were just as busy with their own events as with District and County activities. Both Packs organized separate trips to Hamsterly Forest, the Panther Pack also had a joint outing to Lambton Park Zoo with the 3rd Cubs. The

District Cub Sports saw the Beaver Pack 3rd out of 20 in a hectic day on Eastbourne School fields.

The Scout Troop held a well attended weekend of four days at Croft Grange over Spring Bank Holiday, this time in fine warm days, which were enjoyed after the cold of Easter.

The Group was functioning to the fullest extent as a Scout group should. The GSL did not attend any camps apart from popping in as a visitor. The men and women of the Group Council ran all the constant Jumble Sales, no uniformed Leader knowing they were taking place until the profit was announced on the weekly notices. A great effort was made to announce activities of other sections on each section's notices, this had the effect of imprinting on the Cub and Scout mind, what an active Venture Unit we had, also the reverse effect of keeping Venture Scouts informed that they had very good Packs and a good Troop below them.

The Troop team in the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy lost points here and there to finish 5th, with a rather new team. An inquest was held by the Court of Honour to prepare for next year.

Once again Fete time arrived, Friday, 22nd June, saw Marquees erected and sideshows slowly assembled in their proper locations, over 40 men and boys worked until 11.00 pm when the 'night staff' bedded down for the evening in separate places on the site. The first Group Council man arrived at 7.00 am on the 23rd and gradually the Fete took shape, the ladies preparing food in the refreshment tents. By 12.30, the 'lunch-time' staff came to allow all to go for dinner and the sun shone!

The 1973 Fete was opened by Mr. A E Tornbolm, ARIBA, ARTPI, who had just retired after 27 years as Borough Architect, and who was, in any case, a Cockerton Man. More people came than ever before, the Cockerton Silver Band performed, the Darlington Fencing Club gave three displays, the sideshows in full swing catered for all ages, the steam rail way did a very good trade, the ponies were tired by 5.30 p.m.

The Fete was dismantled from 6.00 pm, when the 100 yards long line of Cubs collected 11 sacks of rubbish before going home. Scouts were home by 8.30, the rest by 9.30., the Treasurer's tent being the last to come down - he was still in it until 9.00 p.m! Unfortunately, it rained during the evening and 500 sq.yds. of canvas adorned the HQ rooms. There was virtually nothing on the site by 9.30 p.m. We had taken £625 and £393 net.

The following morning, things were sorted out at the HQ and on Monday, all sideshows were stowed carefully away.

On 7th/8th July, many of our Panther Cubs spent the weekend at the County Training Ground at West Rainton on the 'Cubboree' - new word for Cub Gathering - they had a grand time there.

The following weekend, the Venture Unit erected three Marquees at Ketton and journeyed to West Rainton for the Venture Scout and Ranger Guide Weekend called 'Microquay' - another splendid foreign (fictitious, of course) weekend. The

marquees were dismantled and returned on Monday again to dry out.

The most colourful weekend of the year was the visit of the Warbonnet Indian Dancers from Kansas, U.S.A. the 8th being involved in more ways than one again. The entire company were given a reception in our hall one Friday evening when about 250 other Scouts and Leaders from the town swapped badges and chatted to the American Scouts. Two performances were given in the College of Technology Hall on Saturday evening, with many of our Venture Scouts and Leaders busy advertising among other jobs. The two shows were easily the most colourful and spectacular stage shows seen for some time, with all the trimmings of full blooded Red Indians.

There were so many events in which the Group participated it was difficult to avoid one overlapping another. Our Panther Pack rounded off the season by winning the Dugdale Football Cup. Both Packs entered the Battle of Wits Quiz separately; the Beaver Pack had a joint 1st in the District Swimming Gala in which the Troop also competed.

The 58th Troop Annual Camp took place near Bedburn in the now vast Hamsterly Forest, from 23th July to 4th August, in really hot weather. Attended by 24 boys, the site was certainly remote and presented different scouting country, although ants and midges gave many problems too. Run by Julian Harris, SL, with Paul Laycock, ASL and Robin Laycock, CSL, in charge, ASL David Johnson attended as staff for part of the week. The Cub Packs spent a day in camp and the Scouts organised an interesting assault course to occupy energetic youngsters for some hours, meals were cooked by the Patrols, who were grouped along a row of silver birch trees. The camp was enjoyed apart from the insects which were in greater abundance than 8th Scouts. It is worthy of note that the SL and GSL had travelled many miles in the early part of the year looking for a different camp site which, in these days when a farmer could it spare fields for caravans, gets more difficult to find. The camp cost £165.61 ½.

During August, a general weekend camp at Hunger Hill was held mainly to work on the bridge which was in need of repair, it was only used by the 8th to give access to the scrubland slope left from the wood with its plentiful supply of felled timber, now pushed into a heap.

On 8th/9th September, the 8th attended the District Camp again at Catterick Aerodrome and helped to fire 800 rounds of ammunition on the range from .22 and 303 rifles. It was certainly a different camp situation from the usual out of the way place of the 8th, but it involved problems of the transport of equipment for the 13 boys who attended it. The Tug-of-War was competed for, we fielded a good team and won, also reaching 2nd place in the Activity Relay Race.

September indicated that another Jumble collection was needed to fill three rooms with tons of clothing, hundreds of shoes and a great pile of hardware ranging from combs to three piece suites. Jumble is very unseasonable - we got lawn mowers, deck chairs and bikinis in September then fire guards, heavy coats and winter items in the Spring collection. The 8th had

no storage problems so we simply keep these things for six months!

Strange as it may see, two Jumble sales selling purely clothing, were run by the Group in our own Hall during August, of all times, which indicates just how far the keenness of the Council members stretched to.

Shortly after the Garden Fete, the West Ranger Guide Unit met each fortnight in our HQ. These young ladies of 15 to 20 soon settled down and were given their own notice board in the Unit Room, meeting the same evening as our Panther Cub Pack, there were always adults there with the Pack.

Duty to God was not neglected. We had the largest turnout on St. George's Day Parade at St. Cuthbert's in April. We paraded at St. Mary's in March, Holy Family in July and at the Methodist Church in November, when we again had 60 plus on the parade. It was becoming embarrassing to fill all the seats at each church, all of which were well attended in any case; discussions with the clergy always bore this in mind.

During September, the District Cub Fun day at Hurworth was supported by the 8th Packs. A 30' suspension bridge was built as well as a tree activity, the whole theme being on European Countries. It was attended by over 400 Cubs and their Leaders.

A circular to former old members told them of a decision to produce a book giving the 60 years' history of the 8th and a Reunion to be held in 1975, as well as a museum in the HQ. The GSL explained the scheme to the Leaders Meeting and the Group Council and it was decided to go ahead with it. 260 letters were delivered by hand, the remainder being posted. The biggest job was tracing former members, and many went to great lengths to find their whereabouts - we still had no trace of over 60 by Christmas!

In August, two of our Troop Scouters left us, Mike Small moved across town and Paul Harpin worked way from home, but we still had three Leaders with the Troop, many Troops only had one.

There was still no sign of a contractor for the roof so the grant expected to contribute towards it had to be referred to the next year's estimates of the Town Council.

During the year, several of our new Leaders had taken the General Information Course, the first stage of the new scheme for adult training. Before the end of the year all attended the appropriate Basic Practical Course. This put the 8th in the enviable position of having every Leader to this stage, four with the coveted Wood Badge.

In November, we held an Indoor Camp Fire when over 90 of the boys and Leaders met and sang heartily to guitars and joined in the various songs and rounds with Skip.

The effect of Cubs coming into the Troop became a growing problem towards the end of 1973, approximately 16 Cubs each year were going into the Troop from two Packs; coupled with the age span of the Troop of four years, one does not have to look far ahead to visualise the bottleneck which had now occurred in the 18 months since two Cub Packs were started in March 1972.

In November, the HQ was hit by power restrictions, the heating was entirely by electricity, this meant cold meetings for several months, but scouting still continued with more active games than usual.

The year came to a close - a very busy one, fully exploited by the Group in County and District events as well as our own, made possible by a very good team of 15 Leaders and the same number of hard working Lay people.

1974

We had a rowdy start to the year with the Scout Party on 11th January. The following day, on Saturday, 12th, the HQ bristled with activity as nearly 50 Cubs and their Leaders had the joint Packs Party. It was an experiment to have the party on a Saturday afternoon and it worked well. There was a longer time to make arrangements - a three hour party - whew! and it gave Scouters a full day to remove their earplugs and get over the event.

Over the Christmas Holidays, the Cycle Park and Kitchen suffered extensive alterations, being redesigned, then decorated to a new colour scheme to become a Group Museum, together with the entrance foyer and stairways. 3 cabinets were built in mahogany, fitted with glass doors and lighting, the result being a fully illuminated Museum area of 63 square feet of showcase, in addition to a separate showcase for trophies in the foyer.

A special sub-committee met again to discuss the pros and cons of the production of the book '60 YEARS WITH THE 8TH' which it was agreed to go ahead with the production of 500 copies of the book at a cost of about £500.

The outdoors of scouting got under way very soon in the year when one Pack held a hike along the now disused railway track from Walworth Road level crossing.

On 1st February, our Venture Unit camped at 2,500' in Upper Weardale on a Survival and Leadership Course.

February is one of those months that one might term to be the normal sort of month with the usual meetings - it was! but in addition, the completion of the Museum was in full swing, a preliminary notice out for the 59th Annual Camp, the ambulance team training for the Ferrier Trophy, a course for the Fireman's badge, two excellent Jumble Sales at St. Hilda's, one Pack playing a nearby Pack at chess - of all things, both Packs busy with badgework, the Venture Unit rebuilding two old motor cycles and both Packs getting ready for the Football Season for Cubs. Yes! it was a normal month!

The Ferrier Ambulance Trophy on 23rd finished with the Troop gaining 4th place only. Another Church Parade took place at St. Mary's the following day with 63 uniformed members of the Group on parade. Some rethinking would be needed to stop crowding each Church when we paraded.

Stocktaking of equipment, an annual task at this time, was completed, the approximate requirements of each of the sections, as well as items to be repaired or renewed, were submitted to the Group Council for attention.

On 1st March, a Beaver Pack Hike to the River Tees at Low Coniscliffe ended with Mrs M Hardy presenting Gold arrow awards to Michael Amour and Nigel Luhrs.

Another meeting attended by the prospective new adults contacted to help form a second Scout Troop took place in early March when further arrangements were made.

The Venture Unit arranged a realistic emergency scheme within the HQ to test the scout Troop, a loud explosion (with local inhabitants warned earlier) started the ghastly scene in which the St. John's men had done a fine job with 3rd degree burns and the like. It certainly did test the Troop as most of the Leaders were victims and adult help was not to hand. It is really amazing what can be done in one's own HQ. Quite often there are meetings of one section or another and those arriving at the H.Q., may have to ask what meeting it is? With a large Group and ten rooms plus two halls, this situation can easily arise.

Two Jumble Sales in arch brought in more cash for the Group Funds.

The National Scout Census Forms followed later when the 8th had 108 Uniformed personnel. This was quite a tall order when the notice bore the tidings that the Capitation Fee would be 75p per head - Scouting is also hit by inflation!

The Group Architect revised the estimate for the re-roofing and came up with a frightening figure. A revised estimate was submitted to the new Durham County for review before we could tender.

The double yellow parking lines, now outside the HQ hindered the busy progress of the Group, but we resigned ourselves to an extending Cockerton shopping area although objections were levied, there was little we could do.

On Friday, 29th March, the entire Group gathered at 7.30 p.m. for the occasion when several more Cubs would go in to the Troop. The large circle of nearly 90 uniforms looked colourful as the GSL gave the indication for flagbreak and prayers. Gold arrow Awards were present to David Bilton of the Panther Pack, Spence Rankin, Philip Lawrence and Shaun Newnham, of the Beaver Pack, after which 13 Cubs went into the Scout Troop in this simple ceremony. Rethinking would again have to be on the agenda as this event was also becoming too complicated to manage - ever tried to play a game with over 80 boys?

If any month is busy in Scouting it is April, anyone who has been an adult Leader will verify this, April 1974 being no exception. The Census and Capitation nicely out of the way, the Scout Troop and Venture Unit were busy assembling kit for the Easter Camps. Scout Job Week Cards were issued to all the boys, who were out with youthful enthusiasm on the first day.

One of the permanent features of the 8th's year began with the delivery of 2,500 handbills for jumble and a collection involving 7 cars, 5 bogies and 12 adults, the HQ soon filled with several tons of all kinds of things. The Council Ladies took 3 weeks to sort it all, nearly 100 sacks of clothing going to Messrs. Hanratty.

Camping kit ready, food bought and checked, the Venture Unit went off in two cars and a hired van for Borrowdale on a four day expedition, at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 11th April. It was a wet camp with hiking and fell walking packed into a hectic four days until the return on Monday evening.

At 9.00 a.m. on Good Friday, 12th, 19 of the Scout Troop, inclusive of Leaders, journeyed, to our Croft Grange Camp Site for a four day training camp. It was generally very wet, quite cold and a rather poor camp weatherwise, but lots of training was undertaken especially in cooking.

The Unit Camp was arranged by the VSL and AVSL whilst the Troop camp was under the direction of the SL and his ASs. It should be noted, contrary to earlier years, that the GSL had little to do with the running of any camps in these years of plentiful Scouters.

The work of cutting the grass at Croft Grange and getting a rotor mower onto this site where there were no cattle, however fall into the work area of the Group Council and the GSL. Croft Grange is a fine site but, unlike Hunger Hill, is not cropped when the 8th are not in 'residence'. Two rotary mowers were hired for this work.

On Sunday, 21st, the Garden Fete Stalls were brought down from the storage loft over the hall for alterations. At the same time, the 8th had undertaken to make a 18' high and 20' wide gateway for the Chief Scout's Visit this year, whilst the Unit were busy with a 15' Cub Display item of a similar nature – the HQ looked cluttered in April with these and the Fete Stalls.

On Tuesday, 23rd, the District St. George's Day Parade took place at St. Cuthbert's, with a turnout of 71. The 8th had the largest Group on the Parade which started and ended on the forecourt of the new Town Hall.

Two more Jumble Sales that month made profits of over £50 each, none of the Leaders attending, the sales being run as usual entirely by the Group Council.

Towards the end of the month it became evident that the Packs would not win the Dugdale Football Cup. Both Packs played in the Knockout and League as separate Packs in regular games on Glebe Road School Fields. There is a great amount of support each Saturday by parents in cars who transport the Cubs to the other side of the town and from Dads who are prepared to train and support the teams.

On Friday, 26th April, the Venture Unit went off to camp for the weekend at Croft Grange. The same evening both Pack Leaders had separate meetings in their homes, whilst the Troop held its usual Friday evening meeting in the HQ. 14 of the Troop who were away or ill or otherwise engaged, held a separate Jumble collection the following week to do their share.

On 27th April, the Panther Cub Pack had a coach outing to the Keighley and Haworth Steam Railway. It was a joint venture with the 3rd St. Mary's Cub Pack and enjoyed by all.

By the end of April, the Group had made £112 on Jumble - just three weeks after the collection of the 10th!

It was announced that it had cost just over £1,000 to run the 8th for the year 1973 to March 1974 when the Group adopted the accounts on 2nd May.

A weekend camp for the Troop at Hunger Hill was attended by 24 and enjoyed good weather for a change, the new stone built farmhouse was not finished due to a change of ownership in recent years, but the camp site was still the same and, apart from the absence of the wood, as good as ever. Transport was still a major problem in the Group, many cars being required for camps such as this, marquee hire and outings for the Cubs. A hired van now appeared at regular intervals outside the HQ as a means of transporting equipment.

The occasion of the visit of the new Chief Scout began to be the predominant feature from then on. The GSL, as joint organiser, was highly involved for many months, the Scouters of the Group were busy arranging menus, all three marquees were on hire for the event.

At 6.00pm on Friday, 24th, the Troop and Unit moved off to Raby Park, together with the immense gateway made in our HQ. The camp was not as big as the Northern Counties Jamboree in 1936, as it involved only Durham County, nevertheless there were 4,000 Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts in camp on Saturday. It was fine weather all the time, with the 8th camping in the Darlington sub camp half a mile from the arena near the ponds. What a wonderful setting before Sir William Gladstone as he sat near the lower Ponds to view the County Displays in the afternoon. The following day the Scouts Own Service, conducted by the Bishop of Jarrow, presented an equally fine picture.

The Chief visited the Darlington sub camp at 5.00 pm, on Saturday, the 25th, shaking hands or chatting with of the 60 of the 8th, as he went through the camp, introduced by either Eric Musgrave, GSL 7th Sea Scouts, or Frank Beadle, joint organisers of the event. The Darlington DC, Horace Robinson, ran a splendid camp fire on Sunday evening, when all too soon, Monday came, the camp ended with many happy memories and a return to Darlington.

Since booking the field last September, the Group Garden Fete had been going ahead with increasing momentum under the expert direction of Gordon Luhrs, the Group Chairman. No Scouts or Leaders had yet been involved but now it was beginning to swallow up everything when Scouts started to sell programmes early in June.

On 8th/9th June, the Trevor Morris Camping Trophy was held at the District Windlestone Camp site on a very wet weekend in the usual style of a normal independent Patrol Camp.

The 8th fielded a good team but unfortunately managed to come 2nd, with our friends from the 26th winning again. Our team was:-

Kevin Morgan PL	Anthony Nevison
Damian Harrison APL	Stephen Smith
Simon Wright	Paul Gardiner

The week before the Fete, 100 posters and 120 car stickers were out, over 100 parents of the boys contacted to run side-

shows. Work on the Fete went on all week to be ready for Saturday, 22nd.

From 3.00 p.m., we had a van manned by Leaders, from 5.00 p.m., the real work of erecting the entire Fete began on Cockerton School fields on a fine evening in June. By 10.30 p.m., those who were to sleep there had their supper and settled down by midnight. On Saturday, at 7.30 am work was under way again, with a very dull, worrying sky above. At 9.0 a.m., Cubs were selling programmes outside the shopping centre in Cockerton, a large banner was in place above the Newsfare (formerly Piggford's - formerly Gallons and before that - Williamson's).

Cockerton Band headed the procession in splendid style from the Green at 1.45, complete with police escort, then at 2.00 p.m, the Fete was opened by Darlington Footballer, Norman Lees, and the 23rd Annual Fete was under way.

There were many more people than ever at the Fete in 1974, we had four ponies instead of the usual two, 600 hotdogs and more of everything on a larger scale than ever before, three fields were packed with people by 2.15, when the sun came out in belated fashion. This Garden Fete had cost £273.31 to stage. The gross intake was by far our best ever at £745.62, leaving a net profit, when the Treasurer emerged later (!) of £471.83. But this is not the entire story, apart from programme prices, no costs were raised this year - the people responded, as one old lady remarked 'I always come, each year - it's a good day out a reasonable cost!' We try to achieve a good family Fete, perhaps we succeed.

Work on Sunday morning and Monday evening cleared away everything for 1974 and things settled down to normal again. There is no doubt that our Fete requires total involvement of all the Group and the parents; team work and attention to detail.

On the Tuesday following, a Group Scouters meeting at the GSL's home was attended by 14 of the Leaders, the proposed two Troops being one of the items on the agenda.

On Wednesday, 3rd July, the Group came 2nd in all six of the Trophies at the District swimming Gala, right through the Cub, Scout and Venture events - it shows the 8th really are consistent.

The Beaver Pack held an outing to the Grosmont and Goathland Steam Railway on 6th July, this was a fine hot day, enjoyed by all, even the boy who got his finger caught in the bus window catch!

On this Pack outing, were the Wouters family from Brussels who met 8th Scouters and Seniors in Scotland in 1954 and had given hospitality to the Senior Troop during the 1964 Continental Tour. George Wouters and his family were guests of the GSL for a week.

Other events of June and July mainly concern our active Cub Packs and their Leaders. Three Cubs and one of the Leaders enjoyed the 'Cubitour' to Edinburgh taking in a day visit to the Zoo, whilst on a further weekend the Sixers of each Pack accompanied CSL Robin Laycock and his ACSL, Audrey, to

the County Cub Fun Day at Moor House.

Both Packs attended the Cub District sports at Eastbourne School fields in July, with our Beaver Pack gaining second place out of 20 Packs, on a pleasant fine day with pop and ice creams.

On two separate Wednesdays, both Packs, Troop, Unit and most of the Leaders, entered the District Sponsored Swim with a total of over £92 being earned, although with over 50% of this going to the District and the Lifeboat Funds.

Activities at this time were so numerous and so often that it is difficult to keep ahead unless one takes note each day.

On Sunday, 7th July, the Group had 52 members on parade at Holy Family Church at the Annual Parade there. It was a fine morning as the Group, headed by Colours, marched up the Hill.

During the next week, an automatic duplicator was installed at the GSL's home ready to begin the copying of many thousands of pages for the Group History book, stencils for which were now being cut by Mrs Howlett, who kindly devoted a great amount of her spare time to this immense task.

On Friday, 12th July, the Beaver Pack set out to hike at the same time as the Venture Unit assembled at the HQ for 'PTKING', a weird County Venture and Ranger weekend, based on an Icelandic theme, admittance to which entailed issues of 'bench and wassail' - whatever that may mean! Seriously though it was a great weekend, which had kept the Unit busy making shields and axes for several days beforehand, all the 'cows' horns' they could muster were made into Viking-like headgear.

The following week was a busy one for those concerned with the Scout Section. Things were finalised for the Annual Camp, and a meeting took place to complete the arrangements for two Scout Troops in September.

Marquee hire again came into its own when one was put up for a hiring at Middleton-One-Row, whilst three were erected as usual at the Annual Ketton Hall Gymkhana on the weekend the Troop camp commenced. This entailed transporting one marquee over 50 miles after dismantling it on Monday evening. By 10.00 p.m. it served as the staff mess at the Troop Camp at Appleby. This will illustrate the loyalty and hard work of the Venture Unit and its Leaders.

On Saturday, 20th July, the 59th Annual Camp began as the Scouts gathered at the HQ at 8.30 a.m., almost 40 of them this time, to make it the largest camp since 1937 when 42 were in camp.

By 9.30 a.m., Arthur Jackson's lorry pulled away from the with a Scouter's car following it, only a few were there to see them off, but no doubt most of Cockerton heard the noise. As the GSL and a few Venture Scouts who had helped to load, watched it depart, they went their separate ways on a fine day.

The Camp was organised and taken by Julian Harris, the SL, with ASLs Paul Laycock and Dave Johnson, plus half a dozen Venture Scouts. Mrs Johnson, ACSL, was also a member of the staff.

Very little rain prevailed during the camp, with the normal start of attending church and setting up kitchens, of which there were five this year. Gadget wood abounded at the Kings Meaburn site, which needs no introduction now. As the lorry turns down the steep lane from the village, it is apparent to all as to why we choose to visit this beautiful place every three years.

The main day for Cubs was on Wednesday, 25th, when a bus arrived at camp, disgorged its contents and a gang of Cockerton boys thronged the camp as the Cubs ran down the hill towards the tents. The Cub day involves all Leaders in an immense amount of work, but it certainly was all worthwhile.

On Thursday, the GSL popped in to stay until Saturday, which came all too soon when the lorry arrived, the run back over Stainmore, bringing us back to Cockerton at 4.30pm.

Those who attended the camp were as follows: - all for 7 nights unless indicated in brackets after the name.

OTTERS

Damian Harrison PL
Craig Newnham APL
Shaun Newnham
Stephen Smith
Andrew Scullion

OWLS

David Hull PL (6)
Anthony Nevison APL
Andrew Barr
Anthony Dow
Mark Rutherford

SWIFTS

Colin Luhrs APL
David Hill
Stephen Petch
Nicholas Ward
Glen Sunley
Paul Johnstone

TIGERS

Kevin Morgan PL
Chris Barr APL
Paul Walters (4)
Stewart Walters (4)
Paul Gardiner
Colin Morgan

CURLEWS

Dennis Harrison
Philip Lobb
Gerald Weedon
Nigel Luhrs
Peter Wilkinson

STAFF

J Harris SL
P Laycock ASL
D Johnson ASL
B Johnson ACSL
M Hull V/S (6)
W Leeman V/S
M Greaves V/S
T Hughes V/S
F Beadle GSL (2)

Only national events seem to have any bearing upon the path of the 8th, the recent one being inflation. This camp set a new record in costs, and it is interesting to compare the balance sheet with earlier camps, for instance, the one on page 10 relating to the 1919 Annual Camp.

Balance Sheet for the 1974 8th Darlington (Cockerton) Annual Camp

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
25 Scouts @ £6.50	162.50	Trade Market (prov)	72.03
2 Scouts @ £5.20	10.40	Hintons (provisions)	14.02 ½
1 Scout @ £5.50	5.50	Atkinsons (vegetables)	10.33
3 Venture Scouts @ £6.50	19.50	Aldersons (meat)	6.25
1 Venture Scout @ £5.50	5.50	Postcards	1.05
5 Leaders & 1 child	27.70	V G Store (Appleby)	26.37
Cub Visiting Day		Butchers (Appleby)	28.01
11 Adults & children	3.85	Wine Shop (pop)	8.40
25 Cubs @ 35p each	8.75	Bakers (Appleby)	11.98
3 Adults @ 20p	.60	Fruit (Appleby)	3.32
Tuckshop pop & sweets	35.58 ½	Scotts (provisions)	8.81
Donation	.75	Fancy Dress Competition	.18
		Bread & Jam Eating Comp.	.25
		PL's meal choice	10.98
		Milk (186 pints)	11.00
		Driver's tip	1.00
		Jackson's Transport	44.00
		Jackson's Insurance	3.00
		Petrol for provisions	3.85
		Sundries	5.39
			<hr/> 270.72 ½
		Balance from Funds	8.91
	<hr/> <u>£279.63 ½</u>		<hr/> <u>£279.63 ½</u>

On the day the Troop arrived back from camp, the Leaders of our Venture Unit commenced their week on the Wood Badge Training Course at Gilwell Park, Chingford, London. Russell Wilkinson and Philip Lineker had a busy week, taking the Course applicable to Venture Scouting, and the first Darlington Scouters to do so. The Group was to lose Phil on this his last week with the 8th - he had taken employment in Northumberland which commenced the week after his return from Gilwell. There is no need to say we were losing a valuable Leader, whose keen energetic enthusiasm had created the ideal situation in the Venture Unit for several years, with an experienced older man in Russell and an active experienced younger man in Phil Lineker. The replacement would be difficult to find for an ever growing Unit now numbering 10 young men from 16 to 20 years.

The following week CSL Robin Laycock, one of our young Leaders, returned from a fortnight on the staff of the 14th Scottish Jamboree at Blair Atholl. He had a wonderful experience, marred only by the fact that the camp was stricken with gastric flu for a few days.

In this day and age, several Groups in the town 'close down' for the holidays, especially those who meet in schools. Only one Cub Pack did not function during August for various reasons, all other sections met regularly each week throughout

the school holiday period, most of them putting even more into this period than usual.

During July and August, the Group Council held three Jumble sales in our own HQ, each Sale realising nearly £40 to sell off the surplus of 30 tea chests of clothing from the Easter Drive. It need not be emphasised that the 8th could not function without the backing of a hardworking lay organisation.

All sorts of other things took place during August too. The Group handcart was rebuilt and painted, three more bogies for jumble collection were constructed, a nearby greenhouse was converted into a shed as a good turn for a neighbour.

After much persuasion and searching for new Leaders by the GSL, six meetings of one kind and another over the past 12 months, we were ready to expand in a way that no other Group in the town had done so before.

On 6th September, 1974, 'D' Day marked the Division of the existing scout Troop and its Leaders to form two separate and viable Troops. The arrangements followed a letter sent to the parents of 54 Scouts, including Cubs who were soon to be in the Troops, then at 8.10 p.m. The Troops were formed as follows:-

The Brigham Troop would meet on Thursdays, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m.

Patrols to be SWIFTS, OTTERS, EAGLES and LIONS.

Leaders:- Paul Laycock, David Johnson and John Gray.

The Lishman Troop would meet on Fridays, 7.30 to 9.30 pm

Patrols to be OWLS, TIGERS, CURLEWS and WOLVES

Leaders:- Julian Harris, Allan Wilson and Peter Smith

Such was the simple ceremony to create the further expansion of the Group. The placing of the PLs, APLs and members had been meticulously worked out, taking into account every boy's age, friends, experience as a Scout, school, living area etc. The operation went like clockwork, no complaints were in evidence about the placing of any boy, especially the Cubs now working with the two Troops on the 'Link' scheme.

Immediately after the formation of the two Troops, they set off to deliver over 2,000 leaflets for the Jumble collection. With the Venture Unit, this entailed 9 separate areas, covering almost every house in the North West quarter of Darlington.

Collecting the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, in 8 barrows, 4 cars and a hired van, all but 7 of the 52 boys helped to gather in the material filling four rooms. The men of the Group Council were organising, together with the Leaders, the ladies sorting during the afternoons of the week - a total of nearly 80 people.

During September, a further set of tenders were sent out to four or five building firms offering the contract for the re-roofing of the two cottages which comprise the frontage of the HQ. The revised estimated had been formulated - the Durham County Council grant had to be used by the end of March

1975 so we could only hope someone would be found to put a new roof on the dilapidated tiles and woodwork of No 80 and 82.

Further to the arrangements for the Scout Troops, another man was asked to be a Troop Treasurer, which he accepted. The Group heating bills would now be much heavier too because we had five sections.

Easter and the Annual Camp would be jointly run for the first year or two, as separate tentage meant figures of £600 these days.

The Patrol names were compiled from the four traditional names which the 8th has always had, etc. TIGERS, SWIFTS, OWLS, OTTERS, with the CURLEWS created in the 50s and the EAGLES revived from the 1936 era with a brief spell during the early 50s. The other two Patrols of LIONS and WOLVES were entirely new and devised to equate two birds and two animal names in each Troop.

The identification of the surnames LISHMAN and BRIGHAM needs no explanation after reading this far in this book. Both men, now deceased, were the foundation spirit of the 8th and those in 1974 and hence will maintain that same continuity.

On the weekend, 14th/15th September, both Troops attended the Darlington District Camp at R.A .F. Catterick, having a grand time with the facilities of the drome, including rifle shooting in which APL David Hill was the best shot out of 130 boys. The Tug-of-War, alas, went to the 26th Troop, the Activity Relay also elsewhere. Nevertheless, 28 enjoyed the camp.

The week following, Robin Laycock, CL, and his sister, Audrey, spent 7 days at Gilwell Park, helping on training work for one of the courses. The same week, the Group were delighted to hear that Robin Laycock had been selected as the only Scouter from Darlington to attend the World Jamboree in Norway 1975.

A long felt need was realised when the Group Chairman announced that the 8th possessed a van. For over two years, we had many critical and worrying times about transport of heavy gear almost every weekend. Vans were hired for jumble drives, marquee hire and camps many times during the period. The vehicle was a 1969 15 cwt. Bedford, which could be driven by all of 26 years of age and over. It may appear that such a vehicle would be standing for long periods! This was not the case, as the booking chart showed items such as runs with marquees on two occasions, transport to the local tip, rags to the local merchant, with other jobs during the first fortnight.

On Friday, 4th October, 90 of the Group assembled for the occasion when 13 Cubs, including boys from each Pack, went into the Scout Troops. This involved a more complicated ceremony which lasted 10 minutes only, ending with Mrs M Hardy, ADC for Cubs, presenting Gold Arrow Awards to Graeme Smith, Mark Lowson, Neil Hutchinson, Stephen and Michael Atkinson of the Beaver Pack.

It should be noted that two of these boys are the sons of former Scouts and Scouters of the Group.

The Group photograph was then taken with all seated on the specially constructed rostrum. Although there are 90 on the photograph with 16 missing, this was actually an inopportune time to have it taken, because the 14 new Cubs were not admitted until the following week when the full complement of the Group was 150 uniformed members. However, the photograph had to be ready for inclusion in this book.

To end the evening, slides of recent Annual and Easter camps were shown by Julian Harris, SL, and Russell Wilkinson, VSL.

Co-operation between the sections is very evident in the Group, an evening of 'incidents' on a circular route took place for the Scout Troops, when all arrangements, were made by members of the Venture Unit, who also acted as examiners. Our Cub Packs have Venture Scout assistants or Scouts taking their Service part of the Advanced Standard. Starting from September, all the PLs and APLs of both Troops are trained in Leadership and their own badges each Saturday morning by the Leaders jointly. A point is made of having no competitive events between like sections within the Group.

On 12th October, Mr. Phil Lineker and Miss Audrey Laycock were married at the Methodist Church, complete with Guard of Honour of Cubs from the Panther Pack and Venture Scouts in uniform, a colourful sight on Cockerton Green. The Group wished them well, but two very good Leaders would be missed when they move into their new home in Newcastle.

During October, programmes of all sections settled down to their winter themes. The Brigham Troop PLs spent a weekend in Arkengarthdale with their Leaders. The Lishman Troop held a cycle ride, whilst the Venture Unit organised a Group Social. The Group Council was not inactive, holding a Jumble Sale in town at St. Hilda's, which made £30 gross - our best ever, bringing the profit on jumble to £140 in 6 weeks. This was offset by the fact that we were to pay far more rates on the HQ next year.

On Friday, 25th October, the County Commissioner, Mr. R I Stewart, paid a surprise visit to the Group HQ, even the GSL did not now until half an hour beforehand. This is the only time, as far as we can determine, that the CC had visited the 8th - he was very impressed, we were honoured by the visit.

At a meeting of the Group Council on Thursday, 31st, the two main items dealt with were the acceptance of a tender for the re-roofing of the two cottages, with the tiles being purchased separately by the Group, then putting the place ship-shape for the end of March ready for the 1975 Re-union. We were talking in figures of around £4,000, when one considers the financial commitments at the end of March in any year.

On the following evening, the Beaver Cub Pack left a strange aroma of burnt turnip in the Hall after their Hallowe'en Party, a ghost walk having been arranged round the remainder of the HQ by the Venture Unit, left some of the Cubs looking rather white. Such things as an oscillating floor, sisel 'cobwebs' and, in other years, a real cow's eye have added to the effects.

Hallowe'en is always a great evening for Cubs; one remembers a Cub some years ago who accidentally got his knecker in his lantern, with panic when the flames reached his chin!

The Scout Troops both had teams training for the forthcoming Indoor Scoutcraft competition that week, whilst the Venture Unit and ladies of the Council were busy preparing for the Group Social. This took place from 8.00 to 11.00 on Saturday, 2nd November with Phil Lineker and his wife paying us a visit from Newcastle.

About 50 adults and Venture Scouts, with their 'other' halves, enjoyed an evening run by Russell Wilkinson as MC with a splendid meal of eats by the ladies, of real Cockerton home baking; Mrs. S Longstaff and her team are to be congratulated. It is rather nice to meet on a social occasion all the members of the Council, Leaders and our six Treasurers and their wives/ or husbands, together with the Venture Scouts and their girl friends. If one has to run down the hall with a billy lid on one's head and a balloon between the knees, does it matter! The Unit entertainment of four guitars and a violin sounded good too.

On the same evening, the first rehearsal for Spotlight on the Gang took place in the Central School (formerly Gladstone Street School) with many of our Scouts attending for their first Gang Show.

On 5th November, the Panther Pack made good use of the date of their meeting with an earlier start and a firework display at the rear of the HQ finishing earlier as it was Guy Fawkes night.

At this time, we had another useful Leader join to help with the Beaver Cub Pack, when Mrs. Julie Marcey commenced in October, as Mrs. Weston changed to work with the Panther Pack from that date. This still left a gap to be filled with a younger man as AVSL but such a person was difficult to find.

On 7th November, the Group Council set an all time record of well over £80 from a jumble sale at St. Hilda's, with two sales to go before Christmas.

Both the Lishman and Brigham Troops competed in the Indoor Scoutcraft Competition in November, doing well against the principal Troops in the town.

The following Friday, Kevin Morgan, PL, received the highest Scout Award when he was presented with the Chief Scout's Award Badge.

ANTICIPATED EVENTS TO 10TH APRIL, 1975

December is expected to be a normal sort of month with regular meetings, apart from the last week. Gang Show rehearsals on three evenings, and two Jumble Sales at Group level. Plenty of active work will be done compiling the 65,000 pages of the 500 copies of this book, expected to be done by the Group Council when the illustrated pages arrive back from the printers.

January will, start with the combined Troop party, followed by the Pack parties, and, of course, another Jumble Sale, together with the recommencement of Gang Show rehearsals. But - there will be a host of other things, such as clearing all six front rooms of effects, electric and gas services for the roofing contractor.

February will be a busy month, we expect, and a vast upheaval in the Group HQ with no roof on part of it, with plenty of minor works to be completed by the Group, also Gang Show rehearsals being stepped up to fever pitch.

March will be even busier with the expectation of the roof being on, all six rooms will be to rewire, lay with other services and redecorate. Pack and Troop meetings will carry on normally although the Venture Unit will perhaps meet elsewhere for several weeks.

On Monday, 10th March, the 12th Gang Show will take place in the Civic Theatre for a whole week involving everyone. We may even be asked to again provide a 'shindy' for the 160 adults connected with the show. Both our Packs expect to see it.

Census forms will be upon us, the Ferrier Ambulance Trophy and the new demand for £1.00 per head for London HQ Capitation plus 10p for County and other things - well over £100 in the 8th.

But this is not all - Easter Camp preparations will be under way by the Troops and Unit, the Spring Jumble Drive in its advanced stages by the Group Council, possibly two more sales to complete the year ending 31st March. With everyone preparing for the 8th's Jubilee Re-union Celebrations, it will be a busy month indeed.

April should see Easter Camps in full swing, further preparations for the 24th Annual Garden Fete, then on April 12th/13th, the 60th year of the Group.

All the above is EXPECTED TO HAPPEN, and probably will, with a lot more besides, although the writer of '100 years with the 8th' will be able to verify and enlarge upon these anticipated events.

8TH DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) SCOUT GROUP

Taken in the Scout Hall 80 Cockerton Green, Friday, 4th October, 1974

- BACK ROW:- Kevin Free, Christopher Barr, Dennis Harrison, Kevin Morgan: Venture Scouts
Michael Campbell, Nicholas Griffin, David Wilkinson, John Newton, Ian
Wilkinson, Michael Hull, William Leeman, Scouts Anthony Nevison, Philip
Lobb, David Hull, Damian Harrison
- SECOND FROM BACK:- Malcolm Holmes, Andrew Scullion, Graham Bower, Paul Johnstone, David
Bilton, Andrew Barr, Nicholas Ward, Nigel Luhrs, Colin Morgan, Neil
Hutchinson, Anthony Taylor, Anthony Dow, Michael Atkinson, Peter
Wilkinson, Stewart Walters, Paul Walters, Glen Sunley
- CENTRE-SHORT ROW:- Stephen Petch, David Hill, Gerald Weeden, Stephen Smith, Craig Newnham,
Brian Robinson, Spence Rankin, Paul Gardiner, Michael Amour, Colin Luhrs
- THIRD ROW ADULTS:- Mr Paul Laycock ASL, Mr Alan Wilson ASL, Mr Julian F Harris SL, Mr Derek
Gardiner ACSL, Mrs Freda Weston ACSL, Mrs Marjorie Luhrs ACSL, Mrs J
Beadle CSL, Mr A R Wilkinson VSL & Dep GSL, Mr F A Beadle GSL, Miss Audrey
Laycock ACSL, Mrs Brenda Johnson ACSL, Miss J Wright Cub Inst, Miss S
Weeden Cub Inst, Mr Robin Laycock CSL, Mr Philip Lineker AVSL, Mr David T
Johnson ASL
- 2ND ROW:- Cubs: David Knight, Stephen Hill, Austen Field, Shaun Buchanan, Mark
Rummey, Andrew Dodd, Stuart Watson, David Harbottle, Shaun Barnes,
Andrew Brettle, Graeme Smith, Gerard Hull, Mark Layfield, Andrew Dunne,
Graham Ward, Gary Ellwood, Mark Lowson
- FRONT ROW:- Cubs: Neil Marsay, Aiden Harrison, David Hardistry, Graeme Hull, Graeme
Jinks, Anthony Degason, David Gardiner, Martin Whitell, Nigel Dixon, Stuart
Barr, Andrew Brass, Stephen Marsh, Aiden Barr, Christopher Brockbanks

Those missing from photograph: Cubs: Stephen Bates, John Dent, Richard Black, Stephen Hillan, Stephen Pryke, Philip Porritt, and Stephen Pigg. Scouts Keith Barton and Shaun Newnham. Leaders: Mr. P Smith ASL, Mr J Gray ASL, Venture Scouts: David Conner, Michael Greaves, Michael Barker, Thomas Hughes and David Warton.

PLEASE NOTE:- Although there are 90 uniformed members shown on this photograph, with 16 not present when it was taken, 14 of the Cubs went into the Troops on this evening, with 14 new boys joining the Packs the week after on 11th October, the actual Group complement therefore is 120+. The date chosen for the photograph was governed by the urgency of letterpress work for inclusion in this book.

The Recruits who joined the Panther and Beaver Cub Packs after 4th October were:- Panther: Andrew Barnes, Alan Brennan, Michael Thompson, Michael Jewers, Kevin Walton, John Hodgson, Mark Humphrey,
Beaver Pack: Robin Atkinson, Anthony Blake, David Coulthard, Colin Flynn, Paul Griffin, Peter Holland, Alec Llewelyn, Ian Landsbrough and Philip Row.



8th DARLINGTON (COCKERTON) SCOUT GROUP—OCTOBER 1974

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APPENDIX 1

LIST OF OFFICERS & SCOUTERS OF THE 8TH SCOUT GROUP: THIS LIST IS NOT AN INDICATION THAT A WARRANT WAS HELD FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD, THE DATES GIVEN SHOW WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL WAS ACTUALLY DOING THE WORK. CHANGES OF TITLE DURING YEARS GIVEN AT EACH SUB HEADING.

GSM (Group Scoutmaster) GSL (Group Scout Leader)

1915 - 1934	None
1934 - 1941	Raymond C Pawson
1941 - 1948	None
1948 - 1954	Leslie D Williamson
1954 - 1957	Arthur R Dickens
1957 - 1975	Frank A Beadle

CM (Cubmaster) CSL (Cub Scout Leader)

1917 - 1926	Percy W Brigham
1934 - 1936	Mark Mais
1936 - 1939	Harry Mais
1939 - 1948	None
1948 - 1954	Eric Easthill
1954 - 1956	John Morgan
1956 - 1959	Joan S Burton
1959 - 1960	Barbara Wetherill
1960 - 1967	Jean Beadle
1967 - 1967	Elizabeth Peverley
1968 - 1970	Jenny McKay
1970 - 1971	Patricia Beck
1972 - 1975	Jean Beadle – Beaver Pack
1972 - 1975	Robin Laycock – Panther Pack

ACM (Assistant Cubmaster) ACSL (Assistant Cub Scout Leader)

1917	Miss Bainbridge
1923 - 1930	Frederick Hughes
1928 - 1931	Kenneth Collingwood
1936 - 1939	Erik Walker
1936 - 1939	Robert Mais
1948 - 1949	Douglas Saunders
1948 - 1954	John Morgan
1954 - 1956	Joan S Burton
1954 - 1956	Doreen Hutchinson
1955	Maureen Thorpe
1954 - 1955	Gwen Morris
1956 - 1958	George W Rowling
1956 - 1957	Derek Mais
1958 - 1959	Barbara Wetherill
1958 - 1959	Peter Hardy
1959	Jean Beadle
1960 - 1961	Marion Emerson
1963 - 1964	Dianne Williamson
1963 - 1966	Anne Webster
1964 - 1965	Barbara Hill
1964 - 1965	Angela Poyzer
1966 - 1967	Mrs Wood
1967	Mrs Woodhouse
1967 - 1968	Mrs Bird

1968 - 1970	Patricia Beck
1968 - 1975	Brenda Johnson
1970 - 1972	Robin Laycock
1970 - 1974	Audrey Laycock
1970 - 1971	Beryl Greenwood
1972 - 1975	Marjorie Luhrs
1972 - 1975	Freda Watson
1972 - 1975	Derek Gardiner
1974 - 1975	Julie Marcey

SM (Scoutmaster) SL (Scout Leader)

1915 - 1917	John B Lishman
1917 - 1919	Percy W Brigham
1919 - 1924	John B Lishman
1924 - 1934	Raymond C Pawson
1935 - 1939	Mark Mais
1940 - 1946	William Wilson
1946 - 1948	Ronald Smith
1949 - 1956	Frank Beadle
1956 - 1959	Bryan N Howson
1959 - 1960	Mark Scarr
1960 - 1962	Frank Beadle
1962 - 1966	George W Rowling
1968 - 1972	Frank Beadle
1972 - 1975	Julian F Harris - Lishman Troop

ASM (Assistant Scoutmaster) ASL (Assistant Scout Leader)

1917	Percy W Brigham
1919 - 1929	Percy W Brigham
1919 - 1926	Daniel C Pawson
1922 - 1939	Charles A Parker
1922 - 1924	Leslie D Williamson
1922 - 1924	Raymond C Pawson
1935 - 1939	Laurie Case
1936 - 1939	George Marrs
1936 - 1940	William Wilson
1940 - 1947	Harry Fisher
1948 - 1949	Frank A Beadle
1950 - 1951	Keith Robinson
1951 - 1956	Bryan N Howson
1956 - 1957	David J Clapton
1958 - 1962	George W Rowling
1960 - 1963	Alan D Dodd
1961	Peter Middleton
1962 - 1970	Leonard Campbell
1967 - 1968	James Lycette
1967 - 1968	Eric Appleby
1968 - 1975	David Johnson - Brigham Troop 1974
1972 - 1973	Paul Harpin
1969 - 1971	Julian Harris
1972 - 1973	Michael Small
1972 - 1975	Paul Laycock - Brigham Troop 1974
1974 - 1975	Alan Wilson - Lishman Troop 1974
1974 - 1975	Peter Smith - Lishman Troop 1974

RSL (Rover Scout Leader)

Rover Scouting commenced in 1918 then abolished with 1967 rules

1924 - 1939	Leslie D Williamson
-------------	---------------------

1939 - 1949	None
1949	Charles Ashton
1949 - 1950	Alan Bertram
1950 - 1951	Eric Easthill
1951 - 1956	John Beadle
1956 - 1957	Eric Easthill
1959 - 1961	Bryan Howson

SM (S) (Scoutmaster of Senior Scouts)

Senior Scouting commenced 1946, abolished under the 1967 rules

1946 - 1953	None. Seniors with Scout Troop
1953 - 1956	Eric Easthill
1956 - 1958	Frank Beadle
1958 - 1962	None. Seniors with Scout Troop
1962	Michael Straker
1963 - 1965	Frank Beadle
1965 - 1966	Ben Westmorland
1966 - 1967	John Witty

ASM (S) (Assistant Scoutmaster of Senior Scouts)

1948 - 1949	Alan Bertram
1956 - 1957	Frank Duffy
1962 - 1963	Alan Dodd
1963 - 1964	Christopher Sherwood

VSL (Venture Scout Leader)

Venture Scouting commenced under new rules October 1967

1967 - 1968	John Witty
1968 - 1969	Bryan Howson
1969 - 1970	Rolf Wormald
1970 - 1971	Frank Beadle
1971 - 1975	Russell Wilkinson

AVSL (Assistant Venture Scout Leader)

1967 - 1968	Philip Usher
1967 - 1968	Alan Dodd
1967 - 1968	Bryan Howson
1968 - 1970	Martin Rackham
1971 - 1974	Philip Lineker

APPENDIX 2

ROYAL CERTIFICATES GAINED BY MEMBERS OF THE 8TH SCOUT GROUP

King's Scout	Michael Richardson	May 1952
Queen's Scout	John C Witty	October 1953
Queen's Scout	Anthony Hoare	June 1956
Queen's Scout	Edward C Ross	June 1956
Queen's Scout	Derek J Neilson	August 1956
Queen's Scout	Michael J Storey	September 1956
Queen's Scout	Roger Williamson	December 1961
Queen's Scout	Jeffrey Wetherill	March 1963
Queen's Scout	Michael Younghusband	July 1964
Queen's Scout	Ian C Webster	February 1965
Queen's Scout	Michael Armitage	July 1967
Queen's Scout	Kenneth Blair	July 1967
Queen's Scout	Richard Barras	September 1967

CHIEF SCOUTS DURING THE 60 YEARS OF THE 8TH DARLINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Lord Baden Powell of Gillwell	1907 - 1941
Lord Somers	1941 - 1944
Lord Rowallan MBE MC TD LLD	1944 - 1959
Sir Charles Maclean Bart HML JP	1959 - 1972
Sir William Gladstone Bart DL MA	1972 - 1975

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DURING 60 YEARS OF THE 8TH DARLINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Sir H C Surtees	1908 - 1917
Selwyn Austin esq.	1917 - 1918
Major Cuthbert Vaux	1918 - 1921
Lord Barnard CMG OBE MC TD JP	1921 - 1964
L G Ridley esq.	1964 - 1972
R I Stewart FCA	1972 - 1975

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS DURING 60 YEARS OF THE 8TH DARLINGTON SCOUT GROUP

Selwyn Austin	1910 - 1917
Trevor Morris	1917 - 1951
William French	1951 - 1964
John A Lear	1964 - 1973
Horace D Robinson	1973 - 1975

APPENDIX 3

JAMBOREES AND SCOUTING RALLIES AT WHICH THE 8TH WERE REPRESENTED

1916	Rally for Chief Scout, Baden-Powell, at Feethams Darlington
1920	County Jamboree and Exhibition, Sunderland
1920	First World Jamboree, Crystal Palace, Olympia, London
1921	Rally for Chief Scout, Baden-Powell at Durham
1936	Northern Counties Jamboree, Raby Park, Staindrop
1943	Rally for Chief Scout, Lord Somers, Raby Park, Staindrop
1950	Rally for Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, Brancepeth, Durham
1956	Durham County Jamboree, Lampton Castle
1957	Bi-centenary World Jamboree, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham
1960	Northumberland-Durham, Gosforth Park, Chief Scout Visit
1963	Lakeland Jamboree, Windermere
1963	11 th World Jamboree, Athens, Greece
1965	Scandinavian Four Country Jamboree, Norway
1974	Rally for Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone, Raby Park

VISITS OVERSEAS ALSO TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE BRITISH ISLES

1920	Belgium, Troop Annual Camp
1923	Wales, Rover Crew Annual Camp
1930	Ireland, Troop Annual Camp
1934	Scotland, Troop Annual Camp on Isle of Arran
1935	Scotland, Linehead Berwickshire, Troop Annual Camp
1953	Switzerland, 5 th World Rover Moot, Kandersteg
1954	Scotland, Scouter and Senior Hike Camp
1955	Luxembourg and Germany, Senior Troop Annual Camp
1955	Rover Tour, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Sarrbrücken
1956	Ireland, Senior Troop Annual Camp
1963	Greece, 11 th World Jamboree
1964	Senior Camp, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg
1965	Norway and Denmark, Four Countries International Jamboree
1973	France, Venture Scout Eurotour
1974	Scotland, County Cubitour to Edinburgh
1974	Scotland, 14 th Jamboree, Blair Atholl

APPENDIX 4

LOCATION OF TROOP ANNUAL CAMPS OVER 60 YEARS

		Approx duration in days: 7
1915	Coalsides Farm, Burtree Gate, West Auckland Road	
1916	Gainford, public field on left beyond village	7
1917	Low Row, Swaledale, trek from Richmond and return	7
1918	Low Row, Swaledale, trek from Richmond and return	7
1919	Wensleydale and Swaledale trekking camp	7
1920	Belgium. Ostend, Bruges, Ypres	10
1921	Lake District. Trek Clifton, Keswick, Ambleside	10
1922	Scremerston, Northumberland	10
1923	Helmsley, Yorkshire - Rover trek through Wales	8-10
1924	Swaledale, Robin Gate	10
1925	Sandsend, Lythe, nr. Whitby, Yorkshire	10
1926	Sandsend, Lythe, nr. Whitby, Yorkshire	8
1927	Lake District. Side Farm, Patterdale, Ullswater	10
1928	Blowick Bay, Patterdale, Ullswater	10
1929	Stonethwaite, Langstrath Valley, Borrowdale	10
1930	Cushdenall, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland	10
1931	Embleton, Northumberland Coast	10
1932	Stonethwaite, Langstrath Valley, Borrowdale	8
1933	Newton-on-the-Sea, Northumberland Coast	15
1934	Brodick Bay, Isle of Arran, Scotland	15
1935	Cocksburnpath, Linehead, Scotland	17
1936	Beckside Farm, Howton-on-Ullswater.	17
	Also Northern Counties Jamboree, Raby Park, Staindrop	7
1937	Embleton, Northumberland Coast	15
1938	Beadnell Bay, Northumberland Coast	15
1939	No August camp. Swaledale at Whitsuntide	7
1940	No Annual Camp	
1941	Rose Hill Farm, Low Moor, Dinsdale	7
1942	Rose Hill Farm, Low Moor, Dinsdale	7
1943	Rose Hill Farm, Low Moor, Dinsdale	8
1944	Stonethwaite, Langstrath Valley, Borrowdale	8
1945	Low Middleton Farm, Middleton-One-Row	7
1946	No Annual Camp. Many camps of short duration	
1947	No Annual Camp. Many camps of short duration	
1948	Hunger Hill Farm, Middleton-St-George	7
1949	Lake Semmerwater, Bainbridge, Yorkshire	7

1950	Marwood Farm, East Witton, Yorkshire	8
1951	Marwood Farm, East Witton, Yorkshire	10
1952	Beckside Farm, Sandwick, Ullswater	10
1953	Mill Farm, Farndale, Yorkshire	10
1954	Sandsend, nr. Lythe, Whitby, Yorkshire	10
	Senior Troop Swaledale and Wensleydale	7
1955	No Annual Camp. Senior Troop on Continent	15
1956	Kings Meaburn, Appleby, Westmoreland	7
	Senior Troop to Ireland for Annual Camp	10
1957	Joint Annual Camp with 3 rd Darlington, Gainford	7
1958	Middleham, Coverham Abbey, Yorkshire	10
1959	Kings Meaburn, Appleby, Westmoreland	10
1960	Thorneythwaite Farm, Borrowdale, Lake District	8
1961	Caldburgh, Coverdale, nr. Middleham, Yorkshire	10
1962	Kings Meaburn, Appleby, Westmoreland	10
1963	Coverham Bridge, Middleham, Yorkshire	8
1964	Willow Green Farm, Frosterly, Weardale	8
	Senior Troop on Continental camping tour	15
1965	Kings Meaburn, Appleby, Westmoreland	10
1966	Glassomby Beck Farm, Glassomby, Cumberland	8
1967	No Annual Camp	
1968	Kings Meaburn, Appleby, Westmoreland	10
1969	Caldburgh, Coverdale, nr. Middleham, Yorkshire	8
1970	Glassomby Beck Farm, Glassomby, Cumberland	8
1971	Kings Meaburn, Appleby, Westmoreland	8
1972	Caldburgh, Coverdale, nr. Middleham, Yorkshire	8
1973	Bedburn, Hamsterly, Co. Durham	8
1974	Kings Meaburn, Appleby, Westmoreland	8

The Whitsuntide camp was always a four day camp, being very well attended, this trend in the Troop, coupled with the Easter Camp of four days, as well as numerous weekend camps, was the main attraction of the Troop and Group for most of its 60 years.

One method of calculating was a MAN/NIGHT (one person camping for 1 night). If one takes into account badge test journeys as well as all camps, records show that during many years the 8th had more than 500 MAN/NIGHTS camping per year in the Troop alone.

APPENDIX 5

CHURCHES AND CLERGY IN COCKERTON FROM 1915

<u>METHODIST</u>	Original Church built in 1823, existing Church built in 1875. There were Ministers from 1902 to 1905, with Lay preachers before that period and after, until 1925
1925-1929	Rev Edward J Prentice
1929-1931	Rev Arthur Whitmore
1931-1937	Rev G Arnold West
1937-1941	Rev John Wilson Horswill
1941-1945	Rev Alfred Easton
1945-1948	Rev Harold Hind
1948-1954	Rev Hector R Stafford
1954-1957	Rev Wilfred Martland
1957-1963	Rev Dan Hunter
1963-1969	Rev James W Errington
1969-1975	Rev Peter T Jones
<u>ST. MARY'S</u>	Original Church in Church of England School built on Green in 1925, existing Church built in 1901. The Vicar and Curates of Holy Trinity (of which Cockerton was a Parish) conducted services before 1925
1925-1934	Rev Joseph Williams
1934-1953	Rev Joseph Porteous
1953-1961	Rev John F Walker
1961-1965	Rev Harold Saxby
1965-1970	Rev Harold Hall
1970-1975	Rev Michael P Kent
<u>HOLY FAMILY</u>	Original Church in Holy Family School built 1924, existing Church built in 1960. Parish conducted from St Augustine's previous to 1924, (of which Cockerton was a Parish)
1924-1934	Rev Father McCluskey
1934-1957	Rev Father Avery
1957-1975	Rev Father White
<u>UNITED METHODIST</u>	Original Church built in 1873, closed in 1932 on Methodist Unity. Lay preachers at services

This appendix has been compiled to allow reference to the area within Cockerton, from which most of the boys from the 8th Group came, though many addresses are from other parts of the town and even the outskirts. Six or seven different faiths have in fact passed through the ranks of the group in 60 years, when many other Churches must have been associated with the Group as an 'OPEN' Scout Group.

APPENDIX 6

LAY OFFICIALS OF THE GROUP - REGISTERED NUMBERS OF THE GROUP

The 8th Group has always had a supporting body of Lay Helpers within its organisation. There is no doubt that it could never have achieved what it has achieved in 60 years without the support and backing from the Lay Workers. Although no actual Committee was formulated from 1915 to 1939, Mrs C Pawson and her ladies worked for many years to the betterment of the Group.

The Group Parents Committee was formed in November 1950, being renamed Group Committee in 1954, when other than parents were members. Then in October 1967 it became known as the Group Council with the implementation of the new rules.

<u>CHAIRMEN:</u>	1950-1963	Mr L D Williamson
	1963-1966	Mr F A Beadle
	1966-1968	Elected at meetings
	1968-1972	Mr G Auld
	1972-1975	Mr G Luhrs

<u>SECRETARIES:</u>	1950-1957	Mrs V Rowling
	1957-1963	Mr T Harrison
	1963-1968	Mr G Auld
	1968-1974	Mr R Bennett
	1974-1975	Mr K Foster

<u>TREASURERS:</u>	1951-1961	Mrs V Rowling
	1961-1962	Mr J Dinsdale
	1963-1963	Mr A Wilson
	1963-1964	Mr J Dinsdale
	1964-1968	Mr C H Hunter
	1968-1969	Mr J Minto
	1969-1973	Mr E R Thomas
	1973-1975	Mr N Petch

To list all the adults who have served on the Group Committee would be far too complicated. Some for 1 year others for more than 10 years, several for more than 15 years. Those who have received the Scout Association THANKS BADGE are as follows:-

Mrs C W Pawson	also:
Mrs V Rowling	Mr & Mrs W Pounder of
Mr J Baister	Hunger Hill Farm.
Mrs G Webster	

REGISTERED NUMBERS OF SECTIONS AND THE 8TH DARLINGTON GROUP

Scout Troop	Imperial Registration No	1915 to 1928	1015
Cub Pack	Imperial Registration No	1916 to 1928	479
Scout Group	Imperial Registration No	1928 to date	2443

The word (COCKERTON) in brackets, was added at the request of the Group Scouters Meeting in May 1951, being officially endorsed by Scout Headquarters, London.

APPENDIX 7

MEETING PLACES USED BY THE GROUP DURING THE 60 YEARS FROM 1915

1915-1922	Brick built Methodist Schoolroom hut, Ashton Terrace, previous to present day two storey building.
1922-1923	Harrison's Laundry, situated to the rear of No 39 and 39a Cockerton Green. Also Williamson's Farm.
1923-1929	Troop HQ in hut bought from Royal Flying Corps, Catterick and erected on land to rear of Methodist hut, Ashton Terrace.
1929-1930	Cockerton Church of England School in centre of Green, also at Williamson's Farm, during building of present day Methodist Halls.
1930-1939	New Methodist Halls, Ashton Terrace
1940-1941	Alderman Leach School classroom during summer, various places at other times.
1941-1946	Cockerton Church of England School in centre of Green, occasionally at Cockerton Primary School, Newton Lane. Equipment stored at 55 Cockerton Green
1946-1966	Methodist Halls, Ashton Terrace. Equipment store to rear of hall. 1948-1950 Troop Den rear of 47 Cockerton Green. 1949-1951 Rover Den 39 and 39a Cockerton Green. 1950-1957 Troop Den 80 Cockerton Green only. 1957-1967 No 80 and 82 became Group property, occupants in No 82 until late 1966 Senior Scout Troop met in 3 rd St Mary's Group hut, Stoopersdale Avenue during 1962. Other places used from time to time include Residents Hall in Bowen Road, St Mary's Parish Hall, Holy Family School, hut at Bussey and Armstrongs
1967-1975	All meetings in Group HQ 80-82 Cockerton Green

There are many places not listed above where storage space for Group Equipment has been generously loaned, these include the Farm originally at 13 Cockerton Green, at No 76, 101 and to the rear of houses at No 79, also in rooms at No 69.

It can be seen therefore that the Group has met on or around Cockerton Green during the entire 60 years.

APPENDIX 8

DISTRICT GANG SHOW PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE 8TH GROUP

Due to the great difficulty in finding programmes for shows up to 25 years ago, also fitting faces to names, there may be one or two errors or omissions in the appendix. Apology offered in advance.

1949

23rd-28th May

F Beadle
M Scarr
R Longstaff
K Roberts

1950

15th-20th May

F Beadle
E Bell
D Clapton
E Easthill
K Gibbon
D Leech
J Morgan
A Morgan
M Scarr
J Witty

1952

19th-24th May

D Allinson
F Beadle
J Beadle
S Bowes
J Clapton
A Dobson
I Emmerson
K Gibbon
T Hobson
T Hoare
J Hutchinson
J Hunter
R Lilley
J Morgan
C Robson
E Ross
J Storey
R Watson
J Witty

1973 (names across the page)

12th-17th March

M Greaves L Jaques
T McCann S Wright

1954

F Beadle
J Beadle
A Dobson
I Emerson
T Hobson
M Milner
A Milner
D Neilson
K Omerod
B Smith
A Wilson

1956

19th-24th March

J Baker
F Beadle
M Gaskin
G Hill
P Hardy
A Hindmarsh
K McLean
B Smith

1959

9th-14th March

F Beadle
L Campbell
A James
D Johnson
J Wetherill

1961

13th- 19th March

J Banham
F Beadle
B Deighton
A Dinsdale
G Elliot
D Rowley
J Wetherill

1963

11th-16th March

A Auld
B Blair
K Blair
T Foggin
E Greaves
P Greaves
K Mahon
J Wetherill

1965

15th-20th March

T Allen
M Armitage
M Dixon
T Foggin
P Harpin
J Irwin
D Johnson
J Marriner
R Rejewski
J Watson
K Wilkinson
M Younghusband

1971

29th Mar-3rd April

F Beadle
M Harrison
P Lucas
K Morgan
J Newton
R Laycock
M Pearson
N Simpson
A Timothy
R Weston
D Wilkinson
S Wormald
G Willans

F Beadle
K Morgan
D Harrison

D Hill
R Wilkinson
R Laycock

W Leeman
J Harris
A Nevison

R Pigg
P Lineker

1975

List of cast for this show not yet complete at this time

SUMMARY by the AUTHOR

The reasons for the publication of this book are few. Over the past 35 years I have been with the 8th all kinds of notes, information, photographs, log and minute books have come into my possession. It appeared to be quite selfish to retain all this, to display part of it, now and again, on some suitable occasion.

The idea of writing a history of the 8th Group probably originated several years ago. However when Tommy Harrison passed away in 1968, I was given the Scouting items from his home, the most important of these was the Troop Minutes book from 1915 together with other books up to the year 1941, including Ray Pawson's personal Log Book of the 1930's as GSM. Having the attendance registers for most years since each section of the Group was first commenced, the original Minutes book decided the issue for me, when in 1972 I commenced the project.

The details were first amassed in chronological order, with Leslie Williamson filling most of the information gaps in early years, his fantastic memory has been a great help in getting the first part into note form. After this I again typed it into readable narrative ready for the typist, who knew nothing of Scouting previously, though has been much enlightened since!

Regarding the illustrations, these have been specifically arranged to include as many faces as possible, also to allow a fair representation of different periods. It would have been quite easy to include over 100 illustrations but cost governed this. The lack of prints during the last war justifies the reconstructed photograph on page 81.

A further good reason for the book, was to let those who were members in the early years, see that things have in fact progressed since their time, and conversely to allow present day members to realise what tradition and background the Group has always had, through the enthusiasm of their predecessors.

The final reason is that the story of the 8th is now under one cover and dispersed around the world, instead of being confined to my attic and the Group Headquarters bookshelves, or the long memories of various old scouts.

It is a story of fun, dismay, sunshine, lost socks, rainy days, hard work, unselfish service, aching feet, meditation, skill, the smell of canvas and beeswax, the ring of an axe, the aroma of bacon, the twinkling of fires at dusk, the horny hand of a PL, anxious moments, burnt custard, the pitter patter of rain, wood smoke, laughs, seriousness, the morning dew, reverence, cold hills, comradeship, British bulldog, lifelong pals, green hills, wide games and muddy becks. It is all these and dozens more, it is the story of the 8th.

F A Beadle