

REFLECTIONS ON SCOUTING Then and Now! by Fred Newall

How it all started!

I have been a member of the Scouting Association for 47 years.

Why? - because I have found that Scouting is addictive.

I must admit I think its standards are not what they were - the training was first class and brought people together - but now it's so easy to do in isolation, at home, on a computer!

The Leaders and most people who help Scouts seem to be exceptional.

I remember driving home from work when I came across two elderly ladies, one climbing a lamp post the other one giving the first lady a leg up. They were putting up a notice for our Jumble Sale! These ladies helped me to raise money to send Scouts to a Japanese Jamboree - a fantastic experience for these Scouts.

Scouting has systems to stretch the abilities of the Scouts, such as the Chief Scouts Award, which applies to Beavers (6-8 years) Cubs (8-10½ years) Scouts (10½-14½ years) Explorers (14½-18 years) and onwards - a difficult award to get!

There is also the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



One thing about Scouting is its ability to draw people together in a united purpose.

When we went to Germany - I was at the time the Assistant Scout Leader - the Leader had phoned and booked most of the Camp from England. We set out in our own 40 seater coach which we took turns driving (you can't do that any more!), arriving at the German Border at around 2am. The Border official was, we thought, a copy of a fellow who had not long ago been Germany's Leader, his gun (although holstered) we were made aware of. He could not stop us as we had several letters of introduction - but he confiscated all our money! We drove to our camp site wondering what we would do - 14 days without money would surely be a problem! We needn't have worried - the Germans stepped in with their incredible hospitality - a free night in a Youth Hostel opposite the Lorrilie on the Rhine, a Barbecue, a football match where we lent them one of our Scouts so they could have a full team - and he scored the winning goal - for the Germans!



It ended up as one of our best camps ever, specially at the Border where the Official had to apologise and gave us all our money back - so we had almost 14 days Camp, free! We met and made many friends.

As we were leaving the coach was stopped and we were given copies of their daily newspaper - we were on the front page!



Origin: German
Meaning: "Luring Rock" or
"Alluring Enchantress"
Usage: #501 in 2013

Lorelei

About: The name of a rock on the Rhine River upon which a siren sits, according to German legends.



REFLECTIONS ON SCOUTING - *The Here and Now!*

Coming to Wales, for an Easter Camp in Penybontfawr (in our by now old Coach), the coach ended its days on the M6 in Birmingham. As we had booked ahead with people in Penybontfawr, a phone call was made explaining to them what had happened and we were not charged anything. We were towed off the M6 - I was Leader now - so what to do? Find a Church? This we did - the Church cancelled its Choir Practice and we slept in their hall. The Church found Scouts who helped us to get to a Scout Camp Site from where we were transported home. And, by the way, the weather was foul - snow, sleet, wind. The Scouts? They didn't ever think there was a problem!

I came to live in Llanrhaeadr in 1984. I don't know how, but my Scouting past preceded me! One day, just after I arrived, there was a knock on the door; two lads were there - "Was I going to start Scouts here?" How could I refuse!

I found that the Rev'd Chitty had run a group and Brian Stanton had continued it. I contacted the Montgomery Scout Officials - and with the help of the Fox and Williams families, Robert Valor and a few others we got started - with trips to York, Dublin and a joint trip to London with the Guides (who were in the Village and run by Mrs Pashen). Small camps were enjoyed and we were quite successful. I started to ease off, other Leaders came and a trip to Switzerland was run.

Unfortunately things started to tail off mainly through the lack of Leaders but, after a lot of hard work and commitment we now have our own H.Q. (rented from the British Legion) and our Executive Council is now stronger than it has ever been,

What we need now is Leaders and Committee members to help and support the present Committee, and 'Friends' to run the Group and maintain the hall.

Our one disappointment is that our Explorer Section has had to close - the 14½ to 18 group - because of the absence of Leaders - and we would love to see this resurrected, that the Scouts be enabled to continue their Scouting and generate the future Leaders to continue the magnificent vision of Baden Powell when he founded the movement.

What has always surprised me is that this Village has an enormous range of activities and the Community are always being asked to help this or that organisation, but they all seem to operate with a degree of independence. Where is the spark that would unite all of these efforts, draw the Community together and add to the weight of their success?



Scouting is all over the World. I think there are only six countries that do not have Scouts and the USA have their own version. We are encouraged to have anyone and everyone in Scouts, no matter their race, religion or ability. Our founder, Baden Powell, had a brilliant idea - We need to ensure that it continues long into the future.

Fred Newall, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant Group Scout Leader PS: Who can you recognise in the photos?

