



News and Views for Scouting in Gloucestershire
July 2021





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Gloucestershire Scouting on the Water Website <http://activities.gscouts.org.uk>

Have you seen our new GScouts website yet? Go to www.gscouts.org.uk

If you want to print this magazine, it can be presented in A4 or as an A5 booklet.



Editorial

In most of the last year, face-to-face Scouting has only been possible in the open, if at all. I know what a strain this has been on all our Leaders and I am proud to have witnessed the supreme efforts you have made to keep the show on the road,. One off the

few duties I have had to undertake as Chair of Cotswold Vale District is the scrutiny of Risk Assessments and I am greatly impressed at the amount of work all of our Leaders have put in and the detail to which they have paid attention in ensuring all involved remain safe, yet are able to enjoy the excitement of the event. It is disappointing, however, that I have received for this magazine only a miniscule amount reflecting what has actually been done. Not a single picture! It would have been nice to advertise it. In spite of particularly asking the entire County Team, including all seven DCs, for copy, just seven of the 32 pages have originated from the County. The remaining 25 pages have either been written by myself or copied from sources outside.

Copy date for the next edition will be Monday, 11th October.

Squirrels

Announcing Squirrels this month. From 20 July, you might start to see news about Squirrels, as we look for funders and partners to help us reach underrepresented communities. To take a look at our new addition to the family, keep your eyes peeled for a members' email on 20 July, where we'll share the brand, uniform and badges.

Don't worry: it's still optional to start Squirrels. We think about 100 sections will start this September, with the majority in England. We're working closely with Nations on their plans. If people show interest, our website will let them know provision is limited and waiting lists aren't open yet. In the meantime, we'll encourage them to volunteer with us or select another section which may be of interest too.

Promise To The Planet

You don't have to be a scientist to know that climate change is a big deal. As Scouts, we're committed to finding a global solution because we're led by young people – and they know whose future is at stake.



From June to November this year, 57 million Scouts from across the world will take a stand and work towards a better world by taking action to reduce climate change. They'll get hands-on to make a difference wherever they live, use their voices to inspire decision makers, and record their actions for the planet. This campaign will help us work towards a number of Sustainable Development Goals, including: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water and Life On Land - to find out more, head over to the Scouts for SDGs website.

From the CC

Hi once again

I'm really enjoying reading about,, and hearing about, all of the amazing experiences that you are continuing to provide for young people across the County. It truly is inspiring, I love seeing posts on Social media. It is clear that many of you have done some amazing work and there are so many sections and units meeting face to face, it has amazed me how well we are bouncing back.

Mary wrote to me to tell me that Rodborough Beavers recently built a fantastic "Beaver lodge" where all of the Colony were able to get inside. It look strully amazing – Well done Rodborough Beavers!



Everyone I talk to is saying that young people are coming back in their droves, and this is fantastic to hear about, but it also highlights in a great many communities that we are missing a number of adults to truly enable everyone who wants to get involved.

You no doubt will have seen some of the work that is going on nationally to demonstrate how Scouting is #GoodForYou in the aim of attracting new volunteer members so that we can continue to deliver, support and enable inspiring programmes for more and more young people.

If you are interested in how you can help grow your volunteer teams, there are some absolutely fantastic resources on the Scouts website that can and will help you attract and recruit volunteers. Take a look at them at www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/ready-to-recruit/



Compliance and training

You may remember that last September, the rules changed in regard to how frequently our Safety and Safeguarding training needs to be updated. We now need to complete these every three years, and for very many of us our renewal date will be the **30th September 2021**.

Can I ask all of you to check your own Compass record and check when your training expires? If it expires on or before the 30th September, please plan to complete it before this date, so that you remain in date. If you are unsure, please speak to your GSL / DESC or Local Training Manager.

Please do what you can to ensure we keep Scouting in Gloucestershire #safescouting. You can find the information you need to help you at www.gscouts.org.uk/training

Nights away are back!

You will hopefully have all seen that now we have moved to a YELLOW Readiness level, we can run Residential experiences. This for many will be fantastic and welcome news. You no doubt have read the information at Scouts.org.uk and understand the information. As a reminder here are some key points:

You must be 25m away from any other Groups or Sections. (This is the Event Leader's responsibility to ensure).

Maximum of 6 people per sleeping space (tent or indoors)

Maximum of 30 young people plus required volunteers (including Young Leaders).

For adult only groups – maximum of 6.

Social distancing and good hygiene.

Lateral flow testing required prior to departure, every 48-72hrs during the experience and on return for over 12s.

Usual rules for Nights Away apply:

You must have a Nights Away Permit holder.

All adults must have DBS, Safety & Safeguarding and must be named on the NAN form.

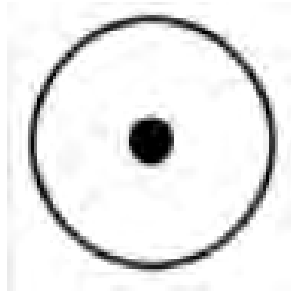
You must submit a Nights Away Notification Form – you can use nan.gscouts.org.uk

You must submit your NAN form in good time for your DC to review, approve and inform you before departure. Please allow time for amendments and talk to your DC for timeframes.

You are also required to submit a full Risk Assessment to the DC for approval, which must include how you are protecting against Covid-19. (You do not need to do a separate Risk Assessment for Covid which you would usually submit via the Smartsheet).

Please submit your Risk Assessment and NAN form as soon as you can, because unless this is approved, you cannot undertake your Residential experience. The earlier you submit your Risk Assessment and NAN, the more time there is to make necessary amendments in time for the activity to happen.





Gone Home

We have sadly to report the passing of a respected Leader, **Tony Sollis**, on April 22nd. He was known by many around the County for his kindness and knowledge, his ability as a Leader and his friendship to all who knew him. His Scouting Career spanned 40 years.

Tony's first Leader appointment was in the Scout section in 1979. He was ADC Scouts from 1999 to 2007, and continued his service as District Scouter until 2020, during which he was County Training Advisor for six years. He supported the County in running Expedition and Survival Skills weekends and in International Scouting, particularly with Danish Scouts and at the Haarlem Jamborette in the Netherlands.

He was also Acting Group Scout Leader for six years and remained a Member of Scout Active Support until he passed away. He received the Silver Acorn in 2014. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

In May we lost another long-serving Leader, **Patric Day**, GSL of the 1st Berkeley. Pat served Scouting for 49 years. He was the holder of a Bar to the Award for Merit. Two members of his family are also Leaders in the 1st Berkeley.

Pat helped to revive Scouting in Berkeley. With three others, he started a Troop in September 1972 with about 20 boys in the Old School in Canonbury Street. With a lot of help from parents and support from the people of the town, enough money was raised to build the Scouts their own Headquarters at Park View and it was officially opened in 1981. Today the hall is used by Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, together with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, and also by a Yoga and Extended Fitness group.

As a boy, Pat played rugby and was selected for Bristol School Boys XV. As a Scout, he gained his First Class badge and Scout Cord. He went initially into farming, then joined Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories, where he became Health Physics Technical Officer. He served the community in several ways, was well loved and will be missed by all.

From an Ordnance Survey advertisement:

Mel Nicholls, historical walk in Tewkesbury



"One of my favourite lockdown adventures was filled with history and heritage, as well as battle and beauty. Beginning at Tewkesbury Abbey, my route took me back in time to the 1471 Battle of Tewkesbury, where the Lancastrian army of 6000 men laid defence against advancing Yorkists, some 5000-6000 strong. My adventure also took me through Tewkesbury Park, the place that the House of Lancaster was ultimately defeated and via the 'Bloody Meadow'. The route finished back at the Abbey where hundreds of soldiers sought sanctuary, and where many Lancastrians are buried, including Edward, Prince of Wales and Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset."



Badge Course News

Module A

This is the mandatory course all Young Leaders need to do. The module has been revised and includes all essential information needed before starting as a Young Leader. Meetings will take place on Tuesdays at Cranham. They will run under tight social distancing guidelines which have been approved by the County and with much smaller numbers.

Please complete the attached [application form](#) [right click/open link]

Canal Weekend



Friday/Sunday 24th/26th September. A weekend on narrowboats on the Grand Union Canal. You learn to steer the boat and work the locks. Badges awarded: Scouts **Power Coxswain**; Explorers **Water Activities**. Transport included, **£80. There are 16 places on this course.** (*A course for Leaders is run in February & March*). Read what we did last time [HERE](#). For water activities Scouts must be able to swim 50 metres in clothing and keep afloat for 5 minutes (POR Rule 9.42a). [Application form](#) **Please do not pay yet, in case we have to cancel the weekend due to Covid restrictions. We will let you know when to pay.**

Discover Scuba Diving

Scuba diving is back!



Fed up with all your fun activities cancelled due to Covid? Why not join the Octopus Scuba Unit for an hour in the pool trying a new skill – scuba diving. It is a taster session which, if you like it, can then be followed up with us to become a qualified scuba diver and more. Once qualified the world outside Scouts would then be your oyster – Great Barrier

Reef, Caribbean, Red Sea etc.

Our Discover Scuba Diving sessions are always popular and oversubscribed (last month we advertised one and have had to book two additional dates to deal with all the requests). They take place in a local swimming pool, so you won't have too far to travel. If you are interested, fill out the booking form and send it with the **£29 fee**. As soon as there are enough applications, we will arrange a session – if the date doesn't work out for you, we just keep you on file for the next date – and so on!

Use this [booking form](#)

2021

Once it is safe to do so we hope to run many courses this year:

- *Scout Air Weekend*
- *Canal Weekend: September*
- *Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) Weekend: October*
- *Caving Weekend: December*
- *Module A:* Once each term (or more often if required)
- *Scuba events* (Discover Scuba Try Dives and much more)
- *Mechanics Badge*

Other courses may have to wait until 2022.

Paddy Langham

Gloucestershire Scouts Badge Course Coordinator

Why volunteering is Good For You

Click [HERE](#) to hear about recruiting more adult leaders from our Chief Commissioner Tim Kidd with a special message from Bear Grylls.

Scuba Diving Report

The last weekend in June saw the Octopus scuba program restart with a vengeance. On the Saturday, a mixture of seven Scouts and Explorers started their, twice Covid-delayed, Open Water qualification course with a three-hour training session in the pool. As they came out, in went another ten doing their Covid-delayed Discover Scuba Diving 1-hour taster session.

The Sunday saw the intrepid seven Open Water candidates head to the Swindon dive school for a five-hour theory and exam session. They still have one exam to take and four Open Water training and assessment dives to make. All being well they will complete their qualification in mid-July - just in time for what could have been a summer of swimming delight, but Covid has seen to that, hasn't it?



The 2022 programme is just being finalised and will be circulated to Octopus members shortly.

Paddy's Scouting History

Scouting is Fun for adults too — it all began at 1st Hanworth, Middlesex.

It's sixty years since I started in Scouting in the autumn of 1960. I was just seventeen and I don't think the local Troop knew quite what to do with me. There were no Young Leaders in those days, so I just wore the uniform of a Scout. My first Troop was 1st Hanworth and met in an infant school.

I was invested in January 1961. In those days, investiture was taken very seriously, not only did I have to learn the Scout Promise but the Scout Laws (all ten of them) and several knots as well.

Uniform was a khaki shirt and shorts, a yellow necker, a leather belt with sheath knife, a green beret, and khaki socks with green garter tabs. Sue, our ASM Peter's fiancée, once dressed up in my uniform. She looked better in it than I did.

In the summer we moved down the road to meet in an old tithe barn in the grounds of Hanworth Rectory. The barn had been used by the Scouts for many years and still had the old patrol names on the walls. The site was ideal, with lots of land where we could light fires and build bivvies. We had to be careful as the barn was in a very poor condition; the Scouts were told not to come to the Alert for flag break too vigorously, in case the roof collapsed.



First Aid Competition

That summer I trained up a first aid team for a local competition. There were teams from the Church Lads Brigade, Guides, other Scout Troops and St. John's Cadets. We won!

'Gunga' was the Scout Master with Peter S his ASM. There were three patrols. The boys wore berets (not Scout hats) and carried staves. Most of them cycled to meetings with the stave lashed to their crossbar. When Scouts met for the first time each day, they made the Scout Sign to each other.

Paddy receiving the certificate Subs were 6d a week. That's 2½p in new money!

My first camps were at Walton Firs, an HQ site. I think I must have travelled there as pillion on Gunga's motor scooter. I did not own a tent, so the Troop lent me one. It was the size of a hike tent but made of heavy canvas, with two 'rustic' poles (just straight cuts of tree branches with a nail in the top). There was no groundsheet, and the door did not fasten properly either. Things have changed a lot since those days! Tins were disposed of by 'Burn, Bash and Bury'. A hole was dug and marked with a cross made of sticks. I found the campfire on Saturday evening fascinating, when the whole camp gathered. On Sunday

Morning, we all gathered again for Scouts Own. This was held in the camp chapel. As they entered, Scouts handed in their sheath knives and collected them at the end.

For Summer Camp that year we went to Gilwell Park. Two things happened in the camp which I remember well: Firstly, we were visited by the Chief Scout, Sir Charles MacLean, who visited all those in camp. We also had a Scout fall ill and need medical attention. Gilwell had two Rover Crews at the time and medical aid came in the form of a member of the Barnacle Hospital Crew. More of the BHC later.

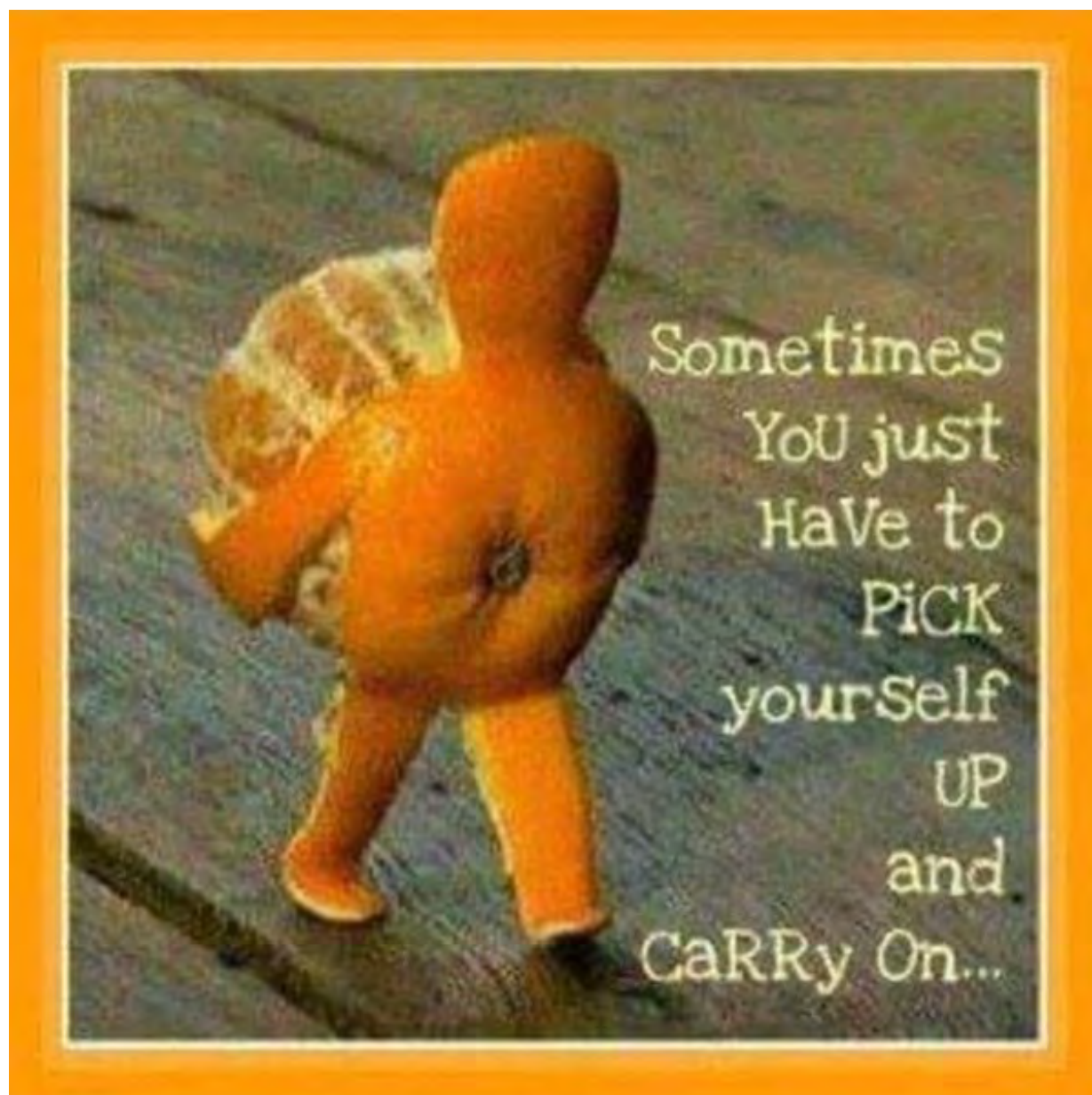
There was a District Gang Show that year and I dressed up as Gracie Fields, in a long sequined dress and wig. I sang 'Doh Ray Me'. Sorry no photo!

By the autumn, I had attended a Leader training course and come back with lots of new ideas. Too many ideas, and it was agreed that I should help run the Cub Pack instead. My first warrant was therefore as Assistant Cub Master, when I was just eighteen. I ended up running the Pack for two years. The Cubs wore navy blue jerseys and yellow neckers and looked like the 7th Calvary. We had more helpers with the Pack than there were Scouts in the Troop!

At this time I joined the Feltham District Rover Crew. Our leader was Bob M and he devised a very impressive investiture ceremony. Firstly came a vigil in St George's Church on Saturday evening, with Gunga keeping me company as my sponsor. On Sunday morning came the investiture in a Scout HQ. There were candles, flags and only Rovers allowed to be present. I now added green epaulettes, a red, green and yellow shoulder knot and red garter tabs to my uniform.

Paddy Langham





Champagne and vaccines among the amazing things Gloucestershire has given the world

From **GloucestershireLive**, May 2021 by Maisie Lillywhite

00:01, 9 MAY 2021

Gloucestershire is the birthplace of many spectacular things.

Although it may feel as though we live in the middle of nowhere sometimes, life as we know it would be quite different if Gloucestershire did not exist. From friendly breeds of [sheep](#) to ethereal musicians, Gloucestershire has been the birthplace of many things we know and love today.

Without Gloucestershire, **vaccines** would not be rolling out across the world to prevent the spread of **Covid-19**, and Americans would have a very different sounding national anthem.

Here are thirty inventions, discoveries, people, and animals, all hailing from Gloucestershire.

Vaccines

It's common knowledge that the concept of inoculation was conjured up by a certain doctor from Berkeley - and it's an amazing thing to reflect on, now that millions of people across the world are getting their Covid vaccines.

Jenner invented the vaccine in 1796, when he scraped fluid from a cowpox blister and scratched it onto the skin of his gardener's son, James Phipps, who then developed immunity to the disease.

Champagne

This may come as a bit of a shock, as many have been led to believe that it was French monk Dom Perignon in 1697 who pioneered the sparkling wine. But this 'new invention' made Winchcombe residents scoff, as scientist Christopher Merrett from the Cotswold town first chronicled "how to put the fizz into sparkling wine" 35 years earlier.

Horlicks

Horlicks was invented by brothers James and William Horlick, who hailed from the Forest of Dean village of Ruardean, and experimented in the granary in the village, mixing fresh milk with wort - a liquid extracted from malted barley wheat in the brewing process. When this mixture was reduced to granules by the brothers in a copper bain-marie, the malted drink was born.

The tune for the USA's national anthem

John Stafford Smith was born in Gloucester, and is best known for writing 'The Anacreontic Song', which later became the tune for 'The Star-Spangled Banner' - the national anthem for the United States of America. Smith was baptised at Gloucester Cathedral in March 1750, and was the organist at the Three Choirs Festival in the city in 1790.

Jerusalem

The official hymn of the England and Wales Cricket Board was composed by Hubert Parry, who spent his childhood years at Highnam Court - his family home. He composed the gradually swelling tune, before laying it beneath William Blake's poem 'And did those feet in ancient time'.

The poem 'Invictus'

Gloucester native William Henley was born in the city in August 1849, and was educated at The Crypt School. Not only was he a poet, but Henley was the inspiration for Long John Silver in Treasure Island.

Vacuum cleaner

Hubert Cecil Booth of St Michael's Square, Gloucester, is credited with the creation of one of the first powered vacuum cleaners. Prior to Booth's invention, rotary carpet cleaners, rather unhygienically, blew dust away, rather than sucking it up. Booth tested the idea of a vacuum cleaner, which stored dust inside it, by putting a handkerchief upon a chair, putting his mouth to the handkerchief, and then sucking up the dust through the handkerchief, before marvelling at the dust it had collected.

The Ferris wheel

Although initially designed by Chicago native, Mr George Washington Gale Ferris, Booth helped bring the magic of the fairground this side of the pond, when he redesigned the Ferris wheel.

Astronomical revelations

Born in Sherborne, James Bradley is the brainiac who discovered the aberration of light and the nutation of the Earth's axis. Bradley worked as an astronomer and a priest, before retiring to Chalford. He passed away in 1762, and was buried in Minchinhampton.

Space age and experimental pop music

Joe Meek was born in Market Square, Newent, and became one of the first music producers to fully grasp and exploit the capabilities of the modern music studio. Meek cared more for finding a unique sound, than curating songs that would get him on the charts during his career.

FKA Twigs

On the topic of unique sound pioneers, the modern day artist of many mediums, FKA Twigs, hails from Cheltenham. Born Tahliah Debrett Barnett, Twigs is not only a master of the arts when it comes to delivering powerful vocals and making genre-bending music, but has plenty of unconventional yet impressive skills to add to her artistic CV, including Wushu and contortionism.

Gustav Holst

Another musical talent from Cheltenham, Holst was born in the town in 1874. A composer

of many choral songs, cycles and operas, his orchestral works 'The Planets' and 'St. Paul's Suite' are amongst his more renowned works, and Holst has a statue dedicated to him in Imperial Gardens.

EMF

This alternative rock band rose to prominence at the start of the 1990s, but was known in the local music scene before this, having formed in the Forest of Dean town of Cinderford. Their debut single 'Unbelievable' reached number three on the UK Singles Chart.

Harry Potter

Author JK Rowling was born in Yate, Gloucestershire, and went to school in the county, too. She drew inspiration from Gloucestershire within the books, naming the Dursley family after one of the county's market towns and hiding one of the horcruxes in the Forest of Dean.

Cider with Rosie

Author Laurie Lee shed light on his country childhood in Slad with the release of 'Cider with Rosie' in 1959. The novel has sold millions of copies worldwide, and has been adapted into multiple TV dramatizations and a radio version.

The Tailor of Gloucester

Beatrix Potter went to stay at Harescombe Grange, her cousin's home, which sat five miles south of Gloucester, in May 1894. It was during her visit that she sat in College Court and drew a particular building - now The Tailor of Gloucester Museum. Many of Beatrix's sketches of the city were published in 1903, in her book 'The Tailor of Gloucester'.

The translation of the Bible into English

William Tyndale of Stinchcombe is praised for being the reason we are able to read and understand the Bible. But translating the Christian holy book into English is not the only thing he can be credited for, as Tyndale coined many phrases used today, including 'sign of the times' and 'let there be light'.

Shorthand

Sir Isaac Pitman, a former resident of Wotton-under-Edge, is credited with inventing the Pitman system of shorthand. Although the Teeline system is now the most popular form of shorthand in the UK, Pitman used to be the most common.

The rotary mower

Patented in 1830 by Edward Budding, of Thrupp, the invention of the rotary mower made cutting grass less of a chore, and was inspired by machines used to trim cloth.

The adjustable spanner

Budding's creativity didn't limit itself to the concept of the rotary mower, as the Stroud native also invented the adjustable spanner.

Sunday Schools

William King suggested to Robert Raikes, Editor of the Gloucester Journal, the idea of opening a Sunday School. Raikes gathered public support for the institution after writing an article in the newspaper. The schools were open on Sundays as this was the only day of the week they could be used for free to teach basic reading, writing and arithmetic, skills reading, writing and arithmetic skills

The Royal College of Psychiatrists

12 Horton Road, Gloucester became the site of one of the first psychiatric hospitals in the world in 1812, owned by The Royal College of Psychiatrists. The organisation held its inaugural meeting at the Gloucester branch, and held its 150th conference there shortly before closing in 1987.

Hammock seat bicycles

The brainchild of Danish inventor Mikael Pedersen, the Pedersen bicycle features a distinctive hammock-style saddle. Pedersen's firm fell into financial difficulty, and died without his bicycle reaching popularity. Ripped off by investors, Pedersen died in poverty in Denmark, before being reinterred in Dursley - the town his design finally gained popularity in.

A set for Star Wars and Merlin

Puzzlewood in Coleford is home to some unique, mossy rock formations you won't find anywhere else in the county. Rife with history, the mysterious woodlands have been used for many fantasy and sci-fi productions, including Star Wars, Merlin, and Doctor Who.

Gloucester Cattle

One of the rarest native cattle breeds, Gloucester Cattle, can be found grazing just outside Gloucester City Centre, on Alney Island. Sadly, the breed has recently been highlighted as one at risk of going extinct.

Gloucester Old Spot Pigs

White with clearly defined black spots, the Gloucester Old Spot is recognised as the oldest spotted pedigree of pig in the world. The Prince of Wales and Princess Royal keep Gloucester Old Spots on their Gloucestershire estates.

Cotswold Lion Sheep

Perceived to be calm and friendly, the Cotswold Lion sheep were used heavily for their wool between the Norman Conquest and the 16th century. Their wool was known as 'Golden Fleece', and was regarded an important export.

The Wheatstone bridge

Not the name of a bridge crossing the Severn, but a device used to measure electronic resistance accurately. Without the Wheatstone bridge, the electronic telegraph would not exist.

Unitarianism

John Biddle headed The Crypt School in the 1640s, and wrote his thesis in Southgate Street, in which he detailed his view that there was no Holy Trinity - just God. When Cromwell came into power, Biddle lost his job, and was banished to the Scilly Isles.

Reforms to the prison system

Disgusted by the conditions in British prisons, Robert Raikes, Sir George Onesiphorus Paul and John Howard conducted a newspaper campaign in the Gloucester Journal, and Gloucester Gaol was erected as a result in 1791, as one of the nation's new prisons.

Cam's historic stone stiles recorded

Gazette. 2nd May 2021

By [Matty Airey](#) @matty_gaz Reporter



A NEW survey has been completed of the 19 historic stone stiles that can be found in Cam.

The review is an update of an earlier study carried out in 2007 and includes an extra stone stile found at Jubilee Playing Field.

John Fowles carried out the survey between November 2020 and April 2021 to update the earlier report carried out by Cam Wildlife Group 15-years ago. Both reports, and the Stone Stiles Walk leaflet produced by Cam Wildlife Group and Stroud Valley's Project in 2007, can be found on the Cam Parish Council website.

In his report John says the same stone appears to have been used for all the stiles and is probably limestone from the former quarry at Woodfield.

He adds: "The purpose of the stiles is unknown and an investigation of the Berkeley Estate records produced no information on them. One theory is that the area was widely used for sheep to provide wool for the local industry so it's possible that the stone stiles were used to prevent sheep getting through stiles on public footpaths."

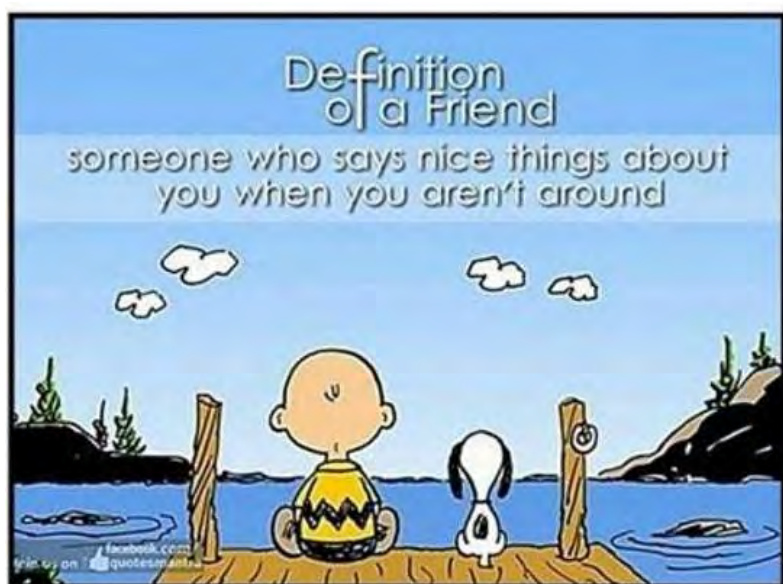
During the survey, an extra stone stile was discovered in an overgrown hedge in the corner of Jubilee Playing Field. The stone is broken in two but both halves are vertical and appear to be in the correct position.

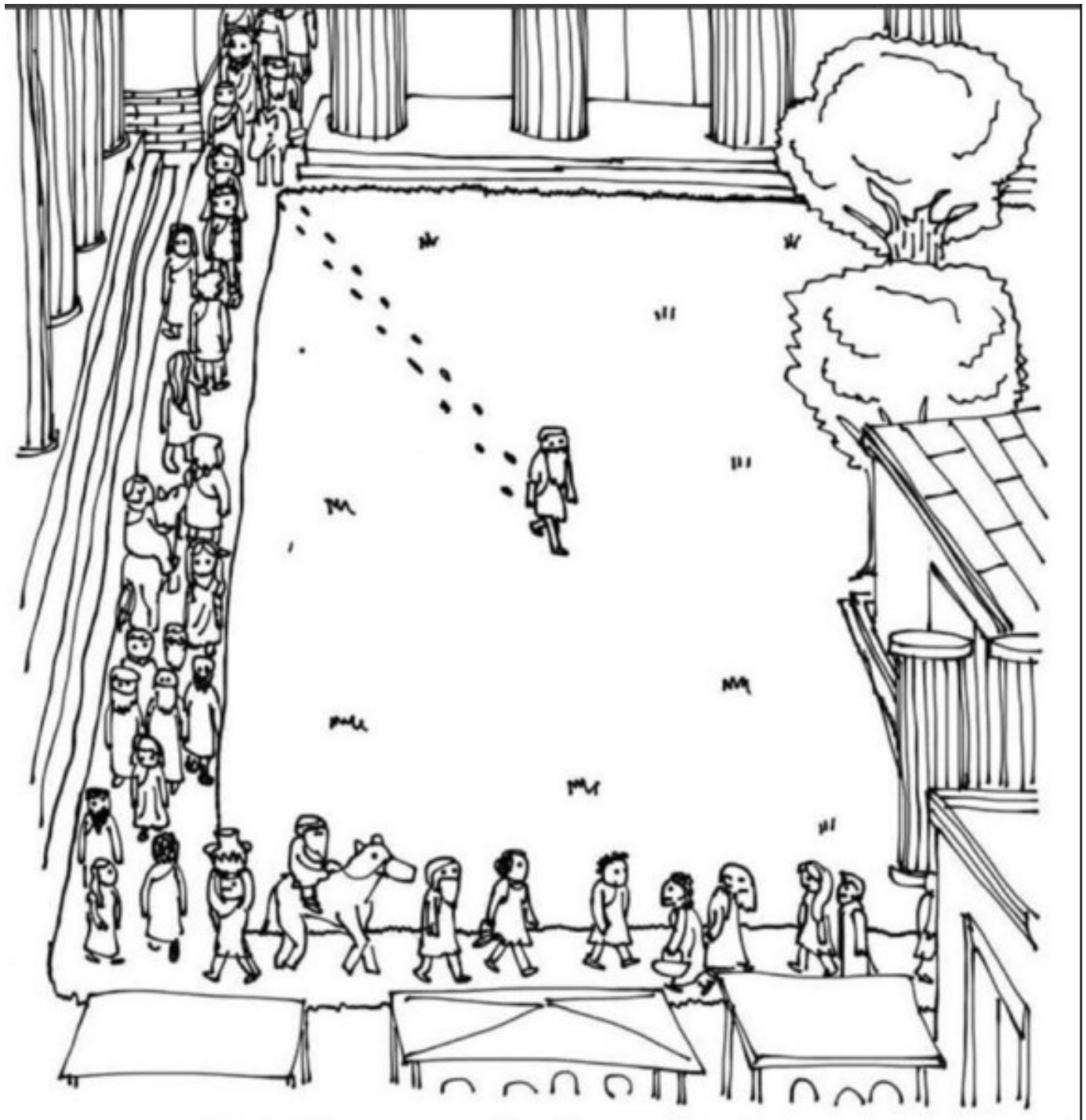
John believes it is possible this path originally went to Coaley Junction but was diverted when part of the field became a local refuse tip. A campaign to record every remaining stone stile in Gloucestershire has been launched by Peter Wilson in association with CPRE, the countryside charity, English Heritage and Cotswold Naturalists Field Club. Since the project was launched last year more than 500 stiles have been recorded by 175 people in Gloucestershire.

The group ask that if anyone is out walking and spots a stone stile or knows of an existing stile, it is photographed from both sides and they complete a Stile Recording Form downloaded from the CPRE website <https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/>

The form needs to be emailed to peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk

Cam Parish Council has been working with the Cotswold Wardens to replace crumbling wooden stiles with kissing gates, to create circular walks for people for all abilities. Five stiles were replaced in Ashmead Green in 2020 and new routes are now being considered.





There goes that creep Pythagoras

Know your County — Stroud

Recently Stroud was voted the nicest place in England in which to live. It is certainly blessed with extremely beautiful countryside in all directions.

Before Covid-19 descended on us, Stroud District Council and Cotswold Canals Trust set up a 'hub' on Platform 2 of Stroud station, with a view to encouraging cyclists to bring their bikes on the train (or hire them from the 'hub'). I was able to play a part in planning suggested routes for them to appreciate the scenery and perhaps to visit the numerous places of interest in the neighbourhood.

There are three ways out of Stroud on fairly level ground — east or west along the recently-renovated canal towpath or southwards along the track of the disused railway between Stonehouse and Nailsworth, which has been turned into a cycle path. These give access to Golden Valley and beyond, Saul Junction on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, Westonbirt Arboretum and Berkeley Castle.

Other routes involve a challenge to any cyclist, with very steep climbs out of the town, but the views and destinations make it certainly worthwhile. To the south are Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons with



pre-historic earthworks, Tom Long's Post, with the stories involved with it and the charming village of Minchinhampton, with its 17th-century Market House. On this is a notice stating that cubs were to be provided for sheep brought to the fair. (B-P would have been horrified!).



To the east of Stroud, I am always amused to see on the map the tiny hamlet of Thrupp and, just beyond it, Far Thrupp (though the two are on the same contour line!). In the valley below them, on the site of Stroud Brewery, is a building sporting a blue plaque commemorating Mikael Pedersen, who, in the 1890s, designed a lightweight bicycle mostly made of wood.

Turning northwards from Golden Valley, you can pass through the village of Bisley, whose two-cell 19th-century lock-up for detaining drunks and petty criminals still stands. The village also has, on Wells Road, a large stone structure with seven spouts fed by seven springs, forming a public water supply, known for its well dressing. Six miles farther north, just past the village of Birdlip, is Barrow Wake viewpoint, which takes in much of the Vale of Gloucester.

From here, you can return to Stroud by a roughly parallel route, which affords you the



opportunity to visit Prinknash Bird Park and/or the Rococo Garden and Painswick, whose delightful churchyard features 99 manicured yew trees.

To the south-west, once you have climbed the steep hill past Selsley, whose remarkable church displays

works by William Morris and his partners Rossetti, Webb, Ford Madox Brown and Burne-Jones, you have access to Woodchester Mansion, Coaley Peak viewpoint, Hetty Pegler's Tump Long Barrow and Uley Bury Hill Fort.

The railway through Stroud, skirting high ground to approach Cheltenham, had one of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's early wide-gauge tracks and was the route taken by the *Cheltenham Flyer*, which ran daily between Cheltenham and London and, for a short while in the 1930s, held the world speed record – travelling in excess of 70mph – for the fastest train on a scheduled service.

Stroud has strong connections with the Whittington family, one of whose forebears was the famous Dick Whittington, four times Lord Mayor of London in the late 14th century. The arms of Stroud District Council feature six red 'billets' (rectangles), representing cloth being stretched out to dry on tenterhooks, emphasizing the importance of wool in the local economy. The crest, of a man, refers to Dick Whittington and the motto, *PERSEVERA*, could, with a little imagination, be translated as 'Keep calm and carry on', particularly apposite today!



John Morton



The restoration of the "missing link" on the Stroudwater Canal between Stroud and Saul Junction. The work was completed last autumn, passing through the roundabout where the A 419 meets the A 38 south of Whitminster.

Brownsea Island: The Adventure begins

From *An Official History of Scouting* — The Scout Association

On 1st August 1927, 20 boys gathered on Brownsea Island for what was to be the first ever Scout camp. The events of the subsequent eight days would make it the most momentous camp ever held.

Baden-Powell certainly did not set out to start a new movement. He originally intended simply to provide a programme of activities suitable for use by the Boys' Brigade and the other youth organisations that already existed. However, he took care that all activities could be enjoyed by young people from the most privileged to the poorest of backgrounds. He had chosen the 20 boys from a cross-section of society, something that was quite revolutionary at a time when Britain was more rigidly divided by class than it is today.

The site

Brownsea Island was to be the location of the camp. The island, in Poole Harbour on the south coast of England, was ideally positioned and it was a place with which Baden-Powell was already familiar — he had sailed in the harbour as a boy. However, it was a chance encounter in May 1907 with the island's owner, Charles van Raalte, that secured an offer to use the site for B-P's camp.



Fun and games then, but six of the boys would be
dead by the end of the First World War.

The camp

By the time the boys arrived on the island, tents had been pitched in preparation and a flag erected in the middle of the camp. On arrival, the boys were divided into four Scout Patrols — Wolves, Bulls, Curlews and Ravens. The nearest thing to a 'uniform' was a long coloured 'shoulder knot', given to the boys to indicate which patrol they belonged to: yellow for Curlews, red for Ravens, blue for Wolves and green for Bulls. Each Patrol Leader sported a short staff with a white flag bearing a picture of their Patrol animal (painted by Baden-Powell). They also had the distinction of wearing a fleur-de-lys badge — the same symbol that B-P had used as an award when training his army scouts and that, slightly modified, would soon become better known as the Scout badge.



Of the 20 boys at the camp, ten came from Poole and Bournemouth Boys' Brigade, the others were the sons of B-P's friends attending public schools.

The programme

The eight-day programme, which began on 1 August 1907, was designed to teach key skills, ranging from fun games to noble values, such as chivalry and discipline.

The first day began with Baden-Powell rousing the camp by blowing on a kudu horn, a souvenir of his expedition to the Somabula Forest during the Matabeleland campaign in 1896. After a quick wash, some cocoa, a short demonstration and a brief session of physical drill, the flag was hoisted, prayers were said and breakfast was eaten. Then it was on to whatever Scouting exercises were to feature that day.

The second day was concerned with teaching practical skills for outdoor living, including many things that the modern-day Scout is expected to know, such as how to:

- put up tents;
- lay and light a fire;
- kill, cut up and cook their food;
- tie logs together to make bridges and rafts;
- find their way by night and day in a strange country.

Most of the techniques taught over the eight days were taken from army training and had been employed by Baden-Powell's men during the Boer War. He taught the Scouts by allowing them to experiment first :

Make each boy lay a fire in his own way and light it. After failures, show them the right way (i.e. delicate use of dry chips and shavings, and sticks in a pyramid) and make them do it again.

The last full day was a sports day, prepared and run by the boys. The van Raaltes were invited to watch, after which the whole camp went to the van Raaltes' home for tea. They returned to their campsite and a final campfire.



B-P's original kudu horn was subsequently used at the first World Scout Jamboree and other major events

A movement is born

On 9 August the boys returned home, exhausted and exhilarated — the great adventure had come to an end. Despite their cultural and social differences, the groups of boys had lived, worked and played together in a way that would not have been thought possible on the mainland. The success of the camp had exceeded Baden-Powell's expectations in every way, and he was now ready to take his idea to a wider audience.



Scouting in Zimbabwe

The following is a direct quote from Wikipedia with some badge illustrations of my own.

John Morton

The Scout Association of Zimbabwe

The Scout Association of Zimbabwe is a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Scouting in Zimbabwe shares history with Malaŵi and Zambia, with which it was linked for decades.

Birthplace of Scouting

It was in the Matabeleland region in Zimbabwe that, during the Second Matabele War, Robert Baden-Powell, who later became the founder of Scouting, and Frederick Russell Burnham, the American born Chief of Scouts for the British Army, first met and began their lifelong friendship. Baden-Powell had only recently arrived in Matabeleland as Chief of Staff to Gen. Carrington when he started scouting with Burnham. This would become a formative experience for Baden-Powell not only because he had the time of his life commanding reconnaissance missions into enemy territory in Matobo Hills, but because many of his later Boy Scout ideas took hold here. Burnham had been a scout practically his entire life in the United States when he went to Africa in 1893 to scout for Cecil Rhodes on the Cape-to-Cairo Railway. As Chief of Scouts under Major Allan Wilson, Burnham became known in Africa as *he-who-sees-in-the-dark* and he gained fame in the First Matabele War when he survived the British equivalent of Custer's Last Stand, the Shangani Patrol.



[Baden-Powell's](#) sketch of Chief of Scouts [Burnham](#), [Matobo Hills](#), 1896.



In mid-June 1896, during their joint scouting patrols in the Matopos Hills, Burnham began teaching Baden-Powell woodcraft, inspiring him and giving him the plan for both the program and the code of honour of *Scouting for Boys*. Practised by frontiersmen of the American Old West and indigenous peoples of the Americas, woodcraft was generally unknown to the British, but well known to the American scout Burnham. These skills eventually formed the basis of what is now called *scoutcraft*, the fundamentals of Scouting. Both men recognised that wars in Africa were changing markedly and the British Army needed to adapt; so during their joint scouting missions, Baden-Powell and Burnham discussed the concept of a broad training programme in woodcraft for young men, rich in exploration, tracking, fieldcraft, and self-reliance. In Africa, no scout embodied these traits more than Burnham. It was also during this time in the Matobo Hills that Baden-Powell first started to wear his signature campaign hat like the one worn by Burnham. Later, Baden-Powell wrote a number of books on Scouting, and even started to train and make use of adolescent boys, most famously during the Siege of Mafeking, during the Second Boer War.

Scouting in Rhodesia



Scouting in the former Southern Rhodesia and Rhodesia and Nyasaland started in 1909 when the first Boy Scout Troop was registered. Scouting grew quickly and in 1924 Rhodesia and Nyasaland sent a large contingent to the second World Scout Jamboree in Ermelunden, Denmark. The great popularity of the Boy Scout movement in Rhodesia was due to its outdoor program such as hiking, camping, cooking and pioneering, which was unusual in the protectorate. Additionally, the training and progressive badge system was targeted towards helping others, leading to responsible citizenship.

Gordon Park, a Scout campground and training area, was visited by Lord Baden-Powell in 1936.

Because of the prevailing segregation in the colonial era, a separate organisation called "Pathfinders" was established for black Scouts. By the 1950s the two movements merged into one Scout Association, as did the segregated branches of the Boy Scouts of South Africa in 1977.

Rhodesia hosted the Central African Jamboree in 1959 at Ruwa.



The British contingent to the 14th World Scout Jamboree, led by Robert Baden-Powell, 3rd Baron Baden-Powell, included Scouts from Branches in Bermuda, Hong Kong and Rhodesia.

During this period, the highest earned Scout rank bore a sable antelope, the heraldic supporter of the coat of arms of Rhodesia. This motif still seems to be in use today.

Scouting in Zimbabwe Rhodesia

In the 10 months the nation's name changed to Zimbabwe Rhodesia, from June 1, 1979 to April 18, 1980, a photo was taken of a group of Scouts from around the world. This photo, which features a Scout wearing a uniform emblazoned with a large Zimbabwe Rhodesia badge over the right pocket, was used for the cover of *250 Million Scouts* by World Chief Scout Executive Dr. László Nagy in 1985.

Scouting in Zimbabwe

In 1983, Charles A. Martin was awarded the *Bronze Wolf*, the only distinction of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, awarded by the World Scout Committee for exceptional services to world Scouting.

In 2009, Scouts celebrated 100 years of Scouting in Zimbabwe. Hundreds of Scouts camped at Gordon Park as part of these celebrations.



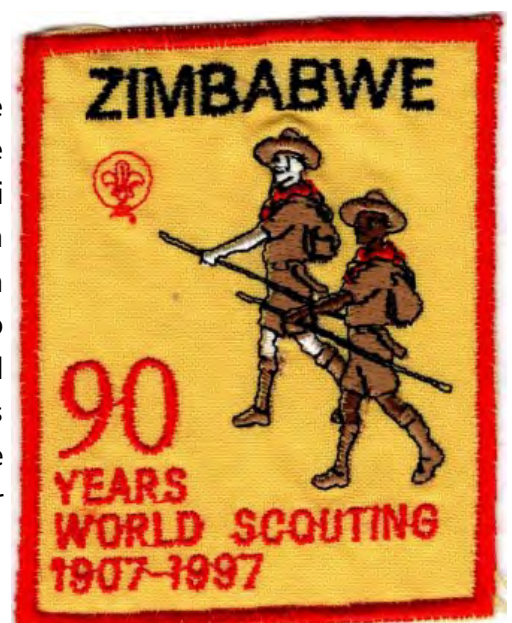
With the achievement of independence in 1980, the Zimbabwe Boy Scout Association was then able to register directly with the World Scout Bureau (WOSM) and not through the United Kingdom, as in the past.

During the years of trouble 1960-1979, Scouting lost a large number of members in the outlying rural areas. Accordingly, the revival and expansion of Scouting in these areas has been a prime target since.

In the Scout section there are four progressive badges; Basic Scout Standard, Scout Standard, Advanced Scout Standard and The Chief Scouts Award. For the older Scouts there is also the Venturer and Sable Awards which offer a special challenge. The wide range of proficiency badges available for Scouts are divided into grades: Interest, Pursuit, Service and Instructor. A special Community Service Badge, divided into three age stages, was recently introduced. One of the objectives of the badge is to promote self-help in the rural areas to prevent the drift of people to the already over-crowded cities and towns.



Uniform: All the sections, including the Leaders, wear a khaki shirt and shorts with khaki socks and a Group scarf. The Cub Scouts wear a cap and the Leaders and Scouts wear either the traditional Scout hat or a green beret.



Asalha Puja



Asalha Puja (also known as **Asadha Puja** or **Asanha Bucha in Thailand**, Thai: อาสาฬหบูชา) is a Theravada Buddhist festival which typically takes place in July, on the full moon of the month of Āsāḍha. It is celebrated in Indonesia, Cambodia (ពិធីបុណ្យអាសាដ្ឋបូជា), Thailand, Sri Lanka, Laos, Myanmar and in countries with Theravada Buddhist populations. In Indonesia, the festival is centred at Mendut Temple and Borobudur Temple, Central Java.

Asalha Puja, also known as Dhamma Day, is one of Theravada Buddhism's most important festivals, celebrating as it does the Buddha's first sermon in which he set out to his five former associates the doctrine that had come to him following his enlightenment. This first pivotal sermon, often referred to as “setting into motion the wheel of dhamma,” is the teaching which is encapsulated for Buddhists in the four noble truths: there is suffering (dukkha); suffering is caused by craving (tanha); there is a state (nibbana) beyond suffering and craving; and finally,

The sermon in the Deer Park as depicted at [Wat Chedi Liam](#), Thailand

the way to nirvana is via the eightfold path. All the various schools and traditions of Buddhism revolve around the central doctrine of the four noble truths.

This first sermon is not only the first structured discourse given by the Buddha after his enlightenment, it also contains the essence of all his subsequent teaching. At the end of the talk, one of the five participants recounted his understanding of what had been said and asked to be received as a disciple, a request the Buddha granted, thus establishing the first order of monks.

The day is observed by donating offerings to temples and listening to sermons. The following day is known in Thailand as Thai: วันเข้าพรรษา *Wan Khao Phansa*; it is the first day of Thai: พรรษา vassa, the Theravada rains retreat.

Vassa

The Vassa (Pali: *vassa-*, Sanskrit: *varṣa-*, both "rain") is the three-month annual retreat observed by Theravada practitioners. Taking place during the wet season, Vassa lasts for three lunar months, usually from July (the Burmese month of Waso, ဝါဆို) to October (the Burmese month of Thadingyut, သီတင်းကျွတ်).

In English, Vassa is often glossed as **Rains Retreat** or **Buddhist Lent**, the latter by analogy to the Christian Lent (which Vassa predates by at least five centuries).

For the duration of Vassa, monastics remain in one place, typically a monastery or



Monk at Vassa

temple grounds. In some monasteries, monks dedicate the Vassa to intensive meditation. Some Buddhist lay people choose to observe Vassa by adopting more ascetic practices, such as giving up meat, alcohol, or smoking. In Thailand, the sale of alcohol is prohibited on the first and last days of Vassa, known as "Khao Phansa" and "Wan Ok Phansa". While Vassa is sometimes casually called "Buddhist Lent", others object to this terminology. Commonly, the number of years a monk has spent in monastic life is expressed by counting the number of vassas (or *rains*) since ordination.

Most Mahayana Buddhists do not observe Vassa, though Vietnamese Thiền and Korean Seon monastics observe an equivalent retreat of three months of intensive practice in one location, a practice also observed in Tibetan Buddhism.

Vassa begins on the first day of the waning moon of the eighth lunar month, which is the day after Asalha Puja or Asalha Uposatha ("Dhamma day"). It ends on Pavarana, when all monastics come before the sangha and atone for any offence that might have been committed during Vassa.

Vassa is followed by Kathina, a festival in which the laity expresses gratitude to monks. Lay Buddhists bring donations to temples, especially new robes for the monks.

The Vassa tradition predates the time of Gautama Buddha. It was a long-standing custom for mendicant ascetics in India not to travel during the rainy season as they may unintentionally harm crops, insects or even themselves during their travels. Many Buddhist ascetics live in regions which lack a rainy season. Consequently, there are places where Vassa may not be typically observed.

(From Wikipedia)

Other Buddhist Festivals this year:

Padmasambhava Day, September 16th

Padmasambhava is widely venerated as a second Buddha by Buddhists in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, the Himalayan states of India, and in countries around the world.



Sangha Day, November 19th

Sangha Day is the second most important Buddhist festival. It is a celebration in honour of the Sangha, or the Buddhist community.

Heavy Woollen District

A Scout badge that surprised many collectors in the south when it appeared was the one for Heavy Woollen District in West Yorkshire. There is truly an administrative district with this unusual name!

It is so called from the heavy-weight cloth manufactured in the area.

Wikipedia says:

'Dewsbury, Batley, Heckmondwike and Ossett are at the core of the area while Liversedge, Gomersal, Gildersome, Birkenshaw, Mirfield, Cleckheaton, Morley, Tingley, East Ardsley, Birstall and Horbury are peripheral. The manufacture of wool cloth for clothing, blankets, rope and twine is ongoing in the district by companies such as E. Simms/Heavy Woollen Textiles. Most of the district is in Kirklees. Ossett and Horbury are in Wakefield and Morley is in Leeds.

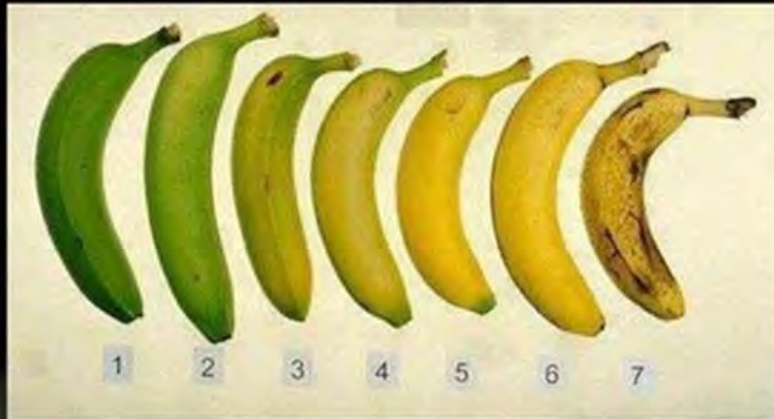
'The area was one of the key textile centres in Yorkshire, famed for its production of "shoddy and mungo". For years companies had tried to blend different fibres without success leading to the term, "munt go", i.e. "mustn't go" as a Yorkshire colloquialism. Machinery invented in Batley to grind soft rags (shoddy) are thought to have first been devised in 1813 and for hard rags (mungo) later on. Most mills have either closed or been put to other uses, but some shoddy/mungo mills remain such as Edward Clay & Son Ltd. in Ossett. There is still a Heavy Woollen District Football Association and Junior Cricket Association, both with representative teams. The Cricket Cup originally defined the district as within a six-mile radius of Batley Town Hall, but this has now been extended to an eighteen-mile radius. It is was first competed for in 1883 and is widely considered one of the most prestigious trophies in amateur cricket.



'Machell's mungo and shoddy mill in Dewsbury has been converted to flats but retains its mill name.'

John Morton

Did you know?



According to the latest Japanese Scientific Research, a full ripe banana with dark patches on the yellow skin produces a substance called TNF (Tumor Necrosis Factor) which has the ability to combat abnormal cells. The more darker patches it has the higher its immunity enhancement quality; Hence, the riper the banana the better the anti-cancer quality.

A yellow skin banana with dark spots on it is 8x more effective in enhancing the property of white blood cells than a green skin version.

Eating just 1 banana a day increases immunity.



After needing 13 liters of blood for a surgery at the age of 13, a man named James Harrison pledged to donate blood once he turned 18. It was discovered that his blood contained a rare antigen which cured Rhesus disease. He has donated blood a record 1,000 times and saved 2,000,000 lives.

Source is mentioned in our blog: www.unbelievable-facts.tumblr.com

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