

FROM THE LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

HISTORIES

Fetcham Scouts and Guides



The initial record of the 1st Fetcham Scouts appeared at their headquarters in 1941 when a small troop met in the Church Rooms. The St. Mary's Cub Scouts was formed on 21st July 1945 under the Chief Scoutmaster, K.C. Benner, but when the Scout Troop rapidly increased membership, the Cub Scout pack merged with it. The Scout Troop built their headquarters in Cock Lane in 1956, the Group at this time comprising a Scout Troop, a Cub Pack and a few Senior Scouts. The building was opened by S.G. Blaxland-Stubbs OBE, the Scout President, 1954-1962. Since then, the Scout Group has expanded steadily and now has three Beaver Colonies, three Cub Packs, two Scout Troops and an Explorer Unit. Over the years, much equipment has been acquired, including a minibus, canoes, marquees and full camping facilities. The Group is at present intending to build a new headquarters on the site in partnership with Mole Valley District Council (www.1stfetchamscouts.org.uk).

The 1st Fetcham Guide Company was formed in 1938, though there had been a Brownie Pack previously. Wartime and post-war problems meant that it was many years before the Guides had a home of their own. This was finally achieved in 1978 when the Guide Headquarters in Cannon Grove was built, after much fundraising by Guides and parents alike.

With the completion of the Guide Headquarters, the numbers in the next few years soared rapidly. Today, they offer places for Rainbows (5-7 years), Brownies (7-10 years), Guides (10-14 years) and Senior Section Guides (14-25 years).

Until recently, the Trefoil Guild for ex-Guides used the Headquarters regularly, but now meets in various venues. Several former Guides of the 1st Fetcham Guide Company are among its members.

Goff Powell *Extracted from History of Fetcham - L&DLS Publication 1998 with updates.*

For information regarding membership, lectures and museum opening hours, contact:

Leatherhead & District Local History Society,

Leatherhead Museum, Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP

Tel: 01372 386348 Email: staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Website: www.leatherheadhistory.org