

NEWSLETTER

Number 96

Spring 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen, This is your life.....



Janet Clark

40 Years of continuous service to the Scouting Movement and still going strong!



Janet, how did you get started in Scouting?

My dad was Cub Master (as they were called then) with the 21st Fulham Congregational Church, now the Fulham United Reformed Church. I started getting involved with Cubs when I was in guides, as part of my service for the Queens Guide Award, and then carried on for my Sea Ranger Service. I received my first warrant as an Assistant Cub Master (now Assistant Cub Leader) in 1965.

My father retired from Scouting in 1975, when he was 65 (you had to then) and I took over the pack.

So you come from quite a scouting family Janet?

Yes, my mum was a Brown Owl at the same church and met my dad. They got married in 1944. She gave up Brownies when I was born. In about 1966, mum was asked to start a Cub pack for boys with special needs at a local school. We attached the pack to our own group. We took them on outings and joint camps. 3 of these boys went on to join our Scout troop.

Janet, her husband Laurie and son Timothy, in 1988.



So how did you end up in Eastcote?

I met Laurie, who had become Scout Leader with our group, and we got married. When we moved to Eastcote in 1983, I decided not to get involved with Cubs. Our son, Timothy, who had been a cub in Fulham, had joined Scouts in 1983.

In 1986, we were at our group family camp and I was asked if I could help with the pack in September. By Christmas that year, I was the Cub Scout Leader.

What other awards have you been presented with Janet?



I was awarded the Medal of Merit in 1996, 'in recognition of outstanding service'. And in 2004 I was awarded my Silver Acorn by Chad Lake, Scout County Commissioner for Middlesex West, 'in recognition of specially distinguished service to Scouting' here in St Andrews and in Fulham.

In 1976, my father was also awarded the Silver Acorn. He went to Windsor Castle with my sister. We had our own St Georges Day parade, and mum took her Special Needs pack with us.

Janet, why do you do it?

I enjoy scouting and camping, and seeing what the youngsters get out of it. It is great to see how everyone mixes together.

Many years ago, not long after coming to the 5th, we had a Cub who had to go into hospital every week for an overnight stay. He came to Cubs every week. He came to the family camp with his parents. In 1989, he was awarded, a Certificate for Meritorious Conduct and it read 'In recognition of his perseverance and the example he gives to others despite having to overcome severe difficulties'. A few years ago, we had a Cub who was in a wheelchair – no speed, but thoroughly enjoyed being pushed around by the other Cubs on a Monday night. He came to camp with us with his dad, had a great time, and even went on the Cresta run.

It is good when you get boys who have been right through the group, have left to go to university, and then come back as leaders either with our own group or around the country.

There have been many changes over the forty years, some for the better. Some changes are not so good, for example, actual scouting skills have lessened in appeal. Wolf Cubs have become Cub Scouts. Work for badges was test work and then Stars (Second Star to First Star, which they wore on their caps

either side of the wolfs head, like eyes). Bronze, silver and gold arrows, then Cub Scout Award, Adventure Award and Adventure Crest Award and now they are Challenge Badges.

What is your best memory?

My best memory is going with Laurie, my husband, to Windsor Castle for the Parade of the Queen's Scouts on St Georges Day 2004. It was a beautiful sunny spring day and we arrived in good time. Eventually the Parade of Queen's Scouts arrived led by the Band of the Coldstream Guards. In all there were about 200 of them and they were lined up on either side of the Quadrangle. The Colour Party, bearing the King's Flag (after its presenter King George V), the flag of St George and the Scout Association Colour, took up their position opposite the dais. The Chief Scout, George Purdy, and the Chief Executive, Derek Twine, followed the Parade. H.R.H The Duke of Kent arrived and after taking the salute, he and the Chief Scout inspected the ranks of Queen's Scouts. The Parade then moved off to St. George's Chapel for the National Scout Service led by the Dean of Windsor. We were able to listen to the proceedings relayed outside. After the Service, the Queen's Scouts were briefly addressed by the Chief Scout and headed by the Scout Band marched to the Royal mews.

I was seriously impressed by the whole afternoon and the memory will remain with me.

How about your worst memory?

On one of the camps from Fulham, we went to Walton Firs in Surrey. It rained all of Saturday. We had hired the marquee on the site, but water kept coming in. When the boys went to bed the wind got up and kept blowing under the tent, so the pegs would not stay in. At 10pm we decided to take the boys home with our own transport. We had no mobile phones then, so some parents were not pleased. Fortunately on Sunday morning the sun came out and quite a few parents came back to help take the tents down. This is the only time I have had to abandon camp.

Here's someone elses memory of Janet:

These are memories from Summer 1988, the Cub Scout concerned had a wonderful time at this, his first camp, with Janet and at other camps as a Cub, Scout and Venture Scout:

- " . . . we didn't get up *early*, about twenty to five."
- " . . . when we had breakfast I thought it was dinner time."
- " . . . the tuck shop only opens if the toilets aren't left in a mess."
- " . . . the best thing about camp food is that you can have *seconds and thirds*."
- " . . . I wasn't homesick, I didn't have time. I was too busy enjoying myself."
- " . . . the church service was run by the man who cleans the toilets."
- " . . . tomorrow for breakfast, I want two fried sausages, a fried egg, bacon and a bowl of cereal."
- " . . . can I camp in the garden every weekend?"



Janet, now in February 2010,
wearing her Silver Acorn.



ST. EASTCOTE
(ST. ANDREW'S)
NEWSLETTER

Thank you Janet for everything!

CHURCH PARADE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 14th March 2010..... Mothering Sunday
Sunday 9th May 2010.....Christian Aid
Sunday 26th September 2010 Harvest Festival
Sunday 5th December 2010Toy Service

2010 EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 20th March 2010..... Agoonoree Coffee Morning and Car Wash
Saturday 27th March 2010..... Cub Hike
Monday 29th MarchExtraordinary AGM
Saturday 8th May 2010..... Cub Football
Sunday 16th MayBeaver Bonanza
Monday 17th May 5th Eastcote Scout Pack AGM
18th - 20th June 2010..... Cub and Scout Camp
Friday 25th June 2010..... Cub Sports

ITEMS TO SELL

Here's something new. If you or your children have something they would like to sell within the group, I am happy to advertise it in this newsletter (no pictures). Perhaps the kids can sort through their rooms! We are asking for a 10% donation to the scout pack from the seller after the transaction. Let me know by **Friday 26th March** and I will put out a list.

EDITORIAL

Thank you to all those who have requested an e-mail copy of the newsletter. Please think about joining that bunch of environmentally-friendly people. The closing date for the next edition is **Friday, 28th May** 2010. Please ring or email me: mmms@waitrose.com

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