



29th March 2005

Dear Derek.

Following on from our recent conversation at the County Office I have now had an opportunity to do a little more research into the history of the 1st Farnham and from what I have found it would appear they have had rather a chequered career.

The earliest record of Scouting in Farnham appears in the February 1910 edition of the 'Headquarters Gazette' where we find the provisional appointment of Mr F C Potter of Highwick, Fairfield acting as Secretary of the District Committee. In May the Local Association was formed and in September 1910 Colonel E.A.W.S Grove C.B., of Redhill Cottage Farnham was appointed District Commissioner.

It may not be generally known but in the very early days of the Movement it was the local Committees and District Secretaries who were responsible for the registration of Scout Troops and (later) Cub Packs as and when they were formed and it was not until October 1919 that such details started being centrally recorded at National Headquarters in London. It will therefore be appreciated why it is we are unable to tell you exactly when the 1st Farnham Troop of Boy Scouts first came into being.

Whilst the registration details were not kept nationally to start with it was obviously important for Headquarters to keep a record of all Warrant holders and although out-dated records have had to be disposed of due to limited storage space we still have this information readily available as all Warrant issues and cancellations were also published in the 'Headquarters Gazette' and 'The Scouter' magazines up until 1939 of which we have a complete set in the County Archive and it is from this source I am able to confirm the following:

Dr. G Brown Scoutmaster 1st Farnham Troop 11.2.1910 - Nov 1912.

No further references to the 1st Farnham Troop appear in the lists for nine years although in 'The Scout Book of Heroes' two former members of the above mentioned Troop distinguished themselves by each being awarded the Military Cross during World War I. They were:

Corporal Frank Hendrey (Royal Engineers) former P/L
2nd Lieut L C Thomas (East Surrey Regt) former Scout
Both Gazetted in 1917

The 1st Farnham was re-registered again in 1921 with Mr W Stroud as Scoutmaster a position he held from May that year until May 1926 but regrettably I am unable to provide you with any additional information as to their Meeting place, the number of Scouts or indeed the Registration number but should these details come to light I will most certainly let you have them.

We now jump forward another sixteen years to 1942 and with it being War-time and only a skeleton staff working at 25 Buckingham Palace Road the Registration of Groups was once more the responsibility of Districts.

As you will see from the enclosed copy of Form 'C' the 1st Farnham (Grammar School) Group was registered locally on 18th October 1942 and later given the Registration number 21746 and remained active until the 8th March 1976 when the Group closed down.

We also have the names of Scouters who were associated with the Grammar School Group and I include the list since it may be of interest.

<u>Scoutmasters:</u>	K C Winter-Knight	1942	-	1947
	G D Carroll	1.12.47	-	19.12.53.
	P G Ramm	19.12.53	-	19.8.55.
	M Talisot-Smith	13.4.55	-	7.8.56.
	H E Menuge	11.2.57	-	18.3.59.
	R J Beeslay	18.3.59	-	22.1.63.
	A W James	22.1.63	-	31.3.69.
<u>Scout Leader:</u>	T R Costin	31.7.70	-	15.7.74.
<u>Assistant SM:</u>	G D Carroll	19.12.53	-	25.2.55.
	P G Ramm	27.2.55	-	?
	A W James	22.1.60	-	22.1.63.
	J N Williams	31.3.65	-	28.12.68.
	T R Costin	17.6.68	-	31.7.70.
	A D Culshaw	17.6.68	-	31.7.70.

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As promised, I have pleasure enclosing a spare copy of B-P's Christmas card for 1938 to add to your collection and give below a list of the Founder's homes after his marriage to Olave.

1912 Rented a flat at 35 Rutland Court. London W.
 1913 - 1916 Ewhurst Place. Robertsbridge. East Sussex.
 1916 - 1919 Little Mynthurst Farm. Horley. Surrey.
 1919 - 1937 Pax Hill. Bentley. Hampshire.
 1937 - 1941 Paxtu. The Outspan. Nyeri. Kenya.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Graham Coombe

COUNTY ARCHIVIST