

**2015**

# Luton News 18th Nov 2015

## CLUBS AND COMMUNITY



The Sells 7th Scout Group on the steps of the town hall

town hall.

The group have taken part in this important event for more than 30 years, they distributed the order of service to the public as well as performing a guard of honour at the town hall steps as the mayor and dignitaries left the town hall.

The Scouts are represented by all sections from Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

Group Scout leader Mr Alan Wood commented that this was a great honour for the group, who have taken part for over 30 years.

This year the World Flag was carried by Jack Dudley, an Explorer Scout from Iceni and Young Leader at Sells Scouts.

### **SELLS 7TH SCOUT GROUP**

The Sells 7th Scout Group once again supported the Remembrance Day parade to the

# Luton News 25th Nov 2015

LUTON NEWS

MBE

## Royal approval for 72 dedicated years to Scouts

BY STEWART CARR  
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**When Ray Aldous first joined the Scouts as a boy, he never imagined that 72 years later he would receive a royal nod for his life-long association**

But last Tuesday, 83-year-old Ray was honoured to be awarded his MBE by The Queen at Buckingham Palace. "I was over the moon, I just did not appreciate what had happened," said Ray.

"It was wonderful. They made you feel so at ease. My daughters were sitting about three rows back and they were

absolutely amazed – it was a great day for me."

Retired sound technician Ray was born at Walton-on-the-Naze in Essex, and moved to Luton as a small boy when his father began work at the factory of George Kent Ltd.

He said: "I've been active with Scouting since 1952 when I first became a leader, but I was a member of the troupe when I was 11.

"At 18 I went to the army first and then the RAF and I thought that was the end of it."

Ray was posted to Egypt and soon had a leadership position, leading a troupe of Scouts who were the sons of officers. He spent two years

there with the RAF, and would take his troupe of Scouts on excursions into the desert ... which the boys loved.

"I was mindful of the fact they were the sons of my NCOs, but it didn't matter too much. I got on well with everyone on the camp. I came back to this country and I rejoined a troupe that I was with. I was with that troupe for 20 years."

Ray was then promoted to assistant district commissioner, and while in that role undertook many public speaking engagements on behalf of the Scouts, encouraging participation.

He said: "It's very, very difficult, getting people to take



Ray picks up his MBE at Buckingham Palace, with his family

on district roles. You're then supervising nine or ten groups and I was with them for 20 years! What I enjoy best about the Scouts is seeing the kids in the groups achieving their objectives, getting their badges."

Ray has always been a keen radio amateur, and provided many sections with their own small radio stations – which delighted the Scouts participating. And he is still thrilled about last week's honours ceremony at the palace.

He said: "I was absolutely amazed at the care and consideration shown by the staff – the police on the ground and the ushers were all so attentive."

"The ceremony was superb. We had to wait as they called your name out in blocks of ten and The Queen was in attendance presenting all these awards. Most of the people were MBE holders but there were a number of higher

awards, CBE and such like. Ray is still actively involved with the Scouts and volunteers several times a week with his troupe. He said: "We got girls in every section nowadays, my old troupe now has as many girls in as boys. Things have changes, but it's wonderful that they have!"

# Luton News 9th Dec 2015

## CLUBS AND COMMUNITY

### DUNSTABLE LADIES CHOIR

#### Festive Afternoon Concert

Dunstable Ladies Choir Festive Afternoon Concert is at 2.30pm on Saturday at St. Augustine's Church, Mayfield Road, Dunstable. Tickets are £8 on the door, including refreshments during the interval.

Details from Pat Jackson on 01582 520302.

### ICKNIELD DISTRICT BEAVERS

#### Christingle and Christmas Party

Icknield District Beavers recently had an afternoon of "fun and friends" when they held their annual Christmas party and Christingle.

William Austin School was this year's venue and 30 Beavers with their leaders had an enjoyable afternoon.

The afternoon started with a selection of party games including an indoor snowball fight organised by the various colony leaders. All the participants had brought a picnic tea with them, which gave everybody a chance for a sit down



Icknield District Beavers had a Christmas party and made Christingles

and a rest as most of the games involved running around.

After tea it was time to make their Christingles - an orange representing the world, four cocktail sticks decorated with sweets to signify the four seasons, a ribbon around the centre - God's love for all - and, finally, a candle to show the light of the world.

The significance of the Christingle was explained by the Reverend Steve Wood from Streatley.

Each Beaver was then given their 'ingredients' and with the help of their leaders made their own Christingle.

The afternoon culminated with all, including the parents, joining together to sing some Christmas carols.

All the leaders were

thanked for giving up their Sunday afternoon and Sarah Smart, the afternoon's organiser, commented how great it was to see so many Beavers having such a fun afternoon.

If you are interested in getting involved with Scouting in Luton please contact [dc.icknield@hotmail.com](mailto:dc.icknield@hotmail.com)

# Luton News 16th Dec 2015

## CLUBS AND COMMUNITY

### ICKNIELD DISTRICT SCOUTS

#### Carol service

The annual Icknield District Scout Council's carol service was recently held at St Joseph's Church in Gardemia Avenue with around 100 members and their families attending.

Deacon Jim welcomed the congregation and offered the prayers while the main body of the service was orated by members of the district. The opening carol, O Come All Ye Faithful, was followed by a spirited rendition of the Nativity story by a Blenheim scout, Emily Rogers, with a script that she had not seen two days before.

The members of the Nativity scene were assembled at the front following a narration by carols using old favourites While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night and We Three Kings.

A collection was held, with the proceeds going to the district welfare fund. The final part of the service was a Scouting slant on 12 days of Christmas with members of St Joseph's, St Augustine's and Blenheim providing a pictorial reference to things such as



Traditional scene: the Nativity presented by Icknield District Scouts.

six burnt marshmallows and five nights away.

Martin Wesley, district commissioner, presented a selection of awards - Caroline Sutherst for 25 years service, while awards for services to Scouting went to June Brown and Sarah Smart with Janet Owen receiving a bar to her order of merit.

The event's main organiser was Elaine May, group Scout leader at St Joseph's, who thanked everyone for coming and invited them all to the church hall for tea and mince

pies prepared by the Scout active support unit.

If you are an adult or a young person interested in Scouting in Luton please contact [dc.icknield@hotmail.com](mailto:dc.icknield@hotmail.com)

## World symbol of peace turns up in Luton

The annual peace light pilgrimage had an eventful journey this year from the conflict around Jerusalem to a warm welcome in Luton.

It is now on its way to millions of homes and over 100 countries around the world. It is due to grace the shrine at Ground Zero in New York just in time for Christmas.

Collected at Dover by Deep Sea Scout Mick Jarman, the Bethlehem Peace Light was commemorated at a special service in All Saints Church before a congregation of over 120 Scouts and supporters from parishes around the town.

It was an event that will be repeated at countless locations around the world.

Bishop of Bedford the Right Revd Richard Atkinson said: "This annual event is an important symbol for world peace. The light from Bethlehem travels to very many countries and is given a place of honour at Ground Zero in central New York.

"In the UK it is taken by Scout volunteers to all parts of our island nation to bring a sign of hope and joy to people everywhere. You can't get a more touching gesture than that."

Mick Jarman explained, "The light started its journey on November 24 when



Luton's Mayor, Rev Kesterton, Bishop of Bedford and Mike Jarman with the Peace Light

it was lit by a young Egyptian girl at Christ's Grotto in war-torn Bethlehem for this year's peace child ten-year-old Niklas Dumhart to carry back to his home town in Upper Austria.

"The Austrian Broadcasting Service ORF began this huge charitable event in 1986 to help orphans and homeless children in their country.

"Within a short time the idea was taken up by Scouts across Europe, the Middle and Far East and the UK before being accepted as an important Christmas symbol by Scouts in the USA and Canada."

Rev David Kesterton organised the service led by the Bishop of Bedford along with Luton Mayor Cllr Dave Tay-

lor. Cllr Taylor said: "On behalf of the town and all those who live here, I am delighted to welcome the Peace Light to Luton and to see it begin its journey amongst the young people of our community. May this light be a sign of the peace and understanding we all long for in our town and beyond."

Over 30 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and their leaders from across Luton came to take part in the service at All Saints with St Peters Church in Shaftesbury Road as well as many young people from the parish.

> To keep up to date with the journeys of the Peace Light around the world go to: [www.scouts.org/peacelight](http://www.scouts.org/peacelight).



# Luton News 23rd Dec 2015

Peace Light Service

## Faiths join together for annual service

**P**eople from different faith backgrounds joined in the Annual Peace Light Service at All Saints Church on Shaftesbury Road, Luton.

The Peace Light flame is brought from Bethlehem.

It initially began as part of a large charitable relief project to help children in need in Austria and abroad.

Since 1990, with Scouts' and Guides' help, this light is now distributed across Europe at Christmas time, spreading the message of peace in all countries.

It encourages all to work for peace in partnership with people of different ethnic or religious backgrounds.

A large group of local children participated and received peace light from Luton's



Luton Mayor Cllr Dave Taylor, The Rev David Kesterton, Bishop of Bedford Dr Richard Atkinson and Mike Jarman

Mayor Cllr Dave Taylor, Church of England's Bishop for Bedford and Luton Rt Revd Dr Richard Atkinson also graced the occasion.

Many from Bury Park Beech Hill Council of Churches also joined in singing the songs for peace and harmony in our world.