

2018

Daily Express 14th Feb 2018

At 85, Scouts' oldest leader is Ray of hope

By John Fitzpatrick

BRITAIN'S oldest Scout leader Ray Aldous is still going strong at 85 after more than 70 years in the movement.

Encouraged by his father, widower Ray, who was made an MBE by the Queen in 2015, joined the Scouts in his home town of Luton, Bedfordshire, at 11 in 1943 and first became a leader at 18.

"We lived a mile away from the Scout troop but it was a bit difficult with the blackouts and I was only a little lad at the time," grandfather Ray said.

"It was difficult time then. We ended the war and we were trying to do things to keep ourselves occupied."

And decades later Ray is still very much involved in the movement, holding weekly media meetings at his home and visiting



Proud... Ray, 85, joined the Scouts when he was 11 in 1943 and never looked back. Right, in uniform a year later

groups to give talks about his Scouting exploits.

Retired technician Ray, who said his MBE was "the ultimate highlight", was supported by his wife Sylvia, a Scouts group helper, for many years while he looked after 12 districts.

Peter Sutherst of Luton Scouts described Ray as "a great guy and a great ambassador" for the town's Scouts.

Luton News 28th Feb 2018

Town of London, I came across pictures showing two Scouts standing in the same place, 100 years apart. Scouting in Luton is just as active and exciting as years gone by.

During 1914 - 1918 Scouts carried messages for the War Office and guarded important places, such as railway lines, water reservoirs and stretches of coastline. They learned to send semaphore messages with small flags. Scouts were coast watching or watched the skies for Zeppelin attacks and sounded their bugles to signal when an air raid was over.

They acted as a messenger service for troops and service on ship. Food was scarce and these boy scouts were 'doing their bit' by helping to set rabbit traps or help with land work (e.g, harvesting). They were helping in hospitals with fetching supplies etc.

16th December 1916 George Taylor, aged 15 was killed after the Germans shelled Scarborough. The following Sunday afternoon his coffin was draped in the Union Jack. The town's Scouts lined the way into the church and attended the service. George was awarded full Scouting

honours. Many other Scouts died, including Jack Cornwall who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross after he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

Scouts standing on Town Hall steps were originally offered recognition of the help they provided in during the World War. Look out for them near the Cenotaph each year.

To know more about Scouting today in Luton, see our website lutonscouts.org.uk

Gerald Law

Blundell Rd, Luton

SCOUTS

Boy scouts who did their bit

100 years ago this year, the conflict of WW1 came to a close. During a visit to the

Luton News 3rd Oct 2018

Wednesday October 3 2018

LUTON NEWS

Achievement



Scout Leader awarded for 50 years of service

Cheryl Parkhurst will thank with her award

By Nicola Paine
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A Scout Leader from Luton has been awarded a 50-year long service award signed by Chief David Beer-Crylle.

Cheryl Parkhurst, 64, from Newport, is one part of a list of 175 of service in the Luton District of Luton who have all reached their centenary of adult service to the movement. She began helping with the Scouts in 1968 and has been Club Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader, Assistant District Commissioner and County Ambassador, she has also been District Scout Shop.

The member of 500 said: "I feel very honoured to receive this award. I do not think I deserved it but I am very pleased to be given it. I have a lot of happy memories from over the years, but I think the ones that stand out are the camps with the Cubs, they were always wonderful and full of adventure. Everyone here has been so friendly and has been lovely."

Cheryl has lived in the village of four months, 25 County Commissioners and seven District Commissioners.

In 2007, which was the Scout centenary year, she was awarded the Silver Acorn for outstanding service to the movement.

She added: "The activities, serving events have changed quite a lot in all these years. Nowadays, activities can include canoeing and rock-climbing, shooting and hang gliding, astronomy and science, but the essence of Scouting remains the same.

"The idea that all youngsters want to do is to get behind a computer is quite ironic.

"The attraction of camps is still the same and the fire is a special event. The outdoor activities have changed over the years, but the spirit of Scouting is still there."

Herald & Post 6th Dec 2018

Scouts manage to save world!

100 Luton Scouts and Leaders gathered at Milton Bryan Scout campsite in Bedfordshire to save the world from possible total destruction by a volcano.

16 teams of Scouts from 9 troops, Young Leaders from Warden Hill and a number of adult volunteers took part.

Groups involved include St Joseph's, First Luton Sea Scouts, Blenheim, Sell's 7th, Beech Hill, Wardown 9th, Warden Hill, Manor, Saxon, Strathmore Blue Foxes and Leagrave.

Teams faced challenges including tests of stealth, blindfold trails, stretcher building, life-saving, crossing lava flows, fire-making, shelter building and of course that most traditional Scout activity - toasting marshmallows.

District Commissioner, Libby Bassam, was impressed with the skills shown by so many Scouts and the organisa-



Scouts at the 'volcano'

tion that had gone into making the day such a success.

Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts), James Hinkins, thanked the Scouts for 'Doing Their Best' and the Leaders, Young Leaders and other supporters for making the day work so well.

The overall victors were team 'ARMY' from Saxon and Leagrave Scout Group but, once again,

Once the world had been

saved, Libby Bassam presented James Hinkins with the 'Bar to the Medal of Merit' in recognition of his outstanding service to Scouting. James has been involved in a number of activities, including the annual Luton Challenge days, and has worked with Bedfordshire Police to introduce the Police Community Badge in Luton, the first such badge in the UK.

More details about Scouting at www.lutonscouts.org, uk or call 0844 414 5887.

Luton News 12 Dec 2018

LUTON NEWS

Scouting

Alyssa had designs on being first Scout to earn new policing badge

By News Reporter
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The Deputy Chief Constable of Beds Police has presented a Luton Scout with the first new Police Partnership uniform badge.

Dep Chief Con Garry Forsyth awarded Alyssa Phelps of Blenheim Scout Group with the badge, which she had designed.

Alyssa's design was chosen from more than 100 entries after the Blenheim group was selected to attend a briefing about the new badge requirements last year.

A Scout Group spokesman said: "Her design has been transformed into a very

special and unique badge to be worn with pride.

"This has inspired Alyssa to work exceptionally hard to complete the badge requirements and it is fantastic that she is the first to receive the award."

At the presentation, Dep Chief Con Forsyth expressed how important it is for the police to be working with Scouts and how proud he was to be presenting this badge to Alyssa.

Also present was Inspector Annita Clarke, who leads the Community Policing Team - which has responsibility for presenting the badge requirements.

Insp Clarke has been assisted by PC Ryan Jerren delivering the presentation to around 200 Scouts and 50

parents from 10 troops across Luton.

Of the five segments of the badge, three are Police led:

- > Police familiarisation
- > Gangs, knives, drugs and alcohol

- > Personal protection

The final two are Scout led:

- > World Challenge Award
- > Create a poster or journal about what you've learned.

The Scout Group spokesman added: "The idea of the badge is to increase awareness of the police and their role in society, to help young people develop their future and protect them from crime.

"Basically to help them avoid the criminal circle and encourage personal protection - online and in everyday life.

"A number of other troops



Deputy Chief Constable Garry Forsyth with Alyssa and her family

are working on this badge and it is hoped that, with a little help from our Scouting family, this can get as far as pos-

sible around the county and beyond."

>For more details about

Scouting fun and adventure, see the website www.luton-scouts.org.uk or call the hotline 0844 414 5687.

Herald & Post 27th Dec 2018

Peace Light service unites communities

Over 100 people gathered at the Parish Church of All Saints with St Peter in Luton on Monday, December 17, to welcome the Peace Light.

The light was collected from Dover by Luton Deep Sea Scout Mike Jarman, as it arrived on the latest leg of its annual journey from Bethlehem. The Curate of All Saints with St Peter, Revd Jo Burke, welcomed guests including the Mayor of Luton, Cllr Naseem Ayub, Mr Sanjeev Kumar from Shri Guru Ravidass and Maqsood Anwar from the Madinah Mosque, together with many Scouts, Guides and friends from all over the town.

Revd David Chesterton spoke about the "Faithful Friends" in the West Midlands and their vision to build a community that celebrates diverse communities bringing peace, friendship, understanding and hope. Mr Kumar and Mr Anwar shared thoughts and readings, before Mr Kumar lit the first of the many candles which would create a circle of light around the church.

Then, by candlelight, new friends and old exchanged olive branches and messages of peace.

Cllr Ayub said "It's wonderful to see people from so many backgrounds come together in this beautiful church, a place of peace and



Candles were lit at the Peace Light

harmony, to celebrate together, share cultures and make friends.

"In Luton, where more than 120 languages are spoken, there must be at least 20 or 30 of those represented here. In a town as diverse as ours it's so important to have such a sense of community as I have felt tonight. I would like to thank Mike for his service to the Peace Light."

Originally organised by the Austrian Broadcasting Company in 1986 as part of a charitable mission for children in need, the light is collected every year from the

Holy Land. This year it started its journey on 28th November, with the aid of Scouts, it is shared with millions of homes across Europe, USA and Canada.

In the UK, the light's journey is co-ordinated by Deep Sea Scouts like Mike, all of whom are serving or retired members of the Armed Forces, officers and crew in the Merchant Navy, fishermen, and many others with strong connections to the sea.

During the service a collection which was generously supported was made in aid of the Luton foodbank.