



2007 marks the centenary of Scouting. In celebration of this we are publishing a series of articles about The Scout movement for Magna readers.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Greenford (Holy Cross) Scout Group History

Each Scout Group is part of a Scout District and each Scout District is part of a Scout County. The 9<sup>th</sup> Greenford (Holy Cross) Scout Group is part of Greenford and District Scouts which includes Greenford, Northolt, Perivale, Southall, Sudbury and Wembley. Greenford and District is in turn part of Greater London Middlesex West Scout County which covers the Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington & Chelsea and The City of Westminster.

As the name suggests it was the ninth Scout Group to be formed in Greenford. It was officially formed on the 29<sup>th</sup> December in 1938. Given this date could give rise to suggestions that its founders may have partaken of a seasonal tippie or two but nothing has ever been proved!

The Reverend Donald Harris was instrumental in the formation of the Group and its first Group Scout Master was Father Peck. Several members of the Holy Cross clergy have been Group Scout Leaders or, in their day, Group Scout Masters of the 9<sup>th</sup> Greenford (Holy Cross) Scouts.

For the more experienced members of Holy Cross Church here are some memory jogging names

### Group Scout Master/Group Scout Leader

Father Peck  
Father Mapplebeck  
Father Harris  
Father Norfolk  
Father Tregear  
S Alcoran  
Father Noel  
Father New  
C French  
D Wood  
A Wood  
A Johnson  
J Hunter  
A Norman  
I Chick  
N Carney



### Group Chairman

C Proud  
E Woollacott  
Father Tregear  
S Alcoran  
G Hawkins  
L Fry  
W Hill  
C Hodges  
T Quartermaine  
A Wood  
B Dendle  
J Gabriel  
J Ward  
N Mason  
J Hunter



The Group has in its time had several meeting places. Old committee minutes make note of Scout meetings in an air raid shelter during the Second World War, a Toc H building (a community catering building) a garage in the Rectory grounds, the Rectory barn, a class room in Edward Betham School and The Edward Betham School Hall before settling in to its present home.



Discussions regarding the Group having its own headquarters were minuted as early as October 1946 and records show that "a piece of land to the rear of the estate office at the side of the school" was under consideration. The land that the Group Headquarters now stands on was a derelict corner of the Rectory garden. Extracts regarding the Scout Hut from Bob Hamblin's 1958 log are printed on the following pages.

The current building was bought from a local business The British Bath Company. The Scout committee of the day offered the company £25 in the late 1950's for the building but this was turned down, instead it was offered to the Group for the princely sum of £1 on the condition that the building was taken apart and removed from its original location within a week! This was duly done and it was rebuilt on its present site with the help of supporters of the Group and was officially opened in 1961.

During its existence The Group has:

- Produced King and Queens Scouts (the highest award a Scout can attain).
- Had Scouts represent the Group at World Jamborees (Global Scout Camps)
- Taken members of the Group camping abroad: including Spain, France, Germany and Austria as well as camps nearer to home in Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Cumbria and Yorkshire.
- Produced Scouts who have gone on to become adult leaders who have given their time and skills freely to their local community.
- Had many of the Group's leaders and Scouts involved with The Holy Cross Players annual pantomime and The Greenford Gang Show.

The Group has seen changes in the Scout movement over the years including:

- The introduction of Senior Scouts.
- The replacement of Rover and Senior Scouts with Venture Scouts.
- Wolf Cubs changing to Cub Scouts.
- The introduction of Beaver Scouts.
- The Explorer and Network Scout sections replacing The Venture Scout section.
- The introduction of girls into the Scout movement.
- Age changes in the Scout Section.
- The large hats and baggy shorts of yesteryear disappearing with changes to the uniform. The original Cub uniform comprised of shorts, socks and shoes which would have been the same as those worn to school helping to keep down costs for parents. Eventually some parents would have been buying these items especially for Cubs and so the uniform was brought up to date in the late nineties.
- The badge content altering over the years to keep in touch with modern day requirements, although much of the original Scouting programme is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago and is still at the heart of Scouting activities.

Mention to someone that you are involved in Scouting and more often than not you'll be met with "DYB DYB DYB, DOB DOB DOB" (my, how we chortle). This originated from the Scout promise and was shouted at Scout meetings. In his original book on boy scouting, General Baden Powell introduced the Scout promise, as follows:

On my honour I promise that---

1. I will do my duty to God and the King.
2. I will do my best to help others, whatever it costs me.
3. I know the scout law, and will obey it

"DYB DYB DYB, DOB DOB DOB" is no longer called out at meetings but the Cub section still starts and finishes its evenings with a variation of it to this day.

The Group today has a Beaver Scout Section for 6-8 year olds, a Cub Scout Section for 8-10 year olds and a Scout Section for 10-14 year olds. The Group has about 50 young people in total. At the age of 14, Scouts can move into the District run Explorer Scout Section or Young Leader Explorer Section.



1958

As seen by the press cuttings and the diagram opposite, we have launched our "Be a Brick - Buy a Brick" campaign, so that the Group may have their own H. Q. next year, when we have our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary.

The idea was born in January at a Scouters' council, with Alan Wood - the choir. The drawing opposite was suggested and adopted for selling campaign, and an official date to set things going, and this was the first Sunday in March, with a big Church Parade.

We must give our thanks to our Rector, Father Tundsten, firstly, for making an announcement in church regarding our fund, and secondly, the ~~the~~ ground, which is in the Rectory grounds, any other site would have been looking for a "needle in a haystack," and so here we go with "Buy a brick" - and the bit of hool and a Hut for our 21<sup>st</sup>.

**SCOUT GROUP'S  
HUT BID**

Sir,—May I through the medium of your paper bring to the notice of past members and supporters of the 9th Greenford (Holy Cross) Scout Group, the fact that the Group have set themselves the job of raising enough funds for a scout hut. We hope to complete the hut next year when we celebrate our "21st".

As you will no doubt appreciate this is a very essential venture and any small donation would be appreciated.

A. E. WOOD,  
Scoutmaster,  
9th Greenford Group  
6, Hicks Avenue,  
Greenford.

**Quick work saves scout group £24—and a dream comes true!**

THE aim and ambition of every scout group is to have its own headquarters or "den." One local group, the ninth Greenford (Holy Cross), is nearing fulfilment of this ambition, and a 22-year-old dream.

Voluntary workers are now building the headquarters on a site which has been cleared

in the rectory grounds behind Holy Cross Church.

"Be a brick . . ."

The project was launched early in 1938 with a "Be a brick, buy a brick" scheme and a start on the building was made this year.

A local firm, The British Bath Company, came to the aid

of the Group with the offer of a hut which was due for demolition. The Group offered to pay £25 for it, and were told they could have the building for £1 — providing it was moved within seven days. It was taken to pieces and cleared away with hours to spare. The floor alone weighed five tons. It is hoped to have the hut

re-erected by November and the building fully equipped and opened early in 1961.

Since its formation in 1938, the Group has met in Betham Hall.

During the war, when meetings were often held in an air-raid shelter, the Group kept going with only nine members.



Work is now well under way on the new headquarters being built for the ninth Greenford (Holy Cross) Scout Group behind Holy Cross Church. The floor has been laid and parents and friends are now preparing to erect the walls. It is hoped that the building will be up by November

**HOLY CROSS,  
GREENFORD**

The brass band of the 9th Greenford (Holy Cross) Scout Group led the parade of the Group which inaugurated its appeal fund after the Parish Mass at Holy Cross on Sunday. In accordance with the usual custom, the group attended the Mass and afterwards launched its campaign "Be a Brick—Buy a Brick" from which it is hoped to raise the funds to build a permanent headquarters hut.

**HOLY CROSS**

A large, well-found hut for £1. That was the offer made to the 9th Greenford Holy Cross Scouts the other day. There were some conditions attached to the offer, not the least of them being that the hut should be dismantled and removed from its present site within seven days. The scouts and their parents' committee accepted the challenge that this involved, and have succeeded in removing the hut piece-meal to a site they already had prepared in a deserted corner of the Rectory garden. As a result of these great efforts it is hoped that the scouts will, within the next month or so, have a better hut than the one originally planned at considerably less cost. Congratulations to the scouts on their efforts, and thanks to the donors of the hut!