

History Of Crosland Hill

Scouting started at Crosland Hill in 1945. A lady called Margaret Pickles (nee Hirst) formed a Wolf Cub Pack. (Margaret attended our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 1997.) They held their meetings at the Manor Farm House, kindly offered by Frank Roberts.

In 1947 it became obvious that a Boy Scout Section was required. Ian McGill took on the role of Scout Master. Harold Mellor, Eric Wyke, David Tompkins, and Keith Belbin all helped out over the next year or two.

By chance (or was it design?), Margaret got off a trolley bus at Crosland Hill one day, and started chatting to one Ken Oldfield. That conversation ever so slightly changed Ken's life!! For the next forty-odd years Ken passed on Scouting knowledge and influenced some 500 boys. In fact his inspiration is still being felt—Dave C learned all he knows from Ken, and Dave F was one of Dave's Scouts.

In the 60's, Crosland Hill was the most famous Troop in Huddersfield, winning every competition and trophy going. Margaret gave up being Cub Mistress in the early 60's. She was followed by Ronnie Daggett for a spell, and then a young lady whom Ken had recently met. What powers of persuasion—he not only managed to install a legendary Cub Leader, but married her into the bargain! The reign of Cub Leader supreme, Anne Oldfield, had started.

Such was Anne's success that in 1976 a 2nd Cub Pack was started, with Ian Shackcloth (a lifelong 9th member) becoming its Akela.

The Scout section, meanwhile, had grown to become the largest Troop in SW Huddersfield (disregarding Newsome's band) with Dave C as Scout Leader. Ken's success and traditions were continued, and numbers rose to almost forty.

In the 70's Venture Scouting had become mixed. Dick Prior had been Senior Scout Master (an earlier name for Venture Scout Leader) since the mid-60's. He was now joined by an ex-army PT instructor, John Sullivan. He was the step-father of a couple of Scouts (Neil & Chris) and husband of the then treasurer, Barbara. Together with help from Dot Foster, Venture Scout numbers rose to 40!

In 1990, we joined the ever-increasing number of Groups to start a Beaver Scout Colony. Pat Mellor was the Leader with Joanne Foster ably supporting.

In the 90's five stalwarts of the Group all moved on to pastures new. First Dick, then Dave (albeit temporarily), Ken, Anne, and finally Ian. These Leaders must have clocked up almost 200 years at the 9th between them!

Losing such dedicated Leaders was a blow, but their replacements took up the respective mantles with enthusiasm and commitment. This ensured that Scouting at Crosland Hill is alive, kicking, and thriving.

It goes without saying that many important and influential figures have been omitted from this potted history;

- ⊗ Geoff Sutton, the first Wolf Cub to move into the Boy Scouts (& also put Dave Calverley's name on the waiting list!);
- ⊗ Dave Harrison—Dick's deputy whilst he was having his "arm job";
- ⊗ Stuart Armitage, Pete Blackburn, John Ives, Martin Shaw, Stephen Wadsworth—Scouts extraordinaire from the 60's, with Roger Green (the oldest Wolf Cub in Huddersfield) a later addition;
- ⊗ AB (Andrew Blackburn), Mick Cowlam, Julian Goodall, Malcolm Haigh, Jeremy & Jonathan Lodge, their 70's equivalent;
- ⊗ Bruce Daggett, Bob Armitage, C Dyson, Ralph Nuttall, A Asquith, Richard Knight, Roger Green, Malcolm Booth, Jonathan Whittaker, Andrew Smith, Tricia Black, Neil Pashley, Kath Gibson, J Miller, and C Duggan—Queen's Scouts not already mentioned;
- ⊗ Neville Broadbent (& dog);
- ⊗ Ann Heaton (now Harrison) & Carol Baldwin - superb assistants to Anne Oldfield;
- ⊗ Denise Brierley, Vera Noble (now Foster) - Akelas after Ian Shackcloth;
- ⊗ Helen Lodge (née Calverley) & Alison Armitage, Anne's ACSLs;
- ⊗ Dave Foster—a superb QM;
- ⊗ John Mitchell—SL between Ken & Dave;
- ⊗ Sid Asquith, Eric Lodge, Keith Stephenson—building builders;...

Father & Son Camps;

Family Camps;

Canal Holidays;

Winter Survival Camps;...

I know I have probably gone over the top here, but I just want you to know what a tradition we have, and what a magnificent organisation and Group you have joined.

To quote what Ken always used to say when he invested a new Scout:

"Once a Scout, always a Scout", by which he meant that you make the Scout Promise, but you never 'unmake' it.