

# Odd History

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## Pictures

Here are a few pictures that have been sent in by former members of the Group or found when going through records. If you would like to submit pictures to be considered for the site, please send them to the GSL.

### Group Picture November 1999

This picture was taken, we think, after the anniversary service in November 1999



### Peter Armitage

Here are four pictures sent in by Peter Armitage. Peter wrote in his email:

'I joined the 18th Edmonton Cubs group in 1960 Akela was Mrs Soley, then went on to the Scouts (scout leader Peter Rider) and finally was one of the first members of the Venture Scout group formed by Peter Charlesworth in 1970.



I was sorting through some old photos and came across some I took forty years ago of the scout group. This photo shows some of the members of the early venture scout group. Back row Peter Charlesworth, unknown, John Staples and Gordon Cowley. Front row Peter Armitage, Doug's daughter, Keith Whitlem and on the piano Doug (unknown surname).



The camping photos were taken at Tolmers camp site probably in 1970 or 1971. The only name I can remember is Andrew Warren who is shown walking towards the camera in Tolmers2.jpg.

Thanks, Peter, for sending these in.

### 1985 Venture Week

Does anyone know anything about this picture?



It had a piece of paper with it titled 'Venture Week 1985 Minehead 18th Edmonton Cubs' together with the Butlins logo. Our Cubs have obviously been joined by the Cubs and Leaders from another Pack, but which pack? Pat Powell tells us that the leader in the middle is our CSL at the time Beverley Payne.

### Other Odd Bits of History

We received this piece of history via email from Michael Haynes in March 2018. Thank you, Michael.

I am Michael Haynes and had the pleasure of viewing your history page, in which reference is made to the new Venture Unit. At the time I was an Assistant Scout Leader (not registered) and when it became necessary for a new Leader to run the Venture Unit, I "volunteered".

*I am not certain when this was, other than it was after 1972 and before 1977. It was also agreed that the Unit be named the Skip Choat Unit. I ran this until July 1977 when I had to*

give up due to getting married and moving out to Hertfordshire. The Unit very kindly and surprisingly provided a guard of honour for our wedding along with an m shaped slate on which were a V, June 11, 1977 and the following names of the Unit lads. D.Turner, R.Jones, R.Cook, A.Murdoch, N.Rider, S.Palmer, K.Bird, D.Sheppard, M.Pealling, A.Warren, M.Morey and B R Smith.

Unhappily at 71 the brain cells have diminished somewhat. so that my recollection of what the Unit got up to is a little vague, other than an effort to join forces (unsuccessfully) with the girls' Ranger Unit.

We received another piece of history via email from Keith Sykes in March 2019. Thank you, Keith.

My name is Keith Sykes and as I was feeling rather nostalgic the other day I did some online searching back to my roots. That included the 18th Edmonton Scout Group, of which I was a member from around 1964 to 1969. My parents migrated to Melbourne, Australia in 1970 and I was extremely sad to leave the scouts.

Anyway, while reading through your website, I noticed the name 'Peter Armitage' and that brought back some memories. I remember Peter (albeit vaguely) and the photos he provided also took me back 50 years!

Keith Whitlam had a brother (Michael). He was a Mod (of sorts) and rode a scooter as was the trend in the mid-60's. Mick was already a scout when I was still in the Cubs.

Keith had an accident at the local swimming pool one year. He came off a diving board and his head hit the side of the pool which saw him hospitalised for some months. He was very lucky to survive in fact.

Gordon Cowley was quite a senior scout, but I vividly remember him looking after me in a 'big brother' fashion at my first scout summer camp at Plymouth in around 1966. I had been feeling a little homesick as an 11-year-old away from home for a lengthy (so it seemed!) period.

I also remember that we went on a tour of HMS Bulwark, the aircraft carrier, at that camp.

Peter Charlesworth I remember being one of the scout leaders and taking us on various activities at camp and during the Friday night meetings.

John Staples is a faint memory, but the name is still strong in my mind.

I read in the group's history about the acquisition of a Commer van as the scout bus. Yes, I remember that so well. It was yellow and the group took possession of it around the time of the Beatles song "Yellow Submarine". From that point, every trip we took we'd be singing "We all live in a yellow Commer van".

Peters photos spurred me to look for the two I have attached.

The first is of our patrol on summer camp included John Evans (back to the camera); me sitting on the box on the left, Bosun (can't remember his name) a lad called Andrew I believe facing camera, hand in pocket. Sadly, I cannot recall the other lads' names. This was around 1967 I think - we went to Fishguard in Wales for that camp.

The second photo is probably the best one of me ever - asleep in my sleeping bag so no one can see my face! The sleeping bag was borrowed from an uncle and was a brilliant orange colour. Needless to say, that brought about a lot of comments from the other guys and the scout leaders too! It was the psychedelic era and the sleeping bag fitted into that quite nicely!

I also remember the entertainment 'shows' that we put on. They were my first ventures on the stage and were a great deal of fun. I'm not too sure how it all sounded but we thought we were pretty good. It must have stuck with me as I have been a musician since the age of about 15 or 16 and continue to write songs and play in bands or duos, albeit semi-professionally.

The times I had in the scouts remain vivid in my mind - the camps, the church parades, the great fun and skills learnt that have been important and continue to be to this day. As I said, I was very upset at the time when my family migrated to Australia. Those days seemed to go on forever, yet this past 50 years have flown by! That said I live in Aspendale Gardens, a southern suburb of Melbourne which is a long way from 83 Lynmouth Avenue. I have been back to the UK three times and have passed by Bush Hill Park on each visit.

I hope that the photos are of some interest and that if anyone from that era remembers me, please pass on my email for contact.

