

OUR GROUP

The 1st Wootton (61st Beds.) Scout Group was formed in 1910 under the leadership of Miss Stella Dillon, the daughter of Col. Dillon, then resident at Wootton House. The meetings were held in the Church Rooms which were at the side of the former Wootton vicarage. The first camp was held at Easter 1912, when the troop trekked to North Crawley.

The troop was disbanded at the outbreak of the First World War, and restarted in either 1918 or 1919, only to close again in the 1920's on Miss Dillon marrying Mr. Skinner and moving to Bromham Hall.

Bert Beard who then lived at Wood End is believed to have been the first Patrol Leader and other early members were Hugh Denton, Moses Redman, Sid Crowsley, Ted Cooper, Fred Church, Jim Lunnis, Bob Green, Joe Green, 'Stibby' Bennett, Bill Stafferton, Bill Pateman, Bill Benson, 'Tank' Tysoe and Sam Gilbert.

Nothing further is known of the troop until 'Skip' Coy moved to the village from Kempston in 1936. He had been Scout Master of the '101st' at Kempston and was assisted by Les Egan. Together they re-formed the Wootton troop.

Shortly afterwards they became the proud possessors of their own Headquarters, when the Rev. Squires, the local vicar, loaned the money to purchase a wooden sectional building from a Scout troop at Goldington which had disbanded. This building was erected on Church owned land opposite Mr. Juffs riding stables in Church Road. Within a short time an extension was added, this being paid for by the Rev. Squires.

In 1937 the 1st Wootton Cub Pack was formed under the leadership of 'Pim' Brew, who was assisted by Bill Burraway now of the Black Horse. The pack closed during the war and was restarted by Mrs. Beaumont and Mrs. Peggy Boston.