

Elstree & Borehamwood Museum Friends Newsletter July 2023: Issue Number 27



Friends visit to the Bow Street Police Museum



We had a good turnout of our Friends, and we were greeted by Vicki Pipe, Museum Curator, who talked us through what to expect inside.



Located on the site of the 1881 Bow Street Magistrates' Court and Police Station, the courthouse is an imposing space and where the

notorious Kray Twins appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in 1968 charged with two counts of murder. There are many exhibits including stories of investigations, arrests and justice being served, and from former employees with tales of working life at the station.



Some were a little reluctant to step inside the cells, and you can see why.

We would highly recommend a visit if you're in the area. Bow Street Police Museum is located at 28 Bow Street, London, WC2E 7AW. Their website is: bowstreetpolicemuseum.org.uk/



The Scouts of Elstree

Many of you will know the close involvement of Elstree and the birth of the Scouting movement. How

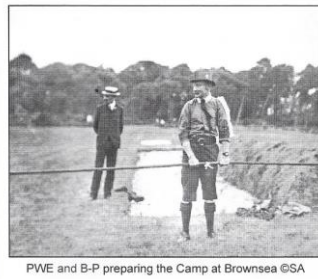


Sir Percy Winn Everett

Percy Winn Everett was living in Schopwick Place, was an editor at the publisher Pearsons, and was assigned in 1906 by Arthur Pearson to help Robert Baden-Powell write his seminal *Scouting For Boys*. After participating in the famous Brownsea Island Scout Camp the following year, Everett

was heavily involved in this new idea when some Elstree boys who had read about Baden-Powell approached him to form a troupe. So in March 1908 one of the first Scout Groups in the country was formed in Elstree after Baden-Powell, who was staying in Schopwick at the time, persuaded Everett to get directly involved.

Now, if we fast-forward a good many years Percy Everett has been knighted, and Baden-Powell made Baron of Gilwell and received many awards including the Order of Merit, while their *Scouting For*



PWE and B-P preparing the Camp at Brownsea ©SA

Boys has sold 150 million copies, becoming the fourth best-selling book of the 20th Century. 'BP' died in January 1941 in Kenya where he had been living for a while. His Memorial Service was held in Westminster Abbey on January 27th, and we have a description of the event from Helen Bailey, a 16-year-old Guide from Drayton Road, chosen to represent the county.

Thanks to her son Brian Russell for sending it our way along with Helen's photo and these details: "My mum Helen Russell nee Bailey was born in January 1925 and died in May 2006 and spent all her childhood in Boreham Wood. Her father was a well-respected member of the Local volunteer Fire Brigade and a gate keeper at Elstree Studios. She lived at 42 Drayton Road, which I understand the pair of houses there had been built by her uncle. Her father and his brothers had been amongst the first Scouts to start up the local troop and I understand one of them was involved in

the photography for the earliest sets of Boy Scout postcards."

Here is Helen's story:

A Visit To Girl Guide Headquarters, 23 November 1941



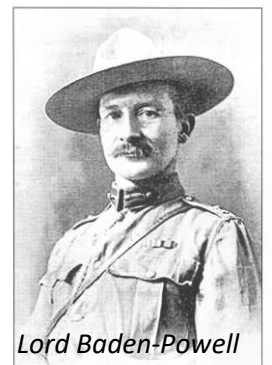
Until January 1941, I had never been lucky enough to visit Guide Headquarters. On January 8th, however, the world heard with deep regret of the death of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell - Chief Scout - at his mountain home in Kenya.

As a tribute to the passing of this great person a short commemoration service was held at Westminster Abbey on January 27th with fifty Guides and fifty Scouts to represent the whole of the Guide and Scout Movement throughout the world. I was chosen, with two others, to represent Hertfordshire.

On the day, I travelled to St Pancras where I met a Commissioner and three other guides, and it did not take us long to get from there to Buckingham Palace Road where Guide 'HQ' is situated.

In the Guide Shop were gathered the rest of the Guide representatives being introduced to each other by the Commissioners present.

As soon as everyone had arrived a message from Lady Baden-Powell was read out. It told us "that the Chief would not wish us to be miserable and go about with long faces, but we should remember the 8th Law and live up to it". (A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties).



Lord Baden-Powell

The service at the Abbey was short, simple and sincere. Among those present were two American, an African and an Indian Scout; a Belgium, a Swiss, a French and an American Guide; and a number of Rovers and Guides from foreign countries.

After the service, feeling more serious than before, we marched back to 'HQ' for lunch. The restaurant was at the very top of the building, taking up the whole of the fifth floor. It was a bright, cheery room; a picture in light and dark blue, with white clothed tables dotted about at intervals.

Miss Gibbs, one of the Commissioners, the American, three other English Guides and I found an empty table nearly in the middle of the room, where we could see everyone in the room without turning round. It was a merry meal, for the tables were packed and jokes were passed from table to table with roars of laughter. (The ones enjoying the jokes best often being those who were being made fun of).

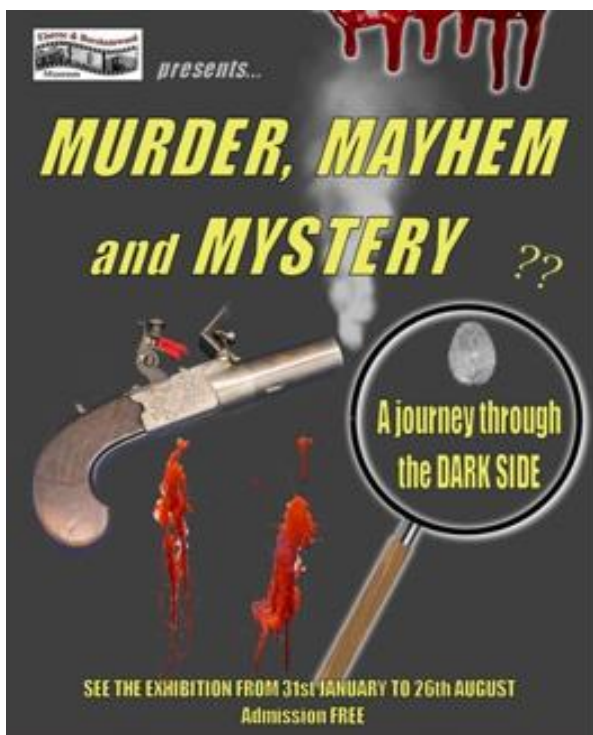
Halfway through the meal, a Rover entered the room with a man in Naval uniform. The Rover stopped at various tables, exchanging a word or introducing his companion and eventually reached our table. Miss Gibbs rose to speak to the Rover and then the Naval officer was introduced to us each in turn. He was a

member of the Free French Navy who had been a Scoutmaster in his own country before the war. He could only speak a few words in English and as Miss Gibbs was the only other person who could speak French, I was very pleased with myself that I was able to say a few words to him in his own language. He was very considerate and spoke slowly so that I could understand him, and the words I could not understand, the Rover kindly supplied the interpretation. (My only hope is that I didn't make too many mistakes in my answers).

After lunch we explored every corner of 'HQ' from top to bottom, making our way into the various offices, where everyone who had time explained their different duties to us. This was made doubly interesting as every office in 'HQ' is named after a county.

When we at last reached the ground floor, it was getting late. We had time, however, for a quick visit, across the road, to 'Our Ark', the Guide Hostel - but that is another story.

Our current exhibition closes on 26th August.



Don't miss out on the chance to see the pistol from the murder of William Weare in 1823, read the broadsheets from the time and catch up on those local crimes.

We have a reconstruction of a post-war police box, tardis-shaped, and we do a fair bit of time travelling too. Travelling back to 1735 when Dick Turpin invaded an Elstree farm with his gang, we progress through nearly 250 years of local history to 1971 when another violent gang attacked Barclays Bank in Shenley Road.

Years of Murder, Mayhem & Mystery indeed. In between you will find stories of dastardly deeds, murders punished and unpunished, secret houses hidden in plain sight and celebrities in trouble - from Martha Ray in 1779 to Sophia Loren in 1960.

Our next exhibition will be ready in September.

To celebrate the anniversary of our home at 96 Shenley Road, we'll have a look back at the Village Hall of old, the building of the new facility and a review of our most popular exhibitions over the last 10 years. Keep your eyes peeled for further updates.



Interested in Volunteering?

Elstree & Borehamwood Museum is run entirely by volunteers, and we are looking for enthusiastic people of all ages, with a passion for local heritage that can fill the gaps in our expertise to support our local community. You can commit to as many hours that suit you to fulfil any of a multitude of roles, we just ask you make a regular commitment to support the day to day running of the museum.

We are currently looking for volunteers for the following positions:

- **Front of House** – perfect if you like meeting people.
- **Learning Officer** – working with local schools, perhaps you're a retired teacher?
- **Publicity Officer** – media savvy? Help us in getting our messages to more people more often.
- **Event Support** – supporting us in hosting events, workshops, and exhibitions.
- **Event Organiser** – designing, planning, and delivering events.

Want to know more? You will find full details on the www.communities1st.org.uk website, or you can call or drop in to the museum (details and opening hours below), or email info@ebw-museum.org.uk with your details and area of interest and we will be in touch.

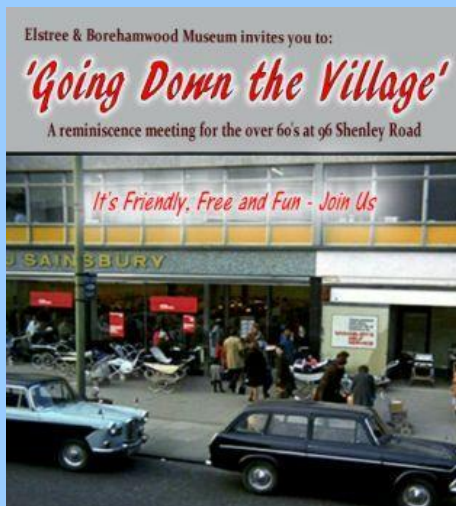
Watch the video - [Volunteering With Hertsmere's Museums - YouTube](#)

Online payments.

Did you know that you can now renew your Friends membership or make donations to the Museum by bank transfer?

Contact the museum on 01442 454888 for details.

**PLEASE JOIN OUR FREE
REMINISCENCE MEETINGS
DATES FOR 2023
TUESDAY 1ST AUGUST
TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER
TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER
10.30am in Meeting Room One
at 96 SHENLEY ROAD**



Elstree & Borehamwood Museum

96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1EB
Tel: 01442 454888

**Open: Tues, Wed & Thurs: 12pm - 6pm
Sat: 10am-3pm**

Email: info@elstree-museum.org.uk

FB: www.facebook.com/EBWmuseum

Twitter: [@EBWMuseumHerts](https://twitter.com/EBWMuseumHerts)

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/ebwm2007/>

Trip Advisor: <https://goo.gl/RTbKQi>

Supported by: Hertsmere Borough Council

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Registered charity No 1157770

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.elstree-museum.org.uk/

Thank you for your continued support.

