

The Old Gold Association A New Era

Evolution not Revolution

A Bit of History

The Chanters' Association was formed in 1946 by Pete Daws and others, all former members of the 1st CB Highland Troop returning from wartime service.

It was decided to meet each month at various local hostelries and later, to hold an annual Reunion Supper each February at which Steak and Kidney Pudding usually featured. It became the custom that at 5 year intervals a Ladies Night was held instead and the menu adjusted suitably.

AGMs were often held on the nearest Thursday to St Andrew's Day, when at the conclusion of business, the Pipes would be heard once more announcing Haggis, Neaps and Tatties, accompanied by a single malt gravy.

These early Chanters vowed to continue meeting in perpetuity, with the gleeful observation "one day, one of us will turn up and realise that there's only one left!". Perhaps to fend off this moment,



membership was opened up many years later to "All Old Boys", not just those who had been in the Highland Troop.

Since then Scouting has changed and whilst the fundamentals remain, the method and especially the membership retain very little in common with those heady post war days.

Rovers went, Venture Scouts have come and gone, Beavers are now an integral part of the Group and probably the biggest change of all is Scouting opening its doors fully to both Male and Female Members across all Ages.

Decision Time

Times change and the Chanters' Association changed with them. Attendance at Monthly meetings slowly declined, not least due to the introduction of background music in most pubs, which rendered normal conversation difficult.

Meetings became less frequent although the annual Reunion Dinner has always happened. The Dinner was moved from February to May by request of some of the original Members and the AGM also moved to May a few years ago, to make it easier for our farther-flung members to attend both AGM and Dinner with a single journey.

However like it or not with modern communication networks and social media now firmly established, the Role of the Chanters' has been under scrutiny for a few years and doubts expressed as to the long term viability of a £3 a year charge to receive an emailed invitation to a dinner, particularly as more recent members of the Group are happy using Facebook and other mediums to keep in contact with their friends.

At the 69th AGM of the Association, it was resolved that the Chanters should look to become more open and representative of the potential membership, namely anyone with a current or historic association of any kind with the 1st CB or simply wishes to support the Group provide the kind of Scouting experiences we all enjoyed

It was agreed we are now to be known as the "Old Gold Association" (Formerly The Chanters' Association) with a new logo incorporating the Old Gold scarf and a Stag's head to reflect the Group's more recent history

Research will continue to find out who was, in fact, "the Last (original) Chanter", although perhaps someone reading this message will seek to make that claim?



What do YOU want from YOUR Association?

We hope that the Old Gold Association will rise to the challenge and will take forward the original ideas of fraternity and reunion, combining the digital age with traditional face to face meetings as and when possible.

To achieve this we need both ideas and an influx of new blood not just paid up members but more importantly to join/take over the organising to help make it relevant in 2016

Please please please share/pass this newsletter to anyone you know who has had a connection with the 1st CB no matter how small and encourage them to join, if this includes raising above the parapet and offering help on the organisational side even better.

Remember the aim of the Old Gold Association is to support the Group in providing the young people of the current 1st Chalkwell Bay membership the opportunity to get the most out of their time in Scouting

News From the Group - Mick Hebden G.S.L

We have Beaver Scouts joining at 6 years old and if they choose, progressing through Cubs Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and then as an Adult as a Leader or in our Active Support Unit.

Uniform, Promises & Laws, Badges etc have changed but the basics remain, scouts still camp, sometimes in the same tents that have been used for over 50 years and they cook on open fires using very similar styles of pots and pans. We proudly continue to wear the traditional Old Gold scarves, now with an added square of Royal Stewart Tartan sewn on the back

A recent major shift in Scout Rules is an exciting one, namely the abolition of the HQ Membership Fee (Capitation!) for adults, meaning anyone who wishes to take a more active role in the Group can rejoin the Scout Association free of charge. We currently have around 45 Adults in the group as Leaders, Executive Committee Members, Active Support Unit or Occasional Helpers giving as much time as they feel able and we are confident that we will continue to provide the exciting programme that makes 1st CB what it is.

Current Group Membership stands at 131 made up of:

38 Beaver Scouts plus 4 Leaders and 2 Young Leaders; 23 Cub Scouts plus 2 Leaders and 3 Young Leaders; 20 Scouts plus 4 Leaders and 1 Young Leader; 2 Group Scout Leaders; 6 Executive Committee Members and 8 Active Support Unit

Whatever direction the association takes there remains a need for a membership fee to fund administration and the organisation of the Annual Reunion. The will remains at £3 per annum. A key element of the Chanters we want to continue to provide is the ' Association's support Fund which is used to provide assistance to the Group for out of the ordinary purchases and other one off requirements and of course donations to the fund are always welcome

To join or renew your previous Chanters membership please complete the form, pay electronically to Barclays 114 Fenchurch Street sort code 20-31-52 account number 10250112 and return by Email to OGA@1stcb.org.uk

Current Association Officers

Chairperson - Peter Hammond
Secretaries - Kay Bell and Lynda Beamont
Treasurer - Keith Newquist
Archivist - Mick Hebden
Contact at OGA@1stcb.org.uk

Membership Form

I wish to join the Old Gold Association I am / I am not* previously a member of the Chanters Association

NAME..... EMAIL (if held)

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE..... YEARS IN GROUP (if applicable)....19 to

I am willing to be involved in the organising committee if asked YES / NO*

My idea for making the Association a success is.....

Payment enclosed / paid direct* by Bank Transfer - Subs To May 2016 £ Donation £ Total £

* Delete as applicable Please Return to The Secretary Old Gold Association, 78 Thames Drive, Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 2XD