



Newsletter

December 2017

Welcome to the December 2017 OGA Newsletter.

The OLD GOLD ASSOCIATION is an Association for ALL current and former Members of the 1st Chalkwell Bay, S.T.A.G. Venture Unit, Pioneer Fellowship and any other related 'institution' (if that's the right word, any suggestions welcome!!) to the Group.

So please share any related activity, memories, past and future get togethers etc etc via the OGA email at oga@1stcb.org.uk or our Facebook page.

In this edition we have a keynote article from our New Chair Steven 'Ozzie' Rozario, an update on the 1st CB History web pages from our new Secretary Geoff Clare and the usual update on the Group from Michael 'Mick' Hebden. Hopefully there is enough here to keep you interested in both the Association and the Group.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Ozzie's Musings

I am pleased to have been nominated as the chairperson of the Old Gold Association, albeit through a combination of Buggins' turn and some arm twisting from the Treasurer. I am delighted that the Old Gold Association continues. I know its purpose is debated from time to time, for me the value of the Association has always been multiple. Scouting is an excellent movement which provides young people with fundamental skills and values which empower them to lead successful lives and make positive contributions to society. The Old Gold Association maintains the links and shared history between former and current members of the Group, across the generations, and across a wide geography. The Association also provides financial support to the current members of the Group to help with their Scouting development (often anonymously).

I am excited by the new wiki, created by Mike Hebden and actively championed by Geoff Clare. I encourage you all to visit it at https://history.1stcb.org.uk/wiki/Main_Page

The site is restricted to account holders, if you don't have one yet you can just create one by following Geoff's guidance elsewhere in this newsletter. There is already a fascinating collection of histories, photos, marathon log books etc which will bring back memories for all of us. We need your help with identifying people in the photos and even sometimes when and where the photos were taken, so please help if you can. Do feel free to add your own memories and photos as well, it's open to all to edit and update the content.

I've never bothered much with social media but have been encouraged to join Facebook to view the Association's Facebook page. If you're not already aware of it, here's a link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2022187114673494/>

I am intrigued that there are more members of the Facebook page than there are members of the Old Gold Association, so if you're 'sitting on the edge' in the dark please do come on in and join us around the campfire. There are no longer any subscription fees to join the Old Gold Association, although donations are always welcome.

Yours in Scouting
Ozzie

The Association's funds, whilst not enormous, do little to benefit the Group when they are sitting in a bank account. It is gratifying that in the short time since I have been chairperson we have already provided some assistance and I would encourage the Group to call on the Association for help whenever needed.

To better address the geographical challenges of the Association membership we are going to attempt to hold this year's AGM via videoconferencing (probably Google Hangouts). If, like me, you're a long way from Essex and would like to take part please let us know and we will endeavour to include you. I have always been in favour of short meetings so I shall try to ensure it doesn't take up too much time.



Current Association Officers

Chair - Steven Rozario
Secretary - Geoff Clare

Treasurer - Keith Newquist

Archivist - Mick Hebden

Social Secretary - Lynda Beamont

1st CB History Web Site

The 1st CB history "wiki" web site has grown enormously during 2017. Here are a few stats (as at 30th Nov):

Number of pages	56	Number of other photos	58
Number of edits made since the wiki was started	1,360	Number of videos	7
Number of photos from 1st CB archive	263	Number of PDF files (marathon log books, etc.)	24

Those seven videos are all taken from *1st Chalkwell Bay Summer Camps by Skip Vander* which was previously available to purchase on DVD but can now simply be downloaded from the wiki as a set of mp4 files.

For those interested in early 1st CB history, a recent addition to the wiki is the 1929-31 Rovers record book. It's a work in progress: at the time of writing, two parts containing a total of 42 pages are available and part 2 includes a section entitled *History of the 1st Chalkwell Bay Rover Crew* which looks back at the earlier history from 1921. Although referred to as a "record" book, it is much more than this implies. It includes some lengthy narrations of various activities (mostly camps) in a humorous style, and quite a few photos. Someone who crops up a lot in most parts of the book is Pete Daws - a name that should be well known to us all either because he went on to become one of the founder members of the Chanters' Association or through having met him during various activities at Pebmarsh.

To see all these photos, videos and documents you need an account on the wiki, but it is quite simple to create one. Just go to <https://history.1stcb.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=Special:UserLogin&type=signup> and enter a username of your choosing, a password (twice), and the answer to a simple maths question, then click the "Create your account" button.

Finally, as a bit of fun here is a "top 20" of the 1st CB members who are mentioned the most times on the wiki:

Keith Newquist	30	Andy Ross	16	Dave Whitby	12	Neil Cooper	9
(Mike / Mick) Hebden	25	Keith Bell	13	David George	12	Mark Tillbrook	8
Tony Groom	22	Norma Groom	13	Geoff Clare	10	Nick Raggett	8
Ian Simpson	19	Simon Barker	13	Norman "Skip" Vander	10	Simon Lawrence	8
Stuart Hinton	18	Steve "Ozzie" Rozario	13	Jon Hurley	9	Stuart Lawrence	8

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

This year we opened a new Cub Pack on a Tuesday, followed by a Beaver Colony later in the year.

Camps have been held at Belchamps, Ark Lane and Guidewoods (Hockley), Thriftwood (Brentwood), Kingston Ridge (Laindon) and Phasels Wood (near Luton).

In October, Westcliff URC closed and merged with Crowstone St. George's

URC, and the building was renamed Kings Road URC!

As a result 2nd CB Cubs also now meet here, on a Wednesday and 2nd CB Rainbows, Bownies and Guides still fill the building on a Thursday. Future Church Parades will be interesting,....

Despite this, we still have a Waiting List of around 35 young people of various ages wishing to join - if only the walls were elastic!

Our current priority is to build a team (and find a free space) for a second

Scout Troop in 2018. Several of the Scout Leaders now have Kayaking permits and we are working closely with 1st Westcliff Sea Scouts and 6th Westcliff Scouts so that their Two Tree Island centre has been in regular use again with kayaking sessions and an occasional sailing dinghy out on the water too.

Current numbers: 29 Beavers, 4 Leaders, 4 Young Leaders; 72 Cubs, 9 Leaders, 4 Young Leaders; 25 Scouts, 3 Leaders, 2 Young Leaders; Group Exec of 10 ! ; Active Support and others 15 - around 167 Members in all.

Dates for Your Diaries

Annual General Meeting, Group Dinner and Church Parade Weekend

Saturday 12th May 2018

AGM : Kings Road URC** - refreshments provided.

Group Dinner: Affinity Restaurant, 1777-1779, London Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2ST.

Sunday 13th May 2018

Church Parade: Kings Road URC**

***Crowstone St George's and Westcliff URC merged in October 2017 to become the Kings Road United Reformed Church*