



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Current Association Officers

Chair - Steven Rozario
Secretary - Geoff Clare
Treasurer - Keith Newquist
Archivist - Mick Hebden

Contact OGA@1stcb.org.uk

2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the December 2019 OGA Newsletter.

The OLD GOLD ASSOCIATION is an Association for ALL current and former Members of the 1st Chalkwell Bay Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, S.T.A.G. Venture Unit, Pioneer Fellowship and any other related 'institution' to the Group.

To our knowledge the last 12 months have been fairly quiet on the Association's front, as apart from the AGM / Dinner and the 'over and nearing 60' group staying at Ozzie's in March and then meeting again in The Peak District last month, we're not aware of any other occasions where members have got together or otherwise interacted.

Geoff continues to do a sterling job uploading the Group's archives with documents old and new, and advising us via our Facebook page whenever he adds a new batch. Please remember there are TWO FACEBOOK GROUPS one public and a private one, if you're not seeing the latter please contact Keith or Mick Hebden who can arrange to 'invite' you.

In this edition we have our annual keynote from our Chair Steven 'Ozzie' Rozario, an update on the 1st CB History web pages from our Secretary Geoff Clare and the usual News from the Group by Michael 'Mick' Hebden.

Finally, we are keen that the Old Gold Association continues to be a valuable part of the 1st CB family, linking current and past members of the group, providing news and updates of the group's activities and sharing memories and reminiscences of our shared experiences. We would very much welcome contributions from Old Gold Association members, so if YOU have any ideas for rejuvenating the Association, holding get togethers, or stories to share please contact us via the OGA email at oga@1stcb.org.uk or our Facebook page

Ozzie's Musing - A knotty problem

I've long felt that Scouting provides children and young adults with valuable life skills which they won't always get from their school or home education. Skills like teamwork and leadership, the value of being a good citizen, and a range of practical skills.

One such skill is a whole range of useful knots. Also various whippings and lashings (Keith Bell, our Scout Leader, was a strict disciplinarian). I've had cause to use quite a few knots over the years. Some regularly, some less so. The reef knot, of course, is used for all sorts of daily things: tying shoe laces, bin bags, etc. OK, technically shoelaces are a double-slipped reef knot, but it's the same principle. I use a round turn and two half hitches for holding up our washing line. I've even used the timber hitch (for hauling logs around the yard). A clove hitch will hold a donkey's halter securely to the shed when the farrier is trimming their hooves and can still be untied afterwards. The highwayman's hitch didn't work, they just made a quick getaway. A spliced loop comes in handy for farm gates, and if you splice it through the bars of the gate it stops the loop getting lost when the gate is left open. It's much tidier than the ubiquitous multiply granny-knotted red baler twine that most

farmers use. I discovered (the hard way) that one should secure a ladder when working at height, and a square lashing is a strong and simple solution to hold the ladder to a beam or scaffolding. I always use one now. But I thought I'd forgotten all those other weird and wonderful knots that I haven't used for over 40 years.

Until we went to a quiz last month. There were four rounds of 25 questions each and you could pick (in advance) a 'joker' round for which your score was doubled. One round was on knots. I said I might remember a few knots, so my team picked that as our joker. I.e. it would be my fault if we came last. We got a picture sheet of knots and to my own amazement as well as my teams a whole host of hitches and bends returned. The bowline, of course. The sheet bend. The rolling hitch. The diagonal lashing. You can probably remember those as well. But what about the Turk's Head? The Monkey's Fist? The Crown Knot?

Astonishingly, I found I still knew these. I even got the marlin spike hitch (although the spike in the picture was a clue). 23 out of 25 right, and we won the quiz handsomely.

And what of the two that I didn't get? One was the Fireman's Chair Knot, which I called a Fireman's Hitch and the quizmaster refused to even give me half a point for (I felt robbed). And the other was this one



Congratulations if you know what it is. I didn't feel robbed for not knowing it, although perhaps I should have done.

Yours in Scouting
Ozzie

1st CB History Web Site

The 1st CB history "wiki" web site's steady growth has continued. Here's how this year's stats (as at 7th Dec) compare with last year's:

	2018	2019
Number of pages	74	76
Number of edits made since the wiki was started	1,994	2,277
Number of photos from 1st CB archive	515	646
Number of other photos	102	119
Number of videos	7	7
Number of PDF files (marathon log books, etc.)	34	37

Notable additions this year have included:

- Photos from Roy "Bunts" Warren's personal photo album from the 1950's.
- A *CB Monthly* magazine from October 1970.
- Alan Bryson's personal page (linked from the Members page), telling the story of his time in Scouting, from when he joined 1st CB Cubs in 1944 through to his 25 years as Treasurer of 3rd CB Sea Scouts
- The earliest marathon log book so far: June 1966 (Tony Groom, Keith Bell and Ken Miller).

Here is the new "top 20" of the 1st CB members who are mentioned the most times on the wiki:

40	Keith Newquist	24	Simon Barker	20	Steve "Ozzie" Rozario	14	Jon Hurley
34	Tony Groom	22	Andy Ross	19	David George	14	Nick Raggett
30	Mike / Mick Hebden	21	Ian Simpson	17	Norma Groom	13	John George
26	Stuart Hinton	20	Keith Bell	17	Sean Kelly	13	Mark Tillbrook
24	Roy "Bunts" Warren	20	Norman "Skip" Vander	16	Dave Whitby	13	Neil Cooper

The top four are unchanged, but Bunts has shot up from 11th to tie with Simon at 5th (no doubt because of the new photos from his album). Keith Bell is another significant climber (14th to 9th). Mark Tillbrook is a new entry at 19th.

If you don't already have access to the wiki, it is quite simple to create an account. 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.

News from the Group

- The Scouts were placed highly in "County Backpack" hike (think old Scout Marathons) the coveted 1st place eludes them still but they plan to change that next time in March 2020.
- The Young Leaders also did well in the County Scout Marathon in the New Forest (as above, but for Explorer Scouts)
- Scouts are off to Essex Jamboree in August - about 35 Scouts + 4 Leaders booked up at the moment!!
- Millie Pugsley (Tuesday Beaver Leader) has been appointed as the first District Youth Commissioner.
- Busy weekend last October when 19 Cubs held a "Day of the Dead" sleepover whilst 11 of the older Cubs spent the weekend under canvas with the Scout Troops as an intro to Scouts and assessment for the Jamboree. So far they've all successfully moved up to the Troops, with a few more starting in the New Year.
- We had our first "joint" Church Parade with 2nd CB Cubs on Remembrance Sunday where we were greatly outnumbered!
- On 16th Dec the Group held an Indoor Funfair at the church with as many different sideshows as we could put together. No money was taken, but the "ticket machines" required sensible answers to simple questions to issue tickets to 'spend' on the stalls once their first 5 free tickets had gone.
- Amazon Explorer Scout Unit are moving across to Kings Road URC on a Tuesday w.e.f. January. Not joining the Group, but we look forward to having them co-located! It was a trip down memory lane for some of the Leaders when they brought their equipment across to the Outside Den for storage

Dates for Your Diaries

Annual General Meeting, Group Dinner and Church Parade Weekend **9th – 10th May 2020**