

Cover of the very first magazine with typescript in a purple colour! This has now faded and doesn't reproduce terribly well.

Donald Kendall-Chapman (see back cover) was one of the patrol leaders. He worked with his uncle in Reepham Post Office and in January 1912 he was 16 years old. He was responsible for typing & editing this issue & I think he's the one with glasses.

Frank Rump, another patrol leader, was John Harold Rump's older brother. He was also 16 at this time and emigrated to Canada before WWI. Frank enrolled in the Canadian Ex. Force. News of him going appears in later editions of The Stalker. Frank is probably the standing one nearest Amy??

Samuel Bircham is the Scoutmaster & author of Andrumman's Review. In his article H----- =Hackford, S---- =Salle, N----- =Norwich & B----- =Bawdeswell.

The Stalker
Official Organ of the Hackford House Troop
No. 1 January 1912

The Official Organ of the Hackford House Troop.

Our Scoutmaster's Chat.
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OUR SCOUTMASTER'S CHAT.

On the 16th December last, Mrs Charles of Wroxham House, (wife of our District Commissioner) opened our new Club Room; and she had chosen just the one fine day sandwiched in between a lot of wretched days for the occasion. She and the sun smiled on us, and seemed to promise success for our undertaking.

The Troop received Col. Charles at the new Club Room door, where he inspected it. We then walked through the Rooms, which I pointed out, afforded length for a miniature Rifle Range, of which in due course, we hoped to avail ourselves.

The Reading Room is to be set apart for quiet, and I hope to induce the boys to read some or all of the many books which kind friends have provided.

Let me remind my boys that a Scout's life is not intended to be all "beer and skittles". They have now an opportunity of preparing themselves to be good and useful citizens of their country, in whatever sphere it may please God to call them. We will try and improve by reasonable drill and exercise, their thews and sinews, but alongside that, and paramount to it, is the improvement of their thoughts and senses. Let the older boys set an example in the use of their Club: let the younger members of the Troop practise self-denial and obedience and let all hold steadfast to the three promises they have made, viz. 1, Honour God and the King: 2, To do good turns to others: 3, To keep the Scout Law.

SCOUTMASTER.

January 1912.

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ABOUT OURSELVES.

Eagle Patrol.

Our Patrol was formed during May 1911. It consists of eight boys, of whom four (myself included) were transferred from the two original Patrols --- Peewits and Wood Pigeons. These four have gained their Second Class Badges, and during the last few months they have been training our tenderfeet. I hope these latter will soon be in possession of theirs.

During the Summer, three of us got the first rudiments of swimming, and can get along passably on the breast. Three of us were members of the Cricket Eleven.

We have lost one of our boys, who has gone to the Naval Institution at County School, but a recruit has just filled the vacancy.

Just now football is in full swing. Three of us are regular members of the eleven, but five Eagles played in the last match against Cardigan United on Boxing Day.

GEORGE ANDERSON.

(Leader)

Peewit Patrol.

This Patrol was one of the founders of the Troop, and at one time, could boast of having all obtained their Second Class Badges. Four of us were transferred to the Eagles, and it is interesting to note that both the latter's Leader and Second are ex-Peewits. Even now we have six who wear their Second Class Badge, one of whom has qualified for a proficiency badge --- the only one in the Troop to date (December 1911) Well done Peewits! Keep it up!

Several of this Patrol are waiting for the examiner's convenience, with regard to the Naturalist's Badge. I wish them success.

This used to be the best Patrol in the Troop, but now it would be difficult to name the best, all Irving come on so well. Needless to say, there is a lot of wholesome and healthy competition amongst all the Patrols. Undoubtedly ours was the best at the Trek Camp Drill, and weren't we disappointed when illness robbed us of a very probable triumph in connection with Col. Charles' visit?

The Peewits supplied four boys in the Troop Cricket Team, and until our Assistant Scoutmaster's advent, five in the footer eleven. We still supply the first reserve man.

During this summer, two Peewits got hold of the "knack" of swimming, and they made the most of the hot weather, being frequently seen at Benwode, and the Swan Baths in Norway.

Like the Eagles, we have lost one boy, but he has his Second Class Badge. We have a recruit in his place, but I hardly think he will equal Sidney Barber, though he shows much promise.

DONALD KENDALL-CHAPMAN.
(Leader)

Wood Pigeon Patrol.

We equal the Peewits in that we are the founders. Although not so far advanced in the grades of Scoutcraft generally as the others, we claim five who are eligible for the Second-Class Badge. Two boys who were among the first to become Scouts in Beepham, have failed to gain this Badge. This is unfortunate, as it considerably lowers our record.

This Patrol supplies the players in the Football team, and incidentally the Troop Captain. These two represented the Patrol in the Cricket Season, both occupying a high place in the averages. Two of us learnt to swim in the summer, and are looking forward to the next one. May it be as hot as 1911.

We lost one boy just after the Rally at Windsor, but we benefited rather than otherwise by his departure. The recruit who filled his vacancy is a tower of Strength on the footer field; although he hardly did himself justice at the commencement of the Cricket Season, he made ample amends towards the close, as his bowling and batting averages can testify. His presence has considerably altered this Patrol.

FRANK G. RUMP.
(Leader)

THE THRETS AT ST. MARTIN'S
--- by ---
Leader DONALD KENDALL-CHAPMAN.
Chapter I.
Under a Cloud.

A great sensation was created at St. Martin's College one bright July morning, when Mr Drew the Head, spoke after the opening morning prayers. He began in that way which was the usual forerunner of something nasty to come. An ominous silence was maintained, and Mr Drew commenced, "Boys, last night or early this morning, the silver challenge cup which was to have been presented to the champion athlete of the school at the end of this term, was stolen. The miscreant left behind some article which might enable me to identify him. Moreover, I believe him to be an inmate of this school. Will he please stand up? A painful hush followed this invitation, and as at the end of half an hour

no one had owned up, the Head continued, "very well then, I'll give you a week to make up your minds. Now go to your Class rooms! The work was rather neglected, so the "impot demon" reaped a rare harvest.

Scoutmaster Berry, of the St. Martin's College Troop, held a special parade in his study, but nothing resulted, save making Leader George Harris and Second Clem Hill, determined to find it out. Accordingly they arranged to have some sentry go on their own. That night, they put their plan into action, but nothing came of it, except making them both unfit for the next morning's work. But something else had been "nicked" that night, as the Head said next morning. His wife's photo that had hung in his study for years, was stolen this time, which was the limit. The hitherto unsullied honour of that dear old school was being tampered with just now, too freely. The two officers of the Curlews stuck to their guns however, but again it was no go, and instead, something else had disappeared from Mr Drew's study in the night again. This time it was the Scholarship examination papers. The Head, very much against his wish, had to "gate" the whole school, thus causing the postponement of the cricket match of the season, against St. Julian's.

This was altogether too bad: someone had a grudge against another boy, and to spite him, he did this. There was young "Doggie" Warnes who had been bullied by Jack Harmer. He was hauled up by our heroes, but he was too much of a brick to stoop to such a mean thing. There were several cases of this sort, and all had the same result. The school was flabbergasted: it was under some influence: all the juniors were leaving at the end of the term, and even the Scout's familiar smile was absent.

This article will be concluded in our February No. EDS.

COMPETITION.

Now then Scouts, can you write about a tragedy? Here's a composition competition: we want 100 words--- not more although you can send less--- upon the following tragedy. ENTRANCE FEE ONE PENNY, to be sent with your essay, not later than 31st March. Prizes 9d and 6d, or they will be distributed in proportion to the entrants. When you have written your version hand it to either of the Leaders, who will be the judges, and whose decision will be final. Open to Scouts ONLY. ROY--JOY! GUN--FUN! GUN--RUST!! ROY--DUST!!!

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY.

The weather during January, though usually cold, is not often marked by frost of long duration.

Few flowers are seen, but in mild weather the Crocus, Jasmine, Primrose, and unopened Catkin (male flower of the Hazel) are to be seen.

Starlings and Plovers visit us in large flocks, while the only song birds are the Robin and Thrush and occasionally the Wren. Sea Gulls come up the rivers and follow the plough.

"If St. Paul's Day be fair and clear, it betides a happy year. If on St. Paul's Day it doth rain, dear will be the price of grain." This is an old saying with reference to the 25th of this month. Doubtless you have heard of it before.

Average Temperature for the last 60 years: Day, 43.1; Night, 33.7.

Barometer:- 29.80. Rainfall:- 1.87.

OUR SPORTS PAGE.

I have nothing but praise for our football players this month, but of course, there are remarks to be made, and I hope that the players will take them in the right manner.

The defence is very good, but it would be even better if the backs kept their places instead of running up the field trying to score. Remember it is your work to defend, not to attack.

Little though the halves are in stature, they are giants in their play, but the art of combination could be studied to advantage.

Looking through the goal scorers, I find that the outside men have bagged 8 out of the 11 goals in our favour. Let the three inside men take a leaf out of the Cathedral's book: shoot more often, with more powder behind.

Now, just glance through last year's work. I have to record two wins and two defeats. Our first match of the season saw us lose at Norwich with a weak team out, to the Cathedral by 3-1, Frank Rump getting our ewe lamb.

The return match was avenged by 4-2, F. Rump, (2), Watson and Holah doing the needful. A good game.

At home to the Dereham Troop, we enjoyed a run-away win; goals scored by Chapman, Laskey, Mr Hall, F. Rump, in the first half, and Laskey and Rump in the second, giving us a smashing win, by 6-0. The Dereham boys gave us a good game, despite the big score against them.

Our Boxing Day match was lost at home by 2-0 with a weak side. We are to be congratulated on running our big opponents to only two goals.

GREEN and WHITE.

A GRUESOME DISCOVERY

By ASM. J. HALL.

Whilst operating round Driefontien during the Boer War, I was sent with a message to another brigade situated a few miles away. On returning to my camp, darkness overtook me, and a thick mist arose. I was lost on the veldt! I kept walking on in hopes of reaching my regiment, but instead I was going steadily away from it; as there are no policeman on the veldt to direct poor lost wayfarers, I was in a bit of a quandary, and I didn't relish the idea of being taken prisoner.

I must have walked for hours when I came upon a farm-house, which, by its appearance, must have received scant courtesy from our guns: it having been blown to pieces. An out-laying building seemed to have escaped the siege: I went to investigate, and to my joy, found two Tommies asleep in a corner. I was very tired, so I lied down beside them, and was soon oblivious to all my misfortunes. When I awoke, the sun was high in the heavens, but my two companions were still asleep, so I thought I would wake them: but, alas! they were past awakening, and must have been dead some days, as parts of their faces had been devoured by rats. I searched them, and found they were two Devonshires who had been reported as missing.

At last I found my regiment, which must have been ten miles away, where I reported the incident, and the death of the two Devonshires.

Need I hardly add that I took care not to go astray again?

I often think with a shudder, of my two bed-mates of that memorable night.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S ROOM

For some time past now, the Troop has required something to advertise it. Though several schemes have been suggested from time to time, they have never reached maturity. With our readers' co-operation, we have hopes that this venture will bear fruit; and we now take the opportunity of thanking our supporters who are taking this little paper, and also we would ask these to do their best to further our circulation.

We should gratefully acknowledge any literary contribution, too. It is not reasonable to expect the management to find every article -- also, it would not be fair to our readers who are Scouts. We will use those whose efforts are deserving of encouragement from all those who take our "Mag".

Just a word of advice to those who contemplate assisting us in that way. Let it be something original and attractive: not too long. 200 words will be ample, for the present, anyway. Any suggestions for competitions, or educational items of interest from the Troop, will have the consideration of the Editors.

Now then, Scouts, on page 6 you will find our first competition. The prizes certainly are not big, but we must walk before we can run. Remember that age will be taken into consideration: the work must be the boy's own, and the entrance fee will be one penny. Only one entry can be received from each boy. Of course your Editors will not be eligible for this (or any other) contest that will appear in "the Stalker". Again thanking our readers, and thanking them for their support, and soliciting further literary aid, we present our first issue.

ANDRON A'S REVIEW

In November 1910, a meeting was called in the Parish of H----- to consider whether a Troop of Scouts should be formed from the surrounding villages. The idea was eagerly pursued.

December brought two Patrols (Peewits and Wood Pigeons) and an Assistant Scout Master. The Patrols had qualified for their "tendefest badge" and then got their uniform, which was a great help in getting recruits. One field day parade this month saw the latest recruit winning through with a dispatch.

The new year saw the Troop learning Ordnance Map signs, Physical Drills, Semaphore Signalling and First Aid which comprised the indoor work: whilst Tracking, Baseball, Ambuscading and a Church Parade was done outdoors.

The most popular pursuit in February 1911 was boxing, and several of the Troop greatly benefited by their ASM's experience. The work which was being learnt in the previous month was still the chief item in the indoor routine, whilst Tracking and preparations for passing out as Second Class Scouts, were in a very forward condition. A change of Leaders is announced this month, and the new ones have retained the positions until now.

Our ASM was rather queer for a long period this month, consequently football became a regular thing on a Saturday afternoon. However, eleven Scouts became Second Class Scouts out of the sixteen--- a very fair percentage. The Troop indulged in one dispatch run, in which the carriers were again successful. The Troop were on the point of losing their ASM, and another was introduced at the end of the month.

The 1st April was a sad day for the Troop as their original ASM, Mr Dummett, left them. A handsome enlarged photo was sent him from the Troop as a slight token of respect and esteem with which it held him. Throughout April little or no Scouting was done, it always being football. A creditable win by 3 - 0, is recorded over the Trowse Troop.

The same state of affairs continued in May, except that Cricket ruled vice Football. Two Church Parades were attended this month, whilst a special Empire Day Parade was held. News of the King's Rally came along.

June gave us more Cricket, and Rally rehearsals. Two victories and one defeat are the returns for this month's cricket.

July will ever be remembered by those who belonged to the Troop as the occasion of the King's Rally at Windsor, and the good time they had in Surrey and London. Returning home Cricket was still the first thought, and the Troop sustained three "hidings" and won one match. Bathing became very popular, whilst there was a First Aid revival.

August brought forth a display by the Troop at S----, in which all did very well. Bathing was about the only thing that appealed to the Scouts in the hot weather. In short they were "fed up" with Cricket. The Troop were presented with a handsome Trek Cart, which was used on an expedition to B-----, Common.

The Troop were left very much to their own resources in September, their second ASM leaving to take up an appointment at N-----. A pinning expedition to B-----, where the Scouts put out a hedge fire, is the one item of note that can be recorded. The

Troop football team got a "Whacking" from the Cathedral at Norwich by 3 - 1.

October came and went, nothing being done except playing football: just the same with November. Two months gone and nothing whatever to show for it.

The reaction set in during December. Another ASM came among the Scouts, and they felt his presence to their benefit. The Scouts have assembled every night drilling and preparing themselves for the visit of the District Commissioner on the sixteenth to open the new Club Rooms which have been built for them. The day was fortunately fine, and everything went off well. The Patrol cries reminded one of something similar at Windsor in July. The new Rooms have been used, and the boys have now plenty of room for developing both their mind and body.

January 1912 dawns, and with it, fresh hopes and plans. A great future lies before us all: what will the Troop do in it? The great unknown lies before us, and time only can solve the problem. Adieu! Adieu!!

TO MAKE SUGAR SHINE IN THE DARK.

Take two pieces of loaf sugar, and rub them together, when a faint luminous glow will be seen. This is caused by certain phosphorescent properties contained in sugar.
