

## Radnorshire

Scouting got off to an early start in Radnor. We have an ancient Troop Flag in Llandrindod Scout Centre which shows that there were enough Scouts in the County to have a rally in 1909! Llandrindod, Rhayader and Glasbury all started Troops within the first three years of the publication of Scouting for Boys. Often the younger sons of the big houses were the first Leaders - in Glasbury the daughters of the big house, the Misses Butler, first began a reading club for the boys of the area and then took up Scouting. Or clergymen saw Scouting as a fun part of their ministry like the Reverend Thomas with Builth Road Troop. Or teachers used their teaching skills to introduce the fascination of the outdoors like Mr

Roberts of the Highland Moors School Troop, Llandrindod.



Llandrindod and Glasbury are the only Troops to have had a continuous existence

since their initiation but many other Troops and Packs have flourished for a time. There was the second Troop at Highland Moors, Llandrindod, which finished when the School closed. Builth Road Troop was strong in the 1930s but failed during the War. Knighton closed in the early nineties when Mrs Kell retired due to ill health but Knucklas took up the challenge in 1997 and has continued since. Kington which once considered itself part of Radnorshire had a Troop which took part in a day of sports with Llandrindod Troop in 1918.

Baden Powell came to inspect the County Scouts in 1920 on the Ddole fields in Llandrindod and the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII came and camped with us on the Ddole and took part in a camp fire - his campfire blanket is kept in the Radnorshire Museum.



The various Chief Scouts have come to inspect and have given their opinion that Scouting in Radnorshire is about 'back to basics'.

We have several trophies, presented by wealthy patrons, still competed for annually - a silver Walking Scout for lightweight camping competition, a silver Rose Bowl for the cooking competition,

presented by the family at Pencerrig House, now a hotel, and the Worthington Cup presented by Dr Worthington of Llandrindod. And land was given by benefactors convinced of the value of Scouting - a quarter of an acre given by wealthy Thomas Lant of Llandrindod for the Quarry Lane Scout Hut in 1937 and that given by the Butler family to Glasbury Troop in the nineteen twenties as well as several acres of land suitable for backwoods camping near Bleddfa, and the Presteigne Hut is built with bricks given by Commander Beebee, a former County Commissioner.

The Wales HQ was in South Crescent, Llandrindod, and this was of great help to Scouting in the town and Radnorshire. Many of the Welsh Scout hierarchy lived nearby, Lord Glanusk in Erwood and Lord Swansea near Builth Wells and the owners of big houses often lent their gardens for camping - the Pencerrig Gardens were used by Llandrindod Troop, the Gwernyfed grounds were used by Glasbury, the Vicarage grounds at Crossgates were used for patrol camps, Glanstephan lands were opened to Scout and Guide camps until very recently and the Ddole Race Course at Llandrindod was often used for Scouting events. Through the years there have always been County Rallies and Camps and Activities.

In 1909 there was the County Rally, there were County camps and competitions throughout the twenties and all Groups took part in the Peace Festival in 1930 on the Ddole. At Glanstephan there was a training camp in about 1936 where Scouts learnt to light a fire with 2 matches using natural materials like dried holly leaves and birch bark and then how to cook a meal over the embers.

Nowadays, for Scouts, there is the County Camp with competitions in orienteering, cooking, and first aid, the Raft



Race down stream on the Wye at Glasbury, and an annual Swimming Competition. For Cubs and Beavers there are Fundays, Swimming Competitions and sometimes County Cub Camps and County Beaver Sleepovers. And of course inter-Group camps and activities. We also have the annual St George's Day Church Parade and Funday for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and some Groups celebrate St David's Day in the same way. Radnor Scouts have always joined in with international events from the very first Jamboree at Wembley and have always had representatives at the Jamborees.

Glasbury is the lucky owner of an actual arrow from the Golden Arrow Jamboree at and Llandrindod was the proud troop to produce the Scout who unveiled the 50 year monument on Brownsea Island. In the 1930s Bonfires were lit to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI of England and, in 1980 Bonfires were lit to celebrate the official set- up of the European Union. And this year we are taking part in Centenary Celebrations and some are hoping to earn all four of the Centenary badges!



At the present time our Area Commissioner is getting hot under the collar because so many of our Scouters have multiple responsibilities and many are getting towards or are over retirement age but according to records and logbooks this has always been the case in Radnorshire if not everywhere.

Reg Villiers of Welsh Scout HQ was Rover Leader for Llandrindod and Secretary of the Local Association, Mrs Davies of was Cub Leader in Llandrindod and Howey, Mr Grey was Group Scout Leader in Howey and Scout Leader in Newbridge, Miss Judith Butler remained Akela in Glasbury into her 80s. So people who hold appointments as AACs but also run Packs or Scout Troops, or refuse to be retired at 65 are carrying on the same tradition.



Radnorshire, although a long way from headquarters in Cardiff and further from London, has always joined in wholeheartedly with the Scouting ethos. We may not be quite as smart or as up to date as Cardiff or the Home Counties but we do it our way. We have strong local loyalties and our Groups are small, based on villages and small towns, but that's the way we like it and we know that a phone call away is Shirley Myall of the Welsh Scout Council or the UK Enquiry Office and a mere 15 or 20 miles away by road is another branch of the Scouting family

## **BRIEF HISTORIES of GROUPS**

Some of these are from personal memories, some from notebooks or logbooks, a bit from official records, but I haven't asked HQ for records or been through newspaper accounts which must surely exist. 1929 seems to have been a year of expansion in Radnorshire because several Groups were started then. We have several Radnorshire Year Books from the 1930s and these show several Troops or Packs which no longer exist - Llyswen, Clyro, Howey, Builth Road, St Harmon, Radnor Valley, Llangunllo, New Radnor, Highland Moors. Of most there seems to be no record although Howey and Builth Road have left some fond memories. At the moment we have six Groups. Rhayader with a Cub Pack, Newbridge with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Llandrindod with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, both Knucklas and Presteigne with Cubs only and Glasbury with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

## 1st RADNOR VALLEY

The New Radnor Troop must have been very strong at one time because they ran a local Football League, the Radnor Valley Boy Scouts Cup, which was affiliated to the Football Association of Wales. They used to meet in the first storey Hall which at one time was the meeting place of the County Council when New Radnor was the County Town of Radnor but the Group has disappeared. It might have been active after the war because the County Scouters meeting was held in that Hall and I remember vaguely some evidence of Scouting in the nineteen seventies when Commander Beebee was Commissioner.

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## 1st HOWEY GROUP



The Howey Troop was strong throughout the 1930s but seems to have faded with the trials of wartime.

Howey was started in 1929. George Villiers of the Welsh Scout HQ was Scout Master until 1932 when ASM Perry who had been doing a lot of the work according a notebook we have, 'was promoted to Scoutmaster'. There is no record of a Cub Pack but that does not mean there weren't Cubs - just

that no record exists.

Numbers hovered around a dozen but camps were enjoyed and competitions were entered and Good Turns worthy of note were recorded - 'One Scout milked 2 cows for an old gentleman, 85yrs of age, to enable him and his daughter to go away over the weekend!' Another Scout went to Llandrindod 2.5 miles away at 11pm one night 'to get medicine for a sick person' - we are not told whether he was able to use

a bike but several Scouts were reported as ready to be tested for the Cyclists Badge.

Uniforms and games kit were apparently bought for the boys and were lent to them for special occasions such as the sports day when the Peter Freeman Cup was competed for at Builth Road or the visit of welcome to the Chichester Boys Club on the Ddole at Llandrindod, unless the parents were able to afford to pay for it gradually.

Dr Griffiths of Maesgwynne gave a tent, which at that time would have been a bell tent which was pitched in Mr Perry's field near his house, Greenfields, and the Patrols took it in turns to sleep in it

### **1st BUILTH ROAD GROUP**

Builth Road Troop existed in 1926 and a Cub Pack as well. They met in the Iron Room at Cwm Bach. The Reverend Thomas of Great House, Cwm Bach, was the Vicar and attended at the Cwm Bach Primary School which served Builth Road as well so he had a captive audience of boys eager for adventure. There were 13 boys in the Troop and 11 Wolf Cubs under the leadership of Wolf Cub Master, Miss Anderson. The Troop continued up to the early 1940s but there is no record or memory of the Wolf Cub Pack in the mid thirties nor record when it finished. The Peter Freeman Relay Race Cup presented in 1930 was being competed for in the 1960s and still exists - the last holder being Brian Mason of Newbridge on Wye Troop.

In 1931 the Troop took part in the Masque of Empire on the Ddole, Llandrindod. In 1937 they lit a huge bonfire as part of the chain of fires celebrating the Coronation on Kincoed Farm behind the Church and the Rovers were Morse signalling with an Aldis Lamp to a Group (perhaps Llandrindod) on the Carneddau Hills. The great rivals were Glasbury and at the Gwernyfed Jamboree they almost won the 'Push-the-12ft-rubber-ball' competition coming second in the knockout competition to Glasbury.



The Rev Thomas paid for a Scout to go to the Hungary Jamboree and would often help pay for uniforms or camp fees. The ASM was Mr Rogers and by 1940 he had taken over but he came under a cloud and gave up. Training Camps were held at Kinsley Wood and it was here that Bill Davies who has helped with his personal memories of his Scouting days actually lit his fire with 2 matches and cooked his meal. His favourite camp meal was sausage in a damper he said. In the photograph of the Troop you can see one Scout at the right hand side with his sleeves not rolled up. This was Bill who was late for the meeting and rushed into place at the last moment - did he get a telling off by the Rev Thomas for 'spoiling' the line up! In the late nineteen thirties the SM was Algernon Brown, 'Biffy'. There were 20 Scouts and they met in a Scout Hut erected opposite the Church, next to the School yard. They camped often at Clarach Bay and in 1939, just before the War, went to Luffingham, Rutland, for a week.

Two Groups have started up since the War. Llanbister and Knucklas.




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### 1st LLANBISTER GROUP

Llanbister Group was started by the Reverend CA Weale. Someone kept a logbook of Troop meetings 1961 - 1962 which includes amusing sketches of the 1961 Jamboree Camp at Gwernyfed. The Troop was taken over by Ron Morgan after the Jamboree when Colin Weale left the area. There was friendly cooperation with

the Llandrindod Troop and Les Hope of Llandrindod was Llanbister's ASM at the Jamboree. According to the logbook there were 10 boys on the books but at some meetings only 3 or 4 turned up.

There must have been Cubs as well because they are mentioned in the logbook as visiting the Jamboree and as sending boys up to the Troop, but no other record.

### **1st KNUCKLAS GROUP**

1st Knucklas Group began in 1997. It now takes in girls and boys from Knighton as well as Knucklas as there is no Group in Knighton. Easy access to the village Community Centre was a great advantage at first. Fortunes have fluctuated with the availability of Leaders. At one time there were Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and camps in neighbouring farmers' fields, but as Leaders were forced to resign by ill health or moving away there is only a Cub Scout Pack functioning at the moment. The young people are still as keen. When there was a Troop in Presteigne the Scouts used to go over there to meetings but then that Troop also fell by the wayside.

However, as we speak the meetings are going to change to Knighton Church Hall as the Community Centre badly needs renovating and there is a rumour of a Scout Leader and an Assistant who might be willing to re-open the Troop! What wonderful good news.

### **1st PRESTEIGNE GROUP**





This Group also suffers from a paucity of Leaders and now only consists of a Cub Scout Pack but it has an illustrious past. In 1932 they were meeting in the Scout Room in Church Street and had obviously been established for some time. They crop up in records we've got in the fifties and seventies and in the eighties their Scout Hut was built on the Town Playing Field with bricks left to Radnorshire Scout County by a former County Commissioner, Commander Beebee. In 1959 they went with Skip, John Knill, to the Walesby International Scout Camp in Sherwood Forest. Several times in the seventies and eighties they won County Awards for Swimming and Camping Competitions.

In the seventies Tony Napolitano was the Scouter and in 2000 their Leader was Doug Williams.

### **1st NEWBRIDGE on WYE GROUP**

In 1928 the vicar at Newbridge built a corrugated iron hut lined with wooden panels in the vicarage garden for village societies to meet in which became known as the Vicarage Room (not 'the Iron Room' like its twin at Cwmbach) and it was used by the Troop as its meeting place until after the war when the Prisoner of War camp became available because the Italians were repatriated, and one of their huts was used by the British Legion as their Club House and rented it to the Group until the Legion ceased. By that time there were only Cubs and they met in the newly built School.

There is a Troop register for 1938 and it gives names of 10 boys not all Tenderfeet so the Troop must have been going for some time. In another section there are

names of boys for 1957 so there might have been a hiatus during the war. Sergeant Tantrum, the local Policeman, used to take the boys for First Aid in the fifties and sixties. There was definitely a Cub Pack in the nineteen fifties which continued until the late eighties and a small Scout Troop in the



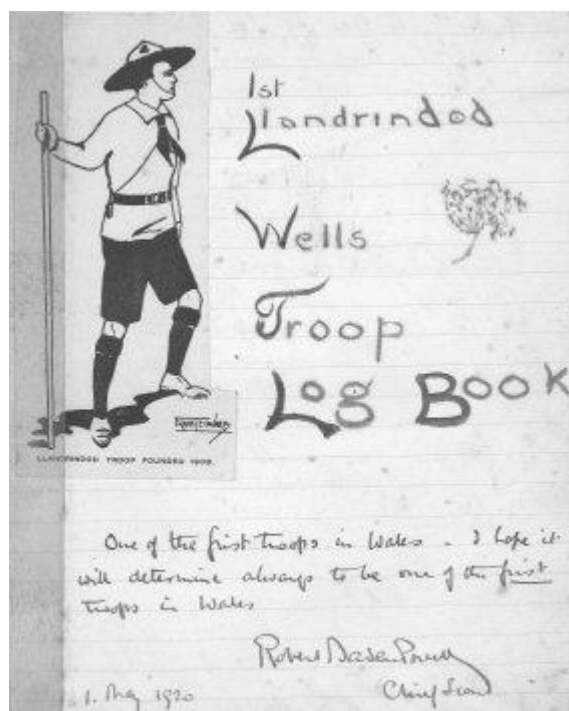
seventies which with a contingent of only three won the First Aid, the Cooking and the County Flag Competitions at the 78 Camping Competition.



Anne Longbottom carried on the Cubs for some years and then there was another gap until 1996 when Beavers were started as part of the Llandrindod Group, which lead to Cubs and then to Scouts and the decision to become a separate Group in 2000 and now to Explorers. They have a programme firmly based on environment concerns and in 2005 the Group were runners-up in the Scout Headquarters contest to find the Greenest Group.

## 1st LLANDRINDOD GROUP

Llandrindod Scouts started in 1907 or early 1908 as Baden Powell acknowledged in 1920 when he visited and inspected Radnor Scouts. The Group has had the same registration number since Groups were given numbers which is something of a record - a few years ago there was danger of losing it by amalgamation with Newbridge but luckily the crisis passed and the two Groups are strong and happy to be cooperative rather than united. There are books of minutes of the Local Association in the 1920s and thirties but very little after that. For some time there were two troops, the Town or Church Troop and the School or Highlandmoors Troop. The minutes record the same problems as are common today - lack of money, places to meet, and Leaders while the Scouts are accused of vandalism and rowdy behaviour by landlords and unsympathetic outsiders.



One does wonder what the livestock thought of a Patrol camping somewhere at Builth Road in 1922 who made their morning ablutions in the water trough leaving the cattle's drinking water all soapy! In 1933 when the Chief came once again to visit, a small lad, Christopher Urie, (who later was a choreographer for the Shakespeare Theatre Company), was a Wolf Cub. The Cubs and Scouts met on the Ddole and were told to lay down in the grass while waiting for the great man. Baden Powell strode out to the Grandstand podium and shouted out in 'surprise' . "But where are all the Cubs and Scouts?" At which all the boys got up and rushed towards him shouting and cheering! How exciting that must have been for an 8 year old.

In 1926 the Group managed to lease a small chapel as their HQ and meetings for Scouts and Rovers no longer had to take place here and there or in places 'where the roof leaked'. And a Wolf Cub Pack - it is said the 'first in Wales', but perhaps they mean Radnor or even Llandrindod - was started under the aegis of Miss Powell Jones and again the Baden Powells were there to support local Scouting.



The Patrol Leaders were expected to take their Patrols on extra training meetings every week. Most of the PLs would already have been at work as they must have been 15 or 16 years old so it would have been a lot to ask. On Saturdays they practiced first aid, firelighting and cooking, sometimes they went hiking (on one occasion coming back 'like drowned rats').

The Town Troop and the Troop at the School struggled on through the War, the young men all being in the forces. In 1937, the lease of the Baptist Chapel having lapsed, Mrs Trollope of Grosvenor Road gave most of the £250 needed to build a wooden Scout Hut on land donated by the late Mr Lant. Her son who had been a keen Scout was killed in a flying accident while training in the Air Corps and she wished to remember him by this magnificent gift to the Local Association. The hut was to be called The Robert John Trollope Hut. During the War it was used for various things like organising the evacuees when they arrived, training sessions for the ARP etc. The Hut is still in the possession of the Scouts (it was transferred to the Group from the Local Association) but is now leased to the local St Johns Ambulance branch.



In the nineteen fifties Sidney Jones organised the Troop and produced Gang Shows and Music Halls in the Llandrindod Albert Hall. After National Service war some of the returning war heroes took up their Scouting again like Vincent Baker who off and on served as Assistant and Scout Leader and the Margrave Jones

brothers, Roy and Clive, who were Cub Leaders and Rovers, Clive later became District Commissioner.

### 1st KNIGHTON SCOUT TROOP

The Knighton Troop was registered in 1922 and is mentioned in the yearbooks of the 1930s right up to 1939. It took a big part in the Town Ceremonies and was very well regarded. Douglas Jones remembers on Civic Sundays the Scouts and Cubs, Guides and Brownies provided a Guard of Honour for the Mayor and his guests at the Church and walked beside his horse drawn carriage as he went to the local Hotel for the Reception. Douglas also remembers that about 1936 the Cubs travelled to camp at Cwmgwyn Old Quarry in a high sided flat



trailer drawn by a Foden Road Tractor. The tents and cooking gear were supplied by the Territorial Army, and bracken had been cut for bedding. Before bed a huge bonfire was lit and there was food everywhere supplied by local farmers.

The Group certainly existed in the 1950s and through until 1986. Bill Prosser was Scout master for seven years and his sister was Cubmistress with 48 Cubs just after the war! She remembers 'What marvellous times we had - games outside and cooking over open fires and the boys so obedient'. Mrs Kell and her family held the Group together for years - she received the Silver Acorn in 1965 and a bar to it in 74. She was a wonderful organiser and caterer, cooking for County Camps for 50 or 60 boys on a couple of camp stoves. Her sons Kevin and Keith and daughter, were also involved and would help at Cub Camps. John Smith, the Glasbury SL remembers at Bwlch y Sarnau County Cub Camp throwing a wet

cloth at one of the helpers who, at that moment ducked, and the wet cloth caught Kevin full in the face. Kevin was a big lad so John thought it wise to disappear before he realised who had caught him out.

### 1st HAY on WYE GROUP



We have the Local Association Registration Form for 1912 for Hay and Talgarth (both in Brecon but always enfolded in the Radnorshire Scout County) showing that Mr Winstanley had 20 members in Hay and Mr Phillips 22 members in Talgarth. There must have been a gap because in 1926 Hay has joined up with Clyro and this continues right up to 1936, meeting in the Hay Drill Hall. They possibly continued but personal recollection of Denny Parry says that when the

evacuees arrived in 1939/40 the Group had a new lease of life, meeting in the stables at the Castle both Cubs and Scouts. Denny went through Cubs, Scouts, and Rovers, then he did his National Service but came back and took up Scouting again as Leader.

In 1953 the Cubs and Scouts from the Methodist Church acted as Guard of Honour when the Queen came to 'open' the new Clairwen dam in the Elan Valley. When Sybil Jones appeared with her family of boys the, by now, Hay and Cusop Troop who met in the Cusop Hut began to hum. In 1975 they won most of the Camping Competition trophies, they raised funds by collecting newspaper and bought materials to build canoes, In 1975 and 1977 they helped to put on Pantomimes and Gang Shows with the help of the Glasbury Cubs, Michaelchurch Guides, Peterchurch Brownies and South Radnor Venture Scouts. Boys attended all the Wales Jamborees But there is no Group in Hay now.

### 1st GLASBURY GROUP

Glasbury Troop started in 1909 as is testified by a note in the logbook kept by Judith Butler - it was rather a sad note as it records the death of a former Scout in a flying accident. Glen Kidston was 'the first to enrol as a Scout in 1909'. He died in 1931 while surveying air routes for the African postal service. The Glasbury Scout Hut which is still being well used today by



visiting Groups staying at weekends as well as by local organisations fundraising events and the Glasbury Group, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers, was opened officially on December 5th 1926. It was built on land given by the Butler family and financed by donations given by the 'big houses' round the area who have always supported Scouting so well.

The Misses Butler, Judith and Blanche were the powers behind the throne at the beginning, using Scoutmasters to front the Leadership of Scouts but in 1923 Judith received the Wolf's Tooth which at that time was the Badge to show you had completed your Wolf Cub Training and in 1925 Blanche was registered as Scoutmaster for the Troop. The Cubs and Scouts joined in with all the County events - the Masque of Empire in 1931 and the County Camps. In 1929 Trefor Morgan received the Scout Gallantry Medal for saving a boy from drowning in the Wye.

The Butler ladies also took a strong lead in County meetings and training leaders in the County. As late as 1977 Judith was still Badge Secretary. She also retained the title of Akela - John Smith remembers when he was a Cub having to go to Aberllynfi House to recite his Law and Promise to Miss Judith because by the 1940s she not so spry as she had been and controlled things from her home base. John by the way has just completed his 40 years as a Leader of one sort or another in Radnorshire Scouting.

Glasbury has always sent boys (and now girls) to the Jamborees - they often mop up places surplus to requirements of more populated areas. There have been many Leaders Roy Hearn in the 1960s and Geoff McConnell, John Smith, Ron Squires, Colin James with the Troop but only 3 Cub Leaders since the beginning! The latest being Wendy Catch. The Beavers at the moment are lead by Heidi Lewis.

### **1st WYE VALLEY GROUP**

This Group was registered as 1st Rhayader District Boy Scout Association in 1909 and Rhayader is the name it is known by locally but it meets in the village down the road called Cwmdeuddwr on the other side of the Wye. Major Roberts was the first Scoutmaster and their first camp was at Safn Coed in August, 1909. There are records of the Local Association meetings from the beginning till 1932 although meetings weren't held very regularly.

In 1924 Scouts, Tudor Williams and John Lloyd, were commended for saving Bernard Morgan from drowning in the Wye - it was a local sport to jump from the bridge over the river into the deep water below the waterfall (Rhayader in Welsh means waterfall). John Lloyd died in 1990 and at his request his uniform and gallantry award were buried with him.

The Group continued although few records remain until after the Second World War and in the 1960s Mr and Mrs Hinnett, Bert Alberston and Marj Pugh ran Cubs and Scouts until 1974 when the Hinnetts left the area and the Group closed. It was in 1979 that the Group became known as 1st Wye Valley because it re-opened with the help of the Vicar of Cwmdeuddwr in Cwmdeuddwr Old

School and as usual boys flocked to join so that in 1991 there were 16 Cubs, 10 Scouts and 3 Ventures. Unfortunately when Bill Ireland, the Scout Leader, resigned because of his wife's ill health the Troop folded and at the moment there are only Cubs. Any youngsters who want to continue Scouting have to join the Troops in Llanidloes (Montgomery) or Llandrindod.

### **1st BUILTH WELLS GROUP**

From 1959 till 1970s this Group met in a hut on the Radnor side of the Wye although they were regarded as being part of the Brecon Scout County. I haven't any information about Scouting in Builth except what was given me for these years. Police Sergeant Jack Simpson was the Scoutmaster assisted by Bryan Stephen, the math's teacher at the High School. They held a meeting to see if there was any interest in about November 1959. The response was overwhelming. They had about 50 Scouts and 80 Cubs. The Cubs were divided into two Packs under Policeman Ralph Rees and Bernard Jukes, and the Scouts formed one big Troop. Bernard Jukes ran the one Pack for about 10 years. They did not go camping but they did have days of activities in the fields along the Wye.

At Easter in 1960 there was a fortnight's camp at Aberduhonw farm to sort the would-be Scouts into patrols. Jack Simpson was a hard task master but the Troop thrived. Some boys who had been on the point of becoming 'wrong-uns' were straightened out and later became useful citizens. 5 or 6 young men gained their Queens Scout badge during the time Bryan Stephens was involved so the Rovers must have been part of the set up doing their own training while helping the Troop.

Camping was the basis of the Troop's training. There were camps at Lowes Court, Clyro, Bredwardine. One time Mr Stephens remembers, Jack took the oldest boys down the Wye to Chepstow on a canoe trip, leaving him behind with 30 boys to pack up camp. To collect the rest of the Troop a minibus was loaned to them by Mr Higginbottom the District Commissioner. The 20 Scouts and their equipment piled in to get everything back to Builth and the Police Inspector's son was one of them!

Mr Stephens stayed with the Troop for 5 years but pressure of work meant that the two meetings a week plus numerous weekend camps became too demanding, Sergeant Simpson continued with the help of Don Jones who eventually took over as Scoutmaster but Jack was a hard act to follow and eventually by 1970 the Troop had fizzled out. The Cubs continued for a while and a new Scout Hut was built for them in Builth town but without leaders the Group folded and later the Hut was sold.

### **1st LLANWRTYD**

During the War Danny Davies, the local Headmaster, ran the Cubs and Scouts and had about 25 boys enjoying Scouting. When he retired Bryn Jones was asked to take over and he asked his workmate, Peter Sutton, to help him. They too ran the Cubs and Scouts together. They had a special Scout Hall by the side



of the Bell Inn with all sorts of gym equipment in it. It is now part of the Bell. They had 4 ridge tents and went camping at Penybont in the Abergwesin Valley. At camp they went tracking and did nature study, the Leaders would hide and the Scouts would try to find them. They did the cooking centrally with ex army equipment.

After about 5 years the venture folded and since then although there have been sporadic attempts to get going it has not worked. Recently Janet Bigood ran the Cubs for a while and then tried to do Scouts but felt she did not have the support and gave up.

## **ROVERS, VENTURES, EXPLORERS**

Under the system of Rovers of course the young men of over 18 just remained with the Troop, becoming young leaders in all but name and taking part in the activities of the Troop such as camping as this photo of 4 Rovers who were camping at Weston super Mare in 1922. When the Venture Scout system took over Glasbury and Llandrindod had Venture Scout Units. Llandrindod took advantage of the ruling that girls could join the Unit, concentrated on Duke of Edinburgh Award training and had the first Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Glasbury went camping abroad and joined with Hay Scouts in their pantomimes and gang shows and many young men went to the Jamborees.



George Cootes was VSL The Explorer Scouts are doing very well at Glasbury under Peter Mayall (who has come up through the Group and now has sons and daughters in the Group) and have a full programme, Newbridge and Llandrindod are just about to start Explorer training as their Troops have not had the advantage of continuous existence and the boys and girls are just getting to 14 years of age. The Explorer Unit will have to be organised like a trefoil as distance make it difficult to have weekly combined meetings.