

On 13th July 1952 a declaration of trust by the Boy Scouts Association was entered into changing responsibility for Boider Hurst from Epsom and Leatherhead Local Association to Epsom Local Association, Ewell Association and Leatherhead Association jointly, which were the new Scouting districts formed on April 1st 1952. This legal undertaking established the requirement for an autonomous but joint management committee with members selected from the three new associations. The document also transferred entire control of the property to the three new bodies.

Bob Warburg and his wife bought 20 acres of land known as Heather Dukes plantation from their mother and built Dukes Wood. This too is marked on the extract above. Orders for milk and Bread used to be taken at Dukes Wood for visiting Scout troops however the property was "out of bounds" after 6.00PM to all campers as the children were in bed! Following the death of Lady Warburg, the four sons transferred Headley Plantation to the National Trust.

In 1946 Boider Hurst was part of Betchworth Parish however this later became Dorking and Horley RDC and ultimately Mole Valley District Council.

A newspaper cutting dated 29th June 1945 gave details of money earned by the cubs and Scouts to buy equipment for the site. The total raised was £178 6s 8d. As you can see from the extract, quite a fuss was made of the handing over ceremony at Epsom Town Hall.

In 1945 a potable water pipe was laid over ground to allow the site to be used for camping however, water board regulations required that this was placed underground. So in 1952 this was undertaken at a cost of £176. It took some time to backfill the trench by hand as the Farmer (Mr Marsh) had sown a crop in the field preventing access by machine.

The original conveyance required a fence on two sides of the property to be maintained so it was proposed that each troop would be responsible for an equal portion and two prizes of a felling axe (these were provided by Mr Balland-Stubbs Chairman of leatherhead and District Association) were offered for the best effort.

In the beginning, the toilet arrangements consisted of "a rough wash bench and two chemical closets" however as the popularity of the site grew, a new toilet block was designed and built. Captain Morgan a non-uniformed member of 3rd Epsom, managed the project to create new facilities which were installed in 1965 at a cost of £775. The contract was undertaken by Site Work & Demolition Co (Epsom) L td. All the money had to be raised through grants and a shortfall of £175 was "bridged" by Captain Morgan until further funds could be raised. In 1965 the camping fee was 3d per person per night.

In 1972 a training building was given planning consent and built with the base being constructed using voluntary labour and Leofric Broadspan Buildings were employed to construct the building on the base. The whole project cost a total of £1735.

The storm in October 1987 did untold damage on site. Thankfully the buildings were not affected. The loss of so many mature trees actually helped shape the site of today as it allowed larger camping areas which in turn



encouraged more light to encourage the grass to grow. In addition, a vast amount of timber was sold with the site benefitting from £457 from the sale of the timber. Records show 1,133.83 *Hoppus* feet of timber was sold at a price of £0.35 per *Hoppus* foot. (*Hoppus Foot* - This volume measurement was developed to estimate the volume of a round log that would be usable timber after processing, in effect attempting to 'square' the log allowing for waste.)

In 1981 the first dedicated warden's accommodation was built and as Roy Ballinger and Dennis Oakshot undertook much of the work, it was named Royden House.

In 1992 a kitchen extension was added to the training building at a cost of £4,207. On completion, the training building was named the Manly Building in 1995 as a tribute to Alf Manly who contributed so much time towards managing the construction project.

In 1994 parts of the old Spring Mixed Unit building in Ewell were demolished from behind the 2nd Ewell headquarters and were transported to Boidier Hurst to be used to construct the open-fronted transit shelter.

Boidier Hurst committee held a 50 year celebration on 21st June 1997. It was attended by Eric Warburg (Lady Warburg's nephew) and his wife Netty.

The toilet block was extended in 1995 adding in Leader's toilets and extended again in 2005 adding Female campers toilets, showers and outside washing-up facilities. The "old faithful" septic tank was also made redundant with the installation of a new 17,000 litre tank located at the end of the "fire break". Planning at the time was also achieved for a bunkhouse however it was decided that this element of the project should be shelved owing to lack of available funds. Who knows it might be built one day and added into this potted history!

Boidier Hurst remains to this day a marvellous asset for Epsom and Ewell District and Leatherhead District Scouts. It was a wonderful gift that Lady Warburg made to Scouting that has seen many volunteers over the years passing on custodial care to protect and enhance the camp site. It has allowed many thousands of young people for over 60 years to learn Scouting skills and experience the joy of "real" camping in a most wonderful environment.

