



**ROY SKELLY**  
**6 JAN 1950 – 27 JAN 2018**

It was in the Blackhorse pub in Windsor in 1979 that the then leaders and committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> Windsor Scout Group were talking about the refurbishment of their Scout HQ – Roy said he could help. Soon Roy was on the committee and soon after that he was Chairman.

His practical skills drew him also to Bears Rails Scout Campsite in Windsor Great Park. At the end of his sabbatical in the early 1980's he even lived up there helping to build the Dyson Hut.

I'd seen Roy many times often passing through the village of Datchet in his distinctive, rather battered, blue Commer van. It was at Bears Rails though that I got to know him. The Dyson Hut was almost complete and there was a distinctive bow in the roof structure – On asking about this he reliably told me that he didn't do that bit.

Roy was a real character, he always knew best. Many of us can hear him now “mmm, you've done that wrong, you should have done it like this ...” At 2<sup>nd</sup> Datchet a quote from Roy is always repeated when putting a large log on the fire of “that won't burn”

I remember on a camp in 1989 we took the Scouts to the Welsh jamboree. With the Scouts busy on their activities I went out for a drive with Roy and came to the town of Porthcawl. The fishing boats were in the harbour and Roy said “The Scouts would love a trip out sea fishing” We can't afford it Roy, we've already overspent our budget. There was a pause and then, I'll pay for it. Roy insisted. We did go sea fishing, caught a huge haul of fish, cooked it up in the evening and had altogether a great day. Roy did so many things like this, he was so generous in so many ways.

In 1995 Roy moved on from Bears Rails to join Waxwell Rover Crew at the larger Scout campsite of Chalfont Heights (later to be known as Paccar Scout Camp). Surrounded by so many more likeminded people, tractors and tools he thoroughly enjoyed himself. Waxwell Crew helped on the maintenance of the site on each Friday evening and the first Sunday of the month. It wasn't long though until Roy was helping most weekend. He used his IT skills to help with the office booking systems and was in his element when young Scouts took an interest in learning more about woodwork skills, routing and all manner of things. Roy would take those young people under his wing, think of ways to make the tasks as enjoyable as possible – nothing satisfied Roy more than passing on his skills to eager to learn young people.

At Paccar Scout Camp he had a major part in managing the construction of the Margaret Noble building, wherever there was a job to do at Paccar Roy was on hand to help.

Roy also enjoyed the Archery at the site. He loved teaching young people and again nothing he enjoyed more was to teach a no hoper to hit the target. It was archery that kept Roy going after his stroke. He was determined to get back to Paccar to teach Archery. Incredibly Roy would set out on his electric wheel chair along the busy roads and up the steep Joiners Lane to get to the site. He would be exhausted when he got home – but he loved it. He enjoyed the company of the young people, teaching them a skill, cups of tea and a good chat putting the world to rights with his Archery team of Paul and Fred. With Roy in his wheel chair, Paul with his one leg and Fred in his 90's the archery instructor team at Paccar were a quite unmistakably, unique team.

As well as Scouting he helped me every year with the Datchet Village Fete. He would be around my house at 06.30 Hrs in the morning for a cup of tea and then on to work till we finished in the evening. After his stroke he drove again from his house to the Fete on a blisteringly hot day. I was amazed to see him – How did you get here? I couldn't believe it. "Never mind that he said, what can I do to help".

Roy loved a car boot sale or an auction, hill walking particularly in the Peak District and the countryside as a whole. He loved a humbug and a strawberry doughnut. As a diabetic Roy knew when it was ok to have the odd doughnut!!

In his Scouting Roy was also Scout leader and then Group Scout leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Eton Wick and Boveney Scout Group. He also ran the youth club there for a number of years.

Roy was deservedly award the Silver Acorn by the Scout Association for his dedication to Scouting. He was further awarded by Great London North West County for "making a difference"

Roy has certainly made a difference. He has touched the lives of so many people, helped them in what-ever ways he could. As a good friend to me and the many here today, he will be sadly missed.

Taken from the Eulogy written and read at Roy's service by David Smith, DC of Windsor & good friend for many years