

KEN LIGHTFOOT...

KEN LIGHTFOOT STARTED HIS SCOUTING CAREER AS A BOY IN WAPPING AND IN 1952 BECAME ASSISTANT SCOUT MASTER OF 24TH STEPNEY AND SCOUT MASTER A YEAR LATER.

Moving to Greenford when he was married, he was appointed Scout Master of 5th Greenford (All Hallows) in 1957 and Group Scout Master in 1960. During his time in Greenford District he became District Cub Master and ADC Cub Scouts and finally ADC.

Tribute by Eunice Hill

Ken moved to Greenford and became a member of the congregation at All Hallows Church. He was invited to join the 5th Greenford (All Hallows) Scout Group as Scout Master and then Group Scout Master, as it was in those days. His talents in communicating with the youngsters, dealing with administration and organising Scouting events became apparent very quickly, when he arranged camps, and many fund raising activities, all of which were aimed at enhancing the opportunities available to the Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rovers. He then became an Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs.

Ken was appointed District Commissioner after some while, and it was during this time he had the foresight to instigate the building of a new District Headquarters to replace a very small hut which had been lost due to a fire. All sorts of activities were arranged including a 20 mile sponsored walk, or 10 miles for some of the younger boys. A District Jamboree (i.e. a mini Jamboree) was held over a bank holiday weekend where a Donkey Derby was one of the highlights, House to house collections took place, and Ken was in the midst of it all – he would never ask people to do something in which he could not involve himself. This Headquarters, opened in May 1972, is in use on many evenings of the week, and weekends, and is a wonderful legacy which Ken has left to us.

His tenure as District Commissioner came to an end in 1976, after which he was appointed County Commissioner for Greater London North West where he continued to use his many talents over a much wider sphere.

Ken was a man who could lead quietly from the front, and retain the respect of all those with whom he came into contact. When there were occasions on which difficult and unpopular decisions had to be made, they were dealt with in a dignified manner, and people felt he had given careful consideration to each side of an argument, and there was no feeling of being let down.

He was not a man to stand on ceremony, and in Greenford gained the nickname "Tubs". After his appointment to County Commissioner the suggestion was made that he should be called "Sir Tubs", this showing the affection and esteem with which he was regarded by many people. In Greenford, we were proud to have him as a Vice President and he was also a County Vice President.

After Ken and Win moved to Cove, they would return to Greenford for Scouting events, and my greeting from Ken was always the same – he would stick his tongue out at me and pull a face. However this was always quickly followed with a kiss and a hug.

While he was involved in Scouting, Win, Christopher, Nigel and Jane were there to support him, and we must express our appreciation to them.

Each year at our St. George's Day Parade, the most important event in the Scouting year, I ask our Scouts to remember those "Called to Higher Service" during the year. This is a privilege, albeit a sad one, but for me it will be very poignant next year, as Ken Introduced me to Scouting more years ago than I care to remember, and for this I shall ever be most grateful.

Ken was a man who cared, he was a gentleman, to each of us here today, in one way or another, he was that most important thing of all "a very good friend", and we shall miss him greatly.

We have come to say "Goodbye" today, but there is no final "Goodbye" as our memories will stay with us.

Thank you, Ken, for everything you gave to Scouting.