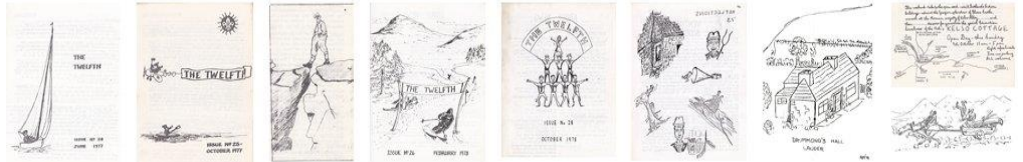


12th Portobello RHS Scouts

The 'Twelfth' magazine



The illustrations shown above are a selection from the magazines by different artists

The magazine substantially dates from 1964, continuing until 1996, although a single edition exists for July 1947. This article concludes with the 1978 editions, after which the 'RHS' suffix was no longer associated with the Group. The 1947 edition, described as the 'first number', and edited by J P Small, reported a group strength of no less than 185, comprised of 72 Cubs, 53 Scouts, 38 Sea Scouts, 7 Air Scouts, 6 Rovers and 9 Scouters. If proactive parents are added, the Group number must have exceeded 250!

The 1964-1978 magazine editions generally comprised the following sections:

1. Editorial, initially by Gordon McConnachie, and later by a succession of others
2. A message from the Group Scoutmaster, initially John Small, entitled 'Small Talk', later Peter Blythe
3. The Scouts report
4. The Sea Scouts report
5. The Cubs report
6. The Rover Scouts report
7. The Venture Scouts report
8. The Parent's Committee report
9. Any other seasonal stuff, e.g., Rallies, Sports, Sales of Work and Summer Fairs

The following high-level summaries are intended to give just a general flavour of the magazines. More detailed descriptions of Personnel, Camps

The 1947 Edition

This apparent one-off edition comprised 34 pages of can be described as a rambling collection of anecdotes and essays, with little publishable information, other than the PDF which has been created from five pages containing relevant Scout information. One fascinating entry is the '12th Portobello song', the lyrics of which have been provided without an accompanying tune. Another nostalgic entry is at the foot of page 33, where reference is made to the Canadian troop which is looking after the grave of Andrew Brown, ex-Scout and RAF 'Sergeant/pilot instructor', killed in September 1943 while on active service in Canada. Many of those involved in the running of the various parts of the Group are named in the abbreviated PDF.

[Click here](#) for the PDF version.

The February 1964 first edition.

In his editorial, Gordon McConnachie briefly mentioned the importance of Group communications and the part this magazine would play. It was hope to achieve four publications a year. Comprehensive reports were provided by the Parents Committee Hugh Thomson), The Cubs (Miss Hamilton), The Scouts (Gordon McConnachie) the Sea Scouts (Rob Lawrie), and the Rover Scouts (Peter Blythe).

[Click here](#) for a PDF of all the pages.

The two remaining issues in 1964 (June and October) followed up the programme schedules of the first edition, but addition reports included:

1. The June 'Summer Fair', opened by the US Consul and featuring the school pipe band
2. The Chief Scouts rally at Myreside
3. Sea Scout 'Navy Days' at Faslane on HMS Maidstone, and also at Rosyth
4. The Scout camp at Loch Tummel (Scouts and Sea Scouts at the same site)
5. The Portobello District Sports, won by the Scouts!
6. Operation Albatross
7. Maintenance programmes at Lauder cottage.

1965 Editions

It soon became apparent that four editions per year was a difficult target, and this year saw two editions in June and December. Aside the now usual five 'departmental' reports, there were features on the following:

1. Miss Hamilton's retiral
2. Skiing trips
3. Lauder cottage plumbing
4. The Cub Scouts (with Eric Sprigg) attend the gang Show
5. Scout car Races - with the very modern caveat that cost was limited to £10, and that the fuel be human energy
6. The first Scottish National Sea Scout Camp at Dunstaffanage – 400 attended

1966 and 1967 Editions

Each of these years had a single edition, which were however packed with information. Features included:

1. The Cub Jubilee year service in the Usher Hall attended by Chief Scout Sir Charles Maclean
2. Canoeing and Skiing reports
3. The Sea Scouts become Admiralty Recognised
4. Scout Group name changes, Badge changes and new uniform pricing (long trousers at 50 shillings!)

1968 and 1969 Editions

Once again, each of these years had a single edition.

1. The end of Tower Street – sold to the 'Corporation' in November 1968 for £2500 (Derek Addison apparently returned briefly to help with the removal to the Prep. School)
2. First Aid training programme proposed
3. Summer Camp at Loch Ken shared by Sea Scouts and Scouts

1970 and 1971 Editions

Three editions in 1971!

1. The 'Changing of the Guard' – Gordon Symon in the Cubs, Sandy Johnstone in the Sea Scouts, and Alastair Allanach in the Scouts (although the latter was just for one year).
2. Goodbye presentation to Rob Lawrie
3. Drummond's hall update – sleeping now in the loft (trapdoors and li-lo's having been installed, and fire extinguishers in place)
4. Sea Scout leader Graham Taylor reports the purchase of a third sailing dingy, accompanying Twelfth Knight and Lazarus
5. Regent Road gym and baths now unavailable (following the 1968 school decamp, but facilities have been made available at Barnton. The scouts remain at Royal High prep. School)
6. An extreme shortage of leaders was reported in the December 1971 edition

1972 and 1973 Editions

1. Johnnie Small retires as GSM, to be replaced by Peter Blythe
2. The Scouts win the County Flag
3. Sea Scouts and Scouts summer camp at Loch Tummel
4. While canvas canoes are the norm, fibreglass construction is also proposed
5. The change of school to Barnton started to affect recruitment; the link with the school may be cease soon
6. A 1969 Bedford van was purchased for £255, seats and windows being transplanted from the previous one
7. Following the observation that attendances were falling, the Sea Scouts and Scouts merged in late 1973

1974 and 1975 Editions

Four editions this time, two each year...

1. The end of Lauder cottage in 1974 after 12 glorious years
2. 1974 Summer Camp at St Fillans was co-hosted with Heriots, 1975 camp at Loch Lomond
3. The 'Open Troop' discussion continues...
4. Venture Scout Alan Buchan retires, to be replaced firstly by Donald Johnstone, then Douglas Henderson
5. Mirror dingy kit purchased, assembled and launched as 'Winnie-the-Pooh. An inflatable rescue craft and outboard motor also purchased

1976 and 1977 Editions

Two editions in 1976, three in 1977.

1. Group takes title to a lock-up in Bath Street Lane, suitable for the dormobile and large items of equipment.

2. Pack numbers now up to 38, and events include an Ae Valley camp, and Father & Son weekend camp
3. The skiing week at Aviemore (when Lothian Region allowed in-term attendance, cost £26 all in!
4. Malcolm McLean reported on Venture Scout events including the annual dinner in the Woodside Hotel
5. Four more scouts were invested with the Chief Scout's Award. Russell Shepherd, Steven Bolland, Graham Spence and Donald Paul were at the time a mix of Heriots and Portobello, but had been RHS primary pupils.
6. Summer Camp was held at Loch Tummel
7. The cottage at Kelso nears completion – convenor is Graham Henderson
8. The Twelfth now includes illustrations and a crossword
9. Sailing continues to be available on Saturdays and Sundays at Fisherrow
10. The Scouts win the Edinburgh area Flag competition
11. Venture Scout numbers a problem, but a rock-climbing weekend on Arran took place, expert guidance from 'Sherpa' Lawrie.

1978 Edition

In these, the last three issues considered for this history, the usual high level of reportage continued.

1. A replacement for the dormobile (at circa £2,000) is urgently required, but group funds are £575
2. The Venture Scout role in the Glenshee Ski Rescue service was extensively reported
3. Jim Dallas took over the Scouts from Gordon McConnachie (GLMcC), who had recently departed for the New World.
4. Cub Scout leaders change, with Graham Henderson, Alan Symon and Mike Warburton stepping back. Michael Halcrow reported good progress and success in a variety of District competitions.
5. On 17th February, 2022, Alan Willoughby reported to GLMcC "Went to Fordell today and checked record card of the 12th. They 'lost' the RHS suffix in July 1978". The June 1978 edition (no27) confirmed this.

Post 1978 Editions

1. The last edition of the 'Twelfth' is dated Sep 1996 when Graham Torrance was Cub Leader, Kevin Drylie and Andrew Torrance were joint Scout Leaders and Graham Dodds was Venture Scout representative.

Acknowledgements

Contributors to the Twelfth over the years are many and varied; in order to prevent disappointment to anyone who thinks they should have been included, probably best just to thank all those who performed so well in its construction and publication over the years.