

THE TWELFTH

No 1.

February 1964.

EDITORIAL

For a while, it has been felt that a newsletter, sent direct to you, the parents, would provide the Scouts with a very important link in the Group's communications.

For all their training, even Cubs and Scouts can sometimes forget messages and many important events are often past before word has filtered through to the home.

We hope to publish "The Twelfth" at least four times a year and to provide you with early and detailed information about the various Group activities. A list of the people in charge of the various sections appears in this issue; do not hesitate to contact any of them for details of coming events. A note about subscriptions appears on the last page).

WHO'S WHO

Group Scoutmaster:- J.P. Small, 2 Greenbank Grove.
 Assistant Scoutmaster:- Miss A. Hamilton, 19 Paisley Ave.
 Scout Troop (A.S.M.): - G. McConnachie, 111 Easter Road.
 Scouts (S.M.): - R. Lawrie, 42 Baronscourt Tce.
 Rovers (R.S.L.): - P. Blythe, 47 Ulster Crescent.
 Parents' Committee (Pres) H. Thomson, 47 Mountcastle Drive South.
 (Secy) Mrs. Hood, 64 Seaview Crescent.

"ALL" TALK

It gives me great pleasure to wish "The Twelfth" every success. There is no doubt a newsletter is a must for a Scout Group of the size of ours. The Cubs, Scouts and Rovers will begin to know each other better while the parents will be kept in constant touch with the Group by support. I wish "The Twelfth" a long and happy life!

J.P. Small,
 (Group Scoutmaster).

THE PARENTS' COMMITTEE

The principal function of the parents' committee in the Scout movement is the provision of financial aid to the Scout Group.

This duty is particularly important in the case of the 12th Portobello Group, which, unlike many Groups sponsored by churches, has the duty of upkeeping a hall and boats in addition to normal scouting and camping gear.

It must be evident to most parents, in these modern days when the boy is no longer asked for the modest penny or threepenny subscription of pre-war days, that even the present day subscription is entirely inadequate if scouting is to be kept at a high level.

The 12th Portobello Group, has been fortunate, over a long period, in having the support of a very enthusiastic and hard working parents committee. And it is fair to say that the lady members of the committee have been particularly energetic in fund raising activities.

At present your committee has in hand the duty of a special money-making effort in order to pay the cost of replacing the old heating system in the hall with a modern gas-fired appliance. In this connection, a meeting was held in the Preparatory School on the evening of 31st January to which all parents were invited. Your committee hope to obtain support from as many parents as possible in running an event either before or after the summer holidays.

I am sure most parents will realize this is not an isolated effort at fund-raising by the parents committee. The outcome of coffee mornings and jumble sales have been adequate tribute to the energies of willing helpers.

Those who attended the parents' party last year would doubtless appreciate the improvement in the heating of the hall and parents of Sea Scouts, who have been most energetic in their work on the committee, are aware of the valuable equipment provided.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that every Scout parent and well-wisher of the Group will come forward to help.

THE CUBS

D.Y.B., D.Y.B., D.Y.B. !

We'll D.O.B., D.O.B., D.O.B., D.O.B. !

Yes, the Cubs are striving to do just that - at home, at school, at play. The old Wolves have presented the former Sixers and Seconds to the Troop with every confidence that they will be a credit to themselves and to the movement.

At Hermitage of Braid, at a short weekend Pack holiday during July, these Cubs seemed to grow in independence, and ready to take full advantage of the Scouting programme. Their way has been opened up to them by the informal training they received from the Patrol Leaders prior to the going-up Ceremony. The presentation to Alexander Anderson of the Queen's Certificate, a red-letter day for the Group, will be an added incentive to the Cubs who were privileged to be present.

Some very promising new Cubs were enrolled at the recent Tenderpad Investiture, and the sixes are settling down to the Winter programme of tests and games. The older Cubs attended the Gang show on Thursday, 21st November. Hallowe'en has been observed with masks, Turnip lanterns, witches, warlocks and "dookin' for aipples".

The team representing the Pack at the District Swimming Gala on 13th November was successful in gaining the Cub Trophy. This is the first time that a Pack, other than the 2nd Pack - the holder for the past eight years - has won this Trophy. The Cubs congratulate their older brothers of the Troop upon their success at the same Gala.

The Headquarters ruling about the new upper age limit for the Pack, now the eleventh birthday, is causing some concern. The Old Wolves will be grateful to parents for their co-operation if any change in organisation should be necessary during the present session.

They desire also to offer greetings to all parents and well-wishers, former Cubs and Scouts, and return thanks for their unfailing support.

Akela.

THE SCOUTS

In this first newsletter, I would like to outline some of the long-term aims of the Troop as well as detail recent and future events.

There are thirty-three Scouts in the Troop at the present time, in five patrols with either six or seven members.

We are trying to be more practical and ambitious in our approach to Scouting and this involves the purchasing of the necessary equipment. At the same time, we are carrying out a policy of replacing our old and suspect tentage and we hope to raise about £70 during the year and purchase a patrol tent and three hike tents.

The Court of Honour (i.e. the Patrol Leaders and Seconds) has decided that, instead of subscriptions being paid weekly, they be paid in one of three ways, viz:-

- (a) 2/6d per month for eight months commencing on the first Friday of October.
- (b) 10/- at the beginning of each of the first two terms.
- (c) £1 at the beginning of the session.

This means that each Scout will be paying virtual the same total amount as in the past but the task of the treasurer in keeping records of payments will be greatly lessened. A financial statement is compiled at the end of each term and copies may be had on request.

Twenty of us were at the King's theatre on Saturday 23rd November to see the Gang Show.

We would like to congratulate Alexander Anderson on receiving his Queen's Scout Certificate from the

County Commissioner in November and hope that the older Scouts will be prompted to emulate him.

Trevor Bowen and Graham Henderson will represent the Troop in the district Tenderfoot competition in February. These two Scouts were the first from those who joined in September to pass their Tenderfoot badges. The Troop at present holds the trophy for this competition as well as the district sports cup and the District Swimming Cup.

Ten of the older Scouts will be looking for snow in Glenshee on the 2nd of February when they take part in one of the County Ski-ing expeditions.

A weekend camp will be held in April in the Rover's cottage near Lauder for those Scouts who haven't been to a Summer Camp. Further details will be given as soon as possible and it is hoped that all eligible will be able to attend.

The dates of the Summer Camp are 25th July - 4th August. Prospective sites are at present being negotiated.

THE SEA SCOUTS

In the Sea Scout Troop, which meets in the Gymnasium at the Senior School each Friday, there is so much to do and so little time to do it in.

Firstly, the fourteen foot dinghy, which we built a time to do some rowing at last year's Summer Camp at Lochearnhead, must be made ready for the start of the sailing season. Secondly, our camping gear has to be overhauled and replenished before the better weather comes again.

Fund-raising; badge work; canoe repairs; Group events; district events; and preparation for the Chief Scout's visit on 30th May will all have to be crammed into the next few months. The aim of the Troop in 1964 is to become one of the few "Admiralty Qualified" Scout Troops in Scotland, but to pass the first inspection we shall have to gain a lot of practical and theoretical knowledge of nautical subjects.

R.J. Lawrie (Skipper)

THE ROVERS

Our Rover Crew has a den at 4a Regent Terrace, where we meet on alternate Tuesdays. There is, besides, in the vicinity of Lauder, a cottage which was repaired and redecorated by the Rovers themselves. The crew is ten-strong at the moment, but we are always glad of new blood, for ideally the balance should be kept pretty even between the older and younger members. It is a pity that so many of the older Scouts tend to drift away from the movement after they leave the Troop, for if they stepped up into the Rover Crew they would find a great variety of things in which they could take an active interest. Overseas Camping, Pony Trekking, Gliding, or, more practically, the provision of First-Aid parties on the skiing grounds. But Rovering is much more than passive enjoyment; at the moment the S.M.s and A.S.M.s of three Portobello Troops are all 12th Portobello Rovers. And this is where the evidence of Rovering lies; while providing tremendous scope for indulging your own personal pleasure, it gives opportunity both for assuming responsibility and for putting something back into Scouting. Not to have been a Rover is to have missed something vital in the Scout movement.

Subscriptions:- While "The Twelfth" will be sent free to parents of all Scouts in the Group, small donations towards the cost of postage will always be welcome. These will be acknowledged.