

Pax Wood is Kent County Girl Guides centenary year memorial to the founder of the movement, Lord Baden-Powell. It will be opened by the World Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, on Friday, 26th April. It is Kent's first Guide house and is situated in the grounds of Rowhill Grange, Wilmington, Dartford, the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Leslie Wates.

History. Pax Wood was originally a stable and coach house. During the war it was bombed and after war damage repairs, carried out in 1956 it was lent by Mr. G. Leslie Wates for use as the County Guide House.

It's adaptation for this purpose has been in the hands of a committee of Kent Guiders and work not covered by war damage payment has been paid ~~for out of funds and donations~~ raised throughout the county.

Volunteer working parties of Guiders, Rangers and Guides have done much of the work of clearing the grounds and painting and decorating the house under the directions of Mrs. Helen Grant, a Bromley Guider and daughter of Mr. Wates.

Furnishings and equipment have either been made by members of the movement, given in kind or purchased through donations.

A book giving a complete list of those who have donated has been compiled and will be kept at Pax Wood.

In addition, over 1,000 Thanks Certificates will be sent out to donors.

Purpose. Pax Wood will be a centre for a wide range of Guide activities all the year round,

Brownies will use it for Pack Holidays, Guides will hold indoor camps there and facilities have been provided so that disabled Guides can also take advantage of the house.

It will also be available for Guider, Ranger and Guide trainings and conferences from Company to County level and Ranger and Cadet Exploration week-ends.

Visitors from the provinces and overseas will be able to stay there and it is hoped that when the house is free, it can be let to Guides from outside the County.

Maintenance. Those using the house will contribute according to a scale of charges to the running costs. Each party will be responsible for leaving it clean and ready for re-occupation.

Bookings will be handled by Mrs. Grant, 21, Orchard Road, Bromley, Kent, and general maintenance will be supervised by the House Committee.

Description. Pax Wood has been given that name because the word Pax -- peace -- has been so closely associated with Lord Baden-Powell's life and works.

Rooms in the house have also been given names associated with the life of the Founder. They are:

Sitting Room. Pax Hill. Named after his home in Hampshire.

Sun Parlour. Pax Tu. Named after the house at Nyeri, Kenya, where the Founder spent the last three years of his life.

Guiders' Room. Ewhurst. Named after the house on the Kent border where wrote "Girl Guiding" and many of his most important books.

Kitchen. Mynthurst. Named after the house where he lived in 1917 and where he "cooked" some of the important plans for Cubs, Rovers etc.

Large Bedroom. Arcadia. Named after the ship Arcadian in which he and Lady Baden-Powell first met.

Small Bedroom. Impeesa. Means "The wolf that never sleeps" in Matabele

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Bathroom. Kantankye. Means "The man in the big hat" in Ashanti

Caravan. Jam Roll. Named after the Rolls Royce car and caravan given to him by Scouts on the coming of age of the Scout movement.

The caravan, situated close to the house, has been given by Mrs. Gravina, County Commonwealth and International representative. It has been repainted and furnished by the Sevenoaks Division. It will be used as an emergency sick bay or extra sleeping accommodation for Guiders.

Adjoining Pax Wood are two camping sites, which can be used independently or in connection with the house.

The oak name board on the house has been carved by Miss Pierson and the hanging sign at the entrance was designed and executed by Miss K. Leslie-Smith.

The trefoil on the gable was made by Miss U. Herzog, a Zurich Guider ~~now living in Bromley.~~

Cooking and water heating is by electricity and the sitting room has an open fire. Portable electric convector heaters have been provided for the other rooms.

#### PROGRAMME FOR CHIEF GUIDE AT PAX WOOD. ON FRIDAY, APRIL, 26th.

Lady Baden-Powell is due to arrive at the gate of Pax Wood at 6.30 p.m. She will be met by District Commissioners. Accompanied by the County Commission, Mrs. L.M. Crosfield, she will walk through the Lower Camp site where nearly 2,000 Guides will be assembled, to the Upper Camp site. Here she will receive a grand howl of welcome from the Brownies. At the door of Pax Wood she will be met by Mrs. Grant. She will then be conducted round the house by a Brownie and a Guide.

In each room she will find Guides and Brownies carrying out the work of the house.

During her tour the story of Pax Wood will be relayed over loud speakers for the benefit of those outside the house.

As Lady Baden-Powell enters Pax Tu (Sun Parlour) she will be met by Mr. G. Ainsworth Wates, deputising for his father who is unable to attend because of illness. Mr. Wates will formally hand over the house for the use of Kent Girl Guides. The Chief Guide will then christen the house and the Rev. K. Stuart will give the blessing.

The Union Flag and the Guide World Flag will be broken from the flagstaffs on the lawn. Colour parties supplied by Dartford Division, Land and Sea Rangers.

Following the singing of the National Anthem, thanks will be expressed by County Commissioner Mrs. L.M. Crosfield and the Assistant County Commissioner Miss Hawthorne Barnes.

~~The Chief Guide will then leave Pax Wood to visit the caravan on her way to the Upper Camp site where Guides will be assembled to hear her talk.~~

Lady Baden-Powell will afterwards be entertained at Rowhill Grange and Guides will take part in a short camp fire led by Miss M.R. Storr, District Commissioner, Darnley District. Scouts from Dartford and Bexleyheath will line the route at her arrival.

The House Committee comprises: The Hon. Marjorie A. Campbell (chairman) Mrs. M.E. Crosfield, Mrs. J. Grant, Miss H.J. Harrison, Miss U. Herzog, Miss B. I'Anson Jones, Miss Marjorie C. Lack, Mrs. Macpherson, Mrs. Notley, Miss M.B. Searle, Mrs. E.S. Simmons, Miss M.R. Storr.

Owing to illness the House Committee Chairman, Miss Campbell, was unable to attend. Those present included:

Mrs. Emerson Dédrick	Mrs. E.C. Low
Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Wates,	Mrs. F. Channon
Mr. J.Y. Grant,	Mrs. G.J. Buckingham
Sir Edward Bligh	Miss Hawker
Major D. Lipscombe	Miss Dickinson
Miss E. Lipscombe	Mr. I.C. Simmons
Mrs. W. Gordon	Mr. A.E. Rex.
Miss Whitehead	Mr. S.J. Higham
Mr. and Mrs. W. Whitehouse	Mr and Mrs. A. Talbot
Mrs. C.M. Hawkins.	Mrs. Massey
Mrs. Davey	Mrs. Tatham
Miss Battiscombe.	Mrs. Gunn
Mr. E.S. Simmons	Mrs. E. Waterman
Mr. Catton	Lady Tallents
Miss Christie	Mrs. G.W. Chancellor
Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Braby	Mrs. J.K. Waistell
Rev. and Mrs. Mathers	Miss Strickland
Rev. and Mrs. K. Stuart	Mrs. Scott
Rev. Bernard Hall	Mrs. Parrin
Lady Alexander	Mrs. B.F. Kirby
Mrs. Beer	Rev. P.C. Collins
Mrs. E. Donne	Mr and Mrs. Lynn

The Pax Wood Story, as told to the Guides and Brownies at the opening by The Chief Guide April 26th 1957.

The true story of Pax Wood began many years ago, long before any of you were born; it was a stable then but no horses lived in it and no hay lay in the hay loft for it had been empty a long long time and was a dreary tumbledown place.

To this tumbledown stable came a rather tumbledown Brownie Pack, the Pack could not help being tumbledown because the Brownies were all very, very poor, their uniforms were old and faded and many of them had never seen the country before; but they were REAL Brownies, they all had bright smiles and were quite determined to make the best of everything.

There were no beds, but only straw palliasses to sleep on and nowhere to sit except the floor of the dark dingy stables; no kitchen and ~~no bathroom. In spite of all this discomfort the Brownies enjoyed every~~ moment of their holiday and returned home full of fresh air and happy memories.

Now, as you all know, a Guide or Brownie leaves nothing behind except her thanks, but these Brownies DID leave something behind and it stayed in the old stable for years and years and years. The war came and bombs made the stable even more tumbledown than ever; ivy grew - its long trailing stems reached right up to the chimney and covered the building like a green cloak - brambles, nettles, thistles and other weeds all helped to blot it out; dead leaves lay in piles blown in through the open door, now off its hinges, it was indeed a dismal sight. It reminded one of the Castle of the Sleeping Beauty, where the Princess and her courtiers lay sleeping for a hundred years.

But what had happened to that "something" the Brownies left behind? Could it still be there after all these years?

Now - if it had not been there, YOU would not be here today and there would be no Pax Wood, for it was the Spirit of Guiding that was left ~~behind, the spirit which gives fun and friendship, happiness and~~ helpfulness, enterprise and B.P.'s special word "stickability". This spirit still lies sleeping in the stable - now a house - waiting to be awoken.

Many changes have taken place since the early days, many people have been busy, young and old have chopped and pulled at the ivy, rooted up the brambles and nettles, to free what was left of the building; Architects, bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and many others have transformed the old ruin into a real house. Guides, Rangers, Cadets and Guiders have come with paint and brushes to beautify the house and spades and forks to dig and plant the garden. When at last all was ready, the curtains, furniture and other equipment, largely given by you, were put into place and now once again the house is ready for the Spirit of Guiding; but how shall we waken it when all the hammering of the builders did not, nor the singing and shouting of the working parties? Surely in this great year when we celebrate the centenary of the birth of our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell, the sleeping spirit must awake.

There is a Brownie and a Guide here by the house who have been peeping in through a chink in the drawn curtains, they tell me that inside are Guides and Brownies all sleeping at their work and play, just like the Courtiers of the Sleeping Beauty; as you all know, these were woken by the Prince; it is no imaginary Prince who comes today to the House in the wood but a real live and much loved Chief Guide whose whole hearted love of Guiding is stronger than any magic spell. We know that when she enters the House, the power of her presence will wake the sleeping occupants from their deep sleep and then with her infectious enthusiasm and your help, the Spirit of Guiding will once more take possession of Kent's own Guide House and it is up to us all to see that it never sleeps again in PAX WOOD.