

Scouting Memories

Leo McClymont

Leo joined the Gatehouse Boy Scouts in about 1940. At that time the troop held meetings in the old Cally Boys School behind the Cally Estate Office in Ann Street. The Scout leader was PC Hugh McCorkindale.

There were 4 patrols - each had a corner in the room which was painted the colour of that patrol. Leo's corner was green but he can't recall which patrol he was in. Among the other scouts were 3 of his best pals: John McCrone (son of Georgie McCrone, bus driver for Campbell's Garage), Francis Baillie, (Leo's cousin), David Cochrane (son of the butcher)

Two of the earlier scout were Billy Hay and Bill McGeachie. They had both had been called up for war service and had left the scouts by the time Leo joined. Billy Hay had joined the Royal Air Force.

Latterly the older scouts were known as King's Scouts and had duties which included acting as messengers between various Home Guard units in the area. Leo did a Proficiency badge in shooting. They practiced on some empty ground behind the old Girthon Parish school on Castramont Road. (Now Carney's Corner) using .22 bullets.