

ROUND AND ABOUT IN THE PARISH.....

"Scoutmaster Ronald Hardy was always keen that his troop should consider their parents and, particularly at Christmas, his Troop would lay on entertainment for them, as a way of thanks. A Boxing Night dance held in the Memorial Hall was a highlight as a means of raising funds and in 1928 the Merry Quartet Dance Band was in attendance. However a regrettable feature was unseemly behaviour of a few young men, and Scoutmaster Hardy intimated there would be no more dances unless they behaved - this had the desired effect.

On another occasion, the 1st Danehill and Chelwood Gate Troop presented a quaint play in three acts - The Dagger - and the newspaper report says "it rather mystified the audience and in all probability they are still thinking about it".



F Kendall, C Ridley, R Mitchell and B Charman took the parts of villains. The

Fatal Stone, a short drama in an opium den written by Mr Hardy was quite exciting and realistic in its way, and gave a chance to R Mitchell and B Charman to show themselves as silent footed cunning-minded Chinese. Ronald Hardy was the immaculate Count Busano until eastern wiles laid him low on the floor with a heavy bump and 12ft of rope around him.

In The Scotchman's Deal, here again was Mr Hardy, this time he had a crimson nose and a Scottish accent. The heroine for the naughty wife was played by R Mitchell and the hubby who came back by C Bennett.



The 3rd section - The Bathroom Door included H Blackall, who impressed everybody with his ventriloquism turn, and H Goodenough and R Edwards for their rendering of a duet which was admirable. There were plantation songs and, with the aid of a gramophone, members of the East

Grinstead Troop of Boy Scouts indulged in country dancing to the complete enjoyment of all.

To the uninitiated “Shadows” was a revelation. By the means of a lantern and a white sheet gruesome dissection of a man’s body was seen. It was a good reproduction and highly diverting.

There was a wealth of congratulation for the boys, which included several Nutley boys, and Mr Hardy received praise from all sides for the success of the concert. It must be noted, the newspaper report said, that nearly every turn on the programme originated from Mr Hardy. The concert raised about £5 for the Troop funds.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the late Laurence Hardy for access to his father’s scout diaries and for the trouble Laurence took in sending me the history and photos of the Freshfield Lane Brickworks and this information will appear in future articles. Laurence was so kind to me and he will be greatly missed.

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Long-tailed tits by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

The ties that bind

“Who are these people?” You’ve hardly seen them all year yet here you are, paper hat askew, squashed between them on the sofa at Christmas. On a branch out in the cold darkness of the garden, also sandwiched between aunts, brothers, cousins and daughters, a tiny bird is asking a similar question.

Long-tailed tits and humans are two of Britain’s most social species. And just like a visit from your relatives, the arrival of a long-tailed tit flock in your garden can turn tranquillity into chaos. It’s like someone has emptied a box of feathered fireworks over the fence. They manically bicker on the bird feeder and swing acrobatically upside-down on the fat balls, all the while trilling, rattling and screaming ‘eee-heee-heee’ like a troupe of Michael Jackson impersonators.



long-tailed tit © Alan Price, Gatehouse Studio Sussex Wildlife Trust