

time elsewhere in Streatham, other Senior Scout Troops (some 10 in all), were mostly in the same predicament, low numbers, unsatisfactory activity instructors, etc. However, even then, glints of future prospects were emerging; three Senior Scout Troops were outwardly showing signposts of things to come. The old 18th were quite strong, and were straying from their mudhuts, to try their hand at caving, likewise were the 1st. Str.C The 3rd. were beginning to show their competence in canoeing and their training certainly produced some of the fittest bods in the district.

These three Senior Scout Troops were to form the basis of Venture Scouting in Streatham, as it was later to be known.

My Senior Scout Troop had now dwindled to six members, others in the district had already closed. Consequently, we received a L.A. ultimatum, as did a few others. We had to either find another six and a leader, or close the Troop or amalgamate with another Troop.

Our first alternative was more improbable than at first it may sound, for we had nothing to offer anyone. The second was a little easier, we could easily close the Troop and continue our meetings in the pub, as normal, but we like gluttons for punishment chose the third.

We weren't so stupid as at first we might sound, and we shopped around before choosing a troop to join. The 1st. Streatham Common received us with open arms, especially a much littler Dave Webb, and together with Seniors from the 22nd. and a couple from Mitcham, we formed the Estreham Venture Scout Unit in October 1967.

After the initial teething troubles, the Unit began to work, just like the Advance Party revolutionaries had said. We were back into the world; new uniforms, strenuous and untried activities were launched and by the summer of 1968 even managed to lure over 70% of the Unit onto a Summer Expedition to the Pyrenees.

Meanwhile, in the district three other Units had sprung up out of the old system; The Livingstone Unit appeared from the old 3rd. Streatham Seniors, quite strong, with it's activities expanding. The second was the Leigham Unit, a combination of two extremes, the down to earth (pun) 18th. and the old boys of the Air scouts. The third, the Telford, (2nd.Str.Hll) a little less strong, but signs of advancement.