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THE SCOUT'S BOOK OF GILWELL

by
JOHN THURMAN
Camp Chief

Illustrated by
John Sweet

with a frontispiece by Maurice V. Walter

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Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or express sentiments which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

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GILWELL PARK – WHERE AND WHY?

Suppose for a change we start in the middle. In 1929 the Twenty-first Anniversary Scout Jamboree was held at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, and to it came the Scouts of many countries of the world to celebrate the coming of age of Scouting and to honour Baden-Powell, our Founder and Chief Scout.

It was not only Scouts, though, who had decided that our Founder should be honoured, for no less a person than H.M. King George V. had decided that Scouting, in the person of B.-P., should be honoured for all that it had given to the boyhood of the world, so he graciously conferred upon B.-P. a Peerage.

Now when anyone is made a Peer, and one day it might happen to you so it is as well to know about these things and be prepared for them, you cannot just become “Lord Smith”, you have to become “Lord ‘Something’ of ‘Somewhere’”. Even B.-P., famous as he was, had to conform to the custom and become Lord Baden-Powell of ‘Somewhere’. The question, of course, was of where? Some people thought it ought to be Mafeking where he fought out his famous siege, but B.-P. had no doubt whatever about the matter. For him there was only one possible answer and, to the delight of Scouts the world over, he became “Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell”.

Well, why did B.-P. choose Gilwell Park? The answer to that question is what the whole of this book is about.

So now to the beginning. How did Gilwell come to be a Scout Camp at all? Well, it was like this. Towards the end of the First World War there was a Commissioner working in the East End of London, Mr. Du Bois Maclaren. He was a Scot, as you may guess from his name,

and was trying very hard to get Scouting properly established and to give the Scouts of East London all that *Scouting for Boys* promised.

It was not very easy because camping has always been the most popular Scout activity, and long may it remain so, and decent camp sites in East London are just about as easy to find as are icebergs on the Equator. In those days Scouts in East London had very little money and the idea of travelling very far was quite out of the question. Commissioner Maclaren therefore saw that if Scouting was going to flourish in East London there had to be a camp site near enough for his Troops to be able to get there at week-ends either on their own feet or by spending only a penny or twopence. He went along to the Founder and said, "If you will find a camp site near to East London I will buy it and give it to Scouting for all time". This would have been a wonderful offer from anyone, but from a Scotsman it was perhaps even more wonderful! Quite seriously, it is important to remember this story whenever anyone starts to tell stories about the meanness of the Scottish people; I have met a great number of people from Scotland but not yet have I met a mean one. They are thrifty, of course, but that is good Scouting and not meanness. B.-P. was delighted with this offer and very quickly spread the news around. He asked many people to look round the fringe of East London to see what they could discover. There is no room to go into full details but, briefly, a small party of Rover Scouts did eventually stumble upon Gilwell Park. Stumble is the right word! The time was Easter, 1919, and it was very wet and cold. The Rovers had been tramping around all day and it was quite late in the evening when they found themselves at Gilwell Park, although they didn't know it; all they knew was that they were wet and tired and had done enough for one day. So they searched around for shelter and it is a matter of history that they found an old pig-sty, the regular inhabitants having long ago moved out! In the morning the weather had cleared and the Rovers were able to look around. Although the estate was very overgrown and all the buildings were tumbling down there seemed to be the right sort of atmosphere about the place. In their explorations they discovered a broken "For Sale" board which gave them the address of a firm of Estate Agents, who for many years had been trying to sell Gilwell but without any success whatever. Mr. P. B. Nevill, who was the leader of the Rover Crew, made a note of the address and they continued their explorations and after the holiday an enquiry was made to the Estate Agents and particulars of sale obtained. Reports were sent to B.-P. and Mr. Maclaren and they quickly came down and had a look round Gilwell. Well, obviously, they bought it, otherwise I should not be writing about it.



Before the estate was bought, however, B.-P. who had long seen the very great need for Scoutmasters to be trained, persuaded Maclaren that Gilwell should be a combination of three things: –

A Camping Ground for Scouts, especially for London Scouts,

A Training Ground for Scoutmasters,

A Laboratory or Experimental Station where new ideas could be tried out in practical conditions with Boy Scouts themselves.

Throughout the summer of 1919 parties of Scouts and Rovers from London and the surrounding areas came to Gilwell and worked to clear the jungle, make paths, repair things that were broken and generally put the estate in order. Maclaren added to his generosity by agreeing to bear part of the cost of putting the old house into a livable condition. The first Camp Chief, Captain Francis Gidney was appointed and the whisper went around that Gilwell 'had arrived'.

By July 1919 the camp was ready for the formal opening: B.-P. himself was at Gilwell to receive from Mr. Maclaren the Deeds of Gilwell and to hang around Maclaren's neck the Silver Wolf, the highest award in Scouting. Camping and working parties went on through the summer, the number growing as Scouts began to learn about Gilwell.

In September, came the first Scoutmaster's Training Course, with B.-P. himself present throughout most of the sessions and activities and the Wood Badge, which I will tell you about later on, was born at the end of the Course. All this does show, though, what a Good Turn can grow into.

It was, however, for none of the reasons I have given you that B.-P. decided to become Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. After all, there are many camp sites and many of them have been given by equally generous donors: it was the Training of Scoutmasters which gradually grew and which made Gilwell famous. The Training of Scouters grew because it was a good thing and was well done, not because it was Gilwell, not because it was British, but because it was so obviously right. There is another lesson in all this. Right things always come out on top, sometimes it takes some time but they always do succeed in the end.

Within a very few years of Gilwell opening as a Training Ground for Scouters from Great Britain, first by ones and twos and then by tens, Scouters from other countries came to Gilwell, first from the Dominions and Colonies and then from the European countries and eventually from every country in the world where Scouting was known. By 1929 Gilwell, it is fair to claim, was the best known place in the world of Scouting, for there were men and women who had been trained at Gilwell and gone back to their own countries full of the story of Gilwell and spreading the benefit of the training they had received there amongst Cubs and Scouts in many places. By the time B.-P. was ready to receive his Peerage, Gilwell really was tremendously well-known and very greatly loved by Scouters in nearly all the countries of the world.

All this, though, is history. What of today?

We can pass over quite quickly the years between 1929 and the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, except to say that through those years Scouts and Scouters continued to come from ever further afield.

Came the war, and Gilwell which originally had been purchased because it was near to London, found itself in a very vulnerable position. Most of you who read this book will know that camping near a big city with bombs and shrapnel falling and only a skin of canvas to protect one was not the kind of thing that sensible Scouts wanted to do very often. Very early

on, therefore, camping at Gilwell had to be abandoned and for almost two years Gilwell struggled on, running Training Courses for Scoutmasters, but even this was proving difficult. In 1940, when the Army said they wanted to take over Gilwell, although it was a sad day for Scouting, it was perhaps inevitable. For four long years Gilwell suffered the weight of army boots and, not unnaturally for the soldiers had other things to think about, all the beauty of Gilwell vanished bit by bit until, in 1945, Gilwell in many respects was back looking rather as it did in 1919. Those of us who had known and loved Gilwell through the years were sad about this, but equally we were determined that Gilwell would re-open, flourish again, and mean as much to Scouting as before.

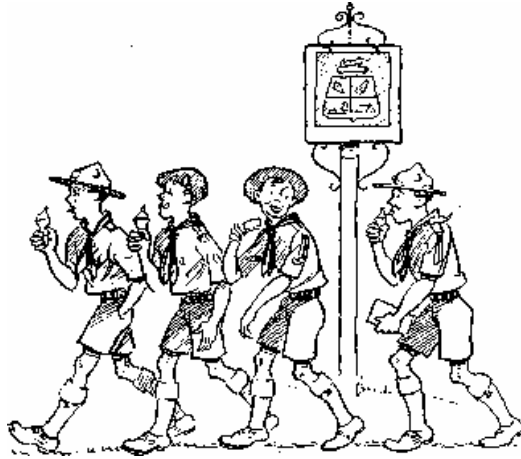
The Scouts of 1945 showed themselves no less ready and willing and no less able than those of 1919, for when the call went out that Gilwell was open again and that help was needed, help they did, and work they did, with skill and with pleasure. There was a great deal to do. It was necessary to deal with the growth of years, damage from bombs and rockets, and damage from humans too; it all had to be remedied and put into order. There was a job for everyone, and right nobly did the Scouts rally round. There were trenches to fill in, paths to clear, bomb holes to be dealt with, old huts to be dismantled, missing gates to be found, repaired and re-erected, fences to be re-built, fallen trees to be cleared and even an old cottage to be pulled down and the ground made good. Painting and decorating, furniture repairing and cleaning, plumbing, electric wiring, the setting to rights of the swimming bath; there was hardly a trade or job of which Gilwell did not stand in need but, again, the miracle happened and in a few months, by Whitsun 1945, Gilwell, if not back to its pre-war splendour, was looking pretty good and the Chief Scout came down and declared Gilwell open again. That Whitsun well over a thousand Scouts were in camp to see Gilwell for the first time and, as it happened, to meet their new Chief for the first time. By June we were ready once again to start Training Courses for Scoutmasters, and what a very lucky band of Scoutmasters were on that first Course for they found not just a Course but, as a member of it, the Chief Scout himself, as eager as themselves to earn the Wood Badge.

In 1947 we still did not know whether or not the Scouters of other countries would want to come back after a break of so many years, with all the troubles of post-war travelling, currency restrictions and all sorts of new problems, and yet they did, have done and are still doing, in even greater numbers and from just as wide a field.

In 1947, after the Jamboree in France, Gilwell was once again acclaimed as the International Training Centre for the whole Scout world.

So here is Gilwell today, better known than ever, as well-loved as ever, offering its camping grounds to the Scouts of the world and its Training Courses to the Scoutmasters and Cubmasters of the world.

There is an old saying, "See Naples and die", but I believe to the world of Scouting a more attractive saying is, "See Gilwell and live!"



A TOUR OF GILWELL

Our tour starts from the Providore, a good meeting place for Scouts because you might be served by the Chief Scout himself. If you do buy an ice cream to eat on the trip round Gilwell remember to put the paper in your pocket and don't throw it on the ground or in the hedge: we are very proud of Gilwell and we want each one of you to be the same. From the Providore we'll go over to the big coloured map of the estate which is opposite the Camp Warden's reporting hut. This will give you some indication of the size and layout of the whole Camp. It is here that you will learn something about the early history of the place and how Gilwell was started.

Having heard something about the Gilwell White House we go out through the entrance of the Boys' Field Gateway (a gift made to the Camp Chief by the Boy Scouts of Australia when he toured that great Dominion in 1950) round to the Main Gate, the entrance to the International Scouters' Training Centre.

As we follow the lovely drive, with chestnut trees on either side, we see on the right the Camp Chief's Lodge and wander on until we come into view of the main buildings, the Gilwell Hall, South Africa House, the Pack Den, or the Barn as it is sometimes called, and the walled kitchen garden which is out-of-bounds to Scouts – obviously because of the fruit trees.

Towards the north-east we see the famous "Dick Turpin" gate and you will be told something of the story of the highwayman Dick Turpin and his famous horse, "Black Bess". This gate is on the site of Silver Street along which Dick Turpin made his famous ride.

From the Turpin Gate we can walk over and have a close look at the "Gilwell Oak". This tree is known to be over five hundred years old and is eighteen feet in girth; a very fine specimen of an English oak. Note the good surgical work done by Scouts to preserve it.

We retrace our steps through the Turpin Gate to have a look at B.-P.'s caravan, a gift to our founder from the Scouts of the world to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of Scouting. Together with a Rolls Royce car, "Jamroll", the caravan was presented at the opening rally at the Arrowe Park Jamboree in 1929, Birkenhead, England. Listen to your guide and he will also tell you about the trouser braces. To the right of the caravan is a metal impression of B.-P.'s footprint. This is a chance for you to test your estimation; what size shoe did B.-P. take?

Looking to the west we see "London Bridge", that is, we see the Balustrade which guards the Buffalo Lawn and there you will find a solitary Canadian Maple Tree, one of the many presented by the Scouts of Canada, the one planted by our present Chief Scout. In the centre of this lawn is the Bronze Buffalo which commemorates the Good Turn rendered by an unknown London

Scout; a good turn which led to the start of Scouting in the United States of America. Your guide will tell you the interesting story of why the Scouts of America awarded the Scouts of this country the highest award in American Scouting, The Order of the Silver Buffalo, for distinguished services rendered to boyhood. The citation of the award can be seen in one of the showcases in the Museum, which is to be our next port of call.

First, though, we might all remember to wipe our feet before entering Gilwell Hall, for the Group Room and the Museum are our special pride. You can take your own time in looking round – and what a great deal there is to see. In the Museum you will find many of B.-P.'s personal curios, such as the Mafeking stamps and money, articles given to him by the Boy Scouts of many countries, and original copies of *Scouting for Boys*. There is a chance for you to see your own Patrol bird, stuffed of course, and hundreds of butterflies, scorpions and the like.

The Group Room will give you plenty of ideas for Patrol and Troop Room decorations and a chance to see and to handle carefully the original Kudu Horn as used by B.-P. himself at the experimental Scout Camp on Brownsea Island away back in 1907. Also displayed is a complete set of Scout Badges, including County badges and the badges of all the Scout ranks and honours of the Movement. Doubtless the guide will point out the very lovely oak screen. Notice the absence of nails and screws; it is all wood-pegged and is a grand piece of wood carving. You will also have your attention drawn to the beautifully carved backs for the ceremonial Camp Fire chairs of our President the Duke of Gloucester, and the Chief Scout. The carvings are, of course, their own Coats of Arms. No doubt the Indian Sign Language you will see on one side of the main beam across the ceiling will intrigue you; the translation is as follows:

To all friendly Scouts. In the peace year under the thunder and lightning moon
July, a large body of Scouts came together in the wood to witness the Chief Scout
present the Silver Wolf to Maclaren. Good hunting, good food and water. May the sun
be in your heart. They do you well here. Camp Chief.

Well, enough of the Group Room. Our next stop is the Pack Den. Most Cubs or ex-Cubs will find to their delight a lot of interesting ideas for Six and Pack dens. Upon a screen is painted in picture form the whole of the Jungle Story; have a look at it and see how much you know of Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book*. From the windows of the Pack Den, looking to the east, we get a good view of the golf course and Epping Forest.

Next to the Pack Den is the new building known as South Africa House. This was built out of the South Africa Gift to Britain Fund given by that great Dominion in those dark days when we stood alone in the war of 1939-1945. The ground floor comprises workshops and a store for training gear and you can see through the windows that it houses such things as ropes, tents, axes, billy-cans and other gear which is used on the Training Courses for Scouters.

We now wend our way up the 'Chief's Approach' to the Training Ground proper. Even when a Course is in session, the Camp Chief does not mind us having a peep at what is going on, providing we all keep together and are quiet, but naturally he will not allow you to interfere with what is going on there.

You will see the Gidney Cabin, built in 1929 by Scouts with, of course, a few adults helping. This is a memorial to Capain Francis Gidney, Camp Chief from 1919 to 1923. It is constructed of timber cut from the estate and adzed by hand. You will agree that it is a very fine specimen of a Canadian log cabin. Sometimes in the winter the Camp Chief allows Senior Scouts or Rovers to spend a week-end in the Gidney Cabin in return for a spot of work on the estate, and if you are interested in the idea the guide will tell you more. Yes, the electric clock is camp time!

As you come out from the Gidney Cabin you see before you the Training Ground with its twelve large Patrol tents and behind each pair of tents the feeding shelters and camp kitchens. In the centre of the Training Ground is the Council Circle and perhaps gathered round the circle will be half a hundred Scouters from many lands. You will not be able to make a close inspection of the "Seats of the Mighty" unless you are lucky and no Course is in progress, in which case you will be able to examine the carved seats and sit where the Chief Scout sits on his frequent visits to Gilwell.

Did you see the Camp Notice Board? It is a leather skin presented to Gilwell during the Camp Chief's tour of South Australia in 1950 and he brought it back with him.

Let us wander over to the most historical building (so far as Scouting is concerned) on the estate, the pig-sty. Listen to your guide; he will tell you why this building is treasured.

Having passed the Orchard, better known as the Brownsea Island Training Ground, we cross over to the Session Circle. This is the place where Scoutmasters sit and write their notes during the sessions or lectures that are given to them by the Camp Chief and his staff. You will, I hope, notice that, following B.-P's lead, we make ourselves as comfortable as we can when in camp. You may sit on the log seats and find out for yourselves just how comfortable they are.

If we have time you might cross the Lime Walk, that is, the belt of lime trees surrounding the Training Ground, and have a look at 'The Works', the Scouters' sanitary block, and away in the distance the King George V. Reservoir. There is a good view from this spot as you look towards the Small Arms Factory at Enfield and the Abbey of Waltham and, beyond that, to the Chiltern Hills.

We must hurry back across the Training Ground to look at the Church of England chapel which was, we think, originally part of the cloisters which existed when the monks were resident here. Every Sunday morning in the summer early services are held here and those who attend these services can really experience the inspiration of the celebration of The Lord's Supper in a very special way.

You will want to know about Caroline's Pillar and Walter's Urn and they both have stories attached to them.

Near to the chapel is another Camp Fire Circle, mainly used for the Training Courses, but sometimes the Camp Chief invites campers to join the Course at a Camp Fire and what a privilege this is.

If we have remembered the key we may look inside the Troop Hut. Here we try to show you a way of turning an ordinary Army hut into a worthwhile Troop Headquarters. Further along the path and we come to the Roman Catholic Scout Chapel in all its beauty. Mass is celebrated here every Sunday morning and arrangements can also be made for Confession. Yes, it was in the main built by Scouts.

We must push on back to the Lime Walk and here, if you have the right guide with you, you will be told about the Ghost of Mrs. Chinnery.

Further along the walk we come to the Jim Green Gate, ornamental entrance to the Training Ground. This is estimated to weigh about fifteen tons and is a fine piece of pioneering by Scouts. A Norfolk thatch was added in 1946 but this was done by a craftsman.

As we close the Jim Green Gate we leave behind the Training Ground and cross the old bridle path back into the camping fields, some fifty acres of them. We might visit 'The Quick' first. Why so named? Well, look around and you will guess. Here we get a fine view of the reservoir and London town in the distance. From one spot on a clear day we can see St. Paul's and Big Ben and, looking to the north, the tower of Waltham Abbey.

To the north is the 'Hilly Field' and the London Scouters' Training Ground, but we will continue our tour to the Camp Fire Shelter. But what exactly is this Camp Fire-cum-Shelter? As you know, every Saturday night the Scouts in camp gather for a Camp Fire sing-song. Sometimes there are only about two hundred present but at peak periods such as Whitsun anything up to two thousand join in. But, as you also know, the weather can be a bit difficult and who wants to sing around a fire when it is raining? So, when it is wet, we hold our Camp Fire here and also Scouts' Owns. Behind the shelter, which was built and re-built by the gifts of Scouters from all over the world, stands the Red Indian Totem. This was carved by the Boy Scouts of America at that famous 1929 Jamboree at Arrowe Park.

From this spot you can hear the splash and murmur from the Swimming Pool. It is not a large pool but we do get a lot of fun there and if you haven't had the chance before you might be lucky enough to get someone to teach you to swim. You will not by any means be the first to learn to swim here. One thing on which we do insist is that every Scout takes a shower and uses the urinal before entering the water, which leads us to the building known as "The Palace of Industry". Well, you know what that is. . . !

From here we go along the Camp Fire Field to the Camp Fire Circle. The Maori Gateway you see standing as the entrance to the Circle was carved by a real Maori and is a wonderful piece of woodcarving. Your guide will explain about the carved figures, which all have a meaning and a history. The Maori Gateway was presented by the Scouts of the New Zealand Jamboree Contingent, 1947, to commemorate the many happy days spent at Gilwell when camping here before and after the Jamboree.

As we go through the gateway we see the 'Boy Totem' and upon it carved the only reference to rules in Gilwell – "The Scout Law is the Law of this Camp".

All campers join our Saturday night Camp Fires, many campers contributing to the fine programmes that we all enjoy.

We cross the wooden bridge over the ditch and upon our right as we enter the Games Field we find 'Queen Liz.' This, on closer inspection, shows itself to be our camp incinerator. One thing we do not allow at Gilwell is the digging of pits for disposal of rubbish. Every camper is expected to "Burn Rubbish and Bash all Tins" and bring them down here for final disposal.

As we cross the Games Field, where many a 'Test Match' or 'International Soccer Match' has been played, we come back to our starting point. There is just time to show you "The Barnacle", the Camp Hospital, where we like you to report any illness or accident because you can be attended to by experienced St. John Ambulance Rover Scouts and perhaps sometimes a doctor camping with his Troop.

There are a few store huts nearby and the 'Scrubbs', a locker hut for regular campers to leave basic kit, and the Gilwell Rover Den.

WHAT GILWELL OFFERS AND WHAT GILWELL EXPECTS FROM YOU

In this chapter I want to try to answer some of the questions that many Scouts ask me, but I don't suppose I shall think of all of them. Anyway, this chapter is going to contain the kind of information about Gilwell which I think you will want to know: –

Q. Where is Gilwell?

A. Gilwell is just about twelve miles north-east of Charing Cross and is on the fringe of Epping Forest. The nearest railway station is Chingford and it is about 1½ miles north of that station. Chingford is on the railway line from Liverpool Street. Gilwell is actually on the Meridian of Greenwich and if you know anything about map reading you will understand that Gilwell is one of those rare places which have only one set of co-ordinates for a map reference. The actual National Grid Reference is 386965.

Q. How big is Gilwell?

A. Actually Gilwell is ninety-three acres, of which about sixty are available for Scouts camping.

Q. What should we do to be able to camp at Gilwell?

A. As at any I.H.Q. site or centrally-run site you have to apply for a Permit. Regular campers have a supply of 'Application for Permit' cards but any Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster can ask for one at any time.

Q. What will Gilwell want to know about us before we can come to camp?

A. Fortunately for you, not very much. How many will be coming; how long you will be staying; if there will be a Scouter with you and whether you want bread ordered for you.

Q. How much do we have to pay?

A. You pay 3d. a head a night.

Q. What do we get for our money?

A. I could write a book in answer to this one but, to put it briefly, for the 3d. you pay the Boy Scouts Association have to find another 1s. 3d.

Q. How is all the money spent?

A. Mostly on the firewood you burn, all of which has to be purchased and delivered from Epping Forest, and you use about three hundred tons a year. Water costs about £100 per year, i.e., water for cooking and washing and for keeping the bathing pool going. Then, of course, there is the upkeep of the site, fencing, ditching and the cost of keeping the chlorination plant going for the swimming pool, light for the permanent buildings, coke for incineration of rubbish and, in fact, there is a tremendous amount that has to be done and it all has to be paid for. Your 3d. a night is a sort of token to make you feel you are paying your share to keep the place going and I hope it makes you feel that you really are part of Gilwell when you camp here.

Q. Do we have to bring all our camp gear or can we borrow it?

A. You have to bring it all; a Scout is supposed to be self-reliant. There are, as a matter of fact, lockers available for



Troops who camp here regularly and your Troop can hire a locker for 10s. each summer providing you ask about it early enough. The only equipment Gilwell has is for real emergency. If you are careless and burn down your tent we will do something about it and if you arrive here and find that your gear is lost somewhere on the railway then we will help you out. Generally, however, you are expected to be completely self-contained for your camp however short or however long it may be.

Q. Isn't there a camp shop?

A. Yes, there is the Providore. The Providore sells an amazing range of goods, ice cream and ginger beer, books, blanket pins, candles, potato crisps, souvenirs to take home to mum and dad, sweets, etc., and will get you anything you want if you order it and it is possible to get it.

Q. Are there a lot of rules about camping at Gilwell?

A. Not very many. There are some, of course, because you cannot have a camp of thousands of Scouts without some rules. The important one is "The Scout Law is the Law of this Camp". There are several things set out in the Camp Permit which we like you to remember; for example, we like you to use existing fireplaces and not to build new ones. We do not have grease pits dug or latrines made, because with a lot of Scouts using the same site Gilwell would soon become one large grease pit and so we have to use a bucket system, but apart from that and a rule about lights-out you will be left to run your own show and the staff and Gilwell Rovers are here to help you if you need help.



Q. Who are the Gilwell Rovers?

A. They are a gang of fellows who voluntarily year after year and almost every week-end come to work at Gilwell because they are fond of the place and because they want to make it attractive to Scouts. They do all manner of jobs, and your job is to help them by keeping the few simple rules of the camp and making sure that you do not become a nuisance to other campers.

Q. What happens about such things as camp fires?

A. Every Saturday night Gilwell offers a central Camp Fire for all campers and we like everyone to take part in it. You can, if you like, offer a turn or a song.

Q. What time does this take place?

A. In the early part of the summer it is early and starts at 8-30 p.m. but as the evenings grow longer, from Whitsun onwards, it starts at 9-00 p.m. and lasts for about an hour.

Q. What about inspections? Are there any?

A. Yes, you will have to suffer two inspections whilst you are in camp. Every Sunday at 10-00 a.m. the whole camp is inspected; uniform above the knee and sites in good order. There is then a final inspection before you break camp. You have to report to the Camp Warden or one of his helpers and they will let you know when they are satisfied with the way in which you have left your site.



Q. What sort of thing is the Warden specially hot on?

A. Well, the obvious things. Don't try to hide old tins and bottles under hedges or in shrubs because the Gilwell Staff know all the good hiding-places, and don't try to sweep all the ashes from the fire into one of the rubbish bins. If you leave the ashes on the fireplace the wind and the rain will deal with them very effectively.

Q. What about Scouts' Own and Religious Services?

A. Throughout the summer there is nearly always Holy Communion celebrated in the Camp Chapel if the weather is fine and in one of the buildings if it is not fine, and Roman Catholic Mass is usually said in the Roman Catholic Chapel. These services are normally at 8-00 a.m. but, in any case, details of time and place are always given at the Camp Fire on the previous night. At the end of Camp Fire we have voluntary camp prayers and at 10-30 every Sunday morning there is a voluntary Scouts' Own; naturally we like Scouts to come to that and they certainly seem to enjoy it.



Q. What are the special things about Gilwell which I ought to know?

A. A great many really, but there are two opportunities you ought to take. The first is the opportunity you will have to meet Scouts from other Troops, which you are always able to do here; have a yarn with them and perhaps you will invite another Patrol to have a meal with you. Secondly, we cannot guarantee it but the chances are that there will be Scouts from other countries. Sometimes we have had as many as thirty different nations represented at Gilwell at

the same time. This is a chance you will not often get and you will certainly want to take it. The 4th Scout Law is not much use if you don't do anything about it and it is a grand thing to meet other Scouts from your own country and from outside this island.

Q. How do we know when Scouts from other countries are in camp?

A. Near the main entrance you will see flying the flags of whichever countries are in camp; it is a very rare day when there is not at least one.

Q. What about the winter; can we camp then?

A. You can camp at Gilwell any time you like or, to be strictly accurate, there are three days in each year when you cannot camp, the second week-end in September (which is reserved for Scouters who have earned the Wood Badge) and Christmas Day, when you ought to be at home with your family in any case.

Q. Is there any indoor camping in the winter?

A. There is a little and it has to be booked in advance. It is reserved in the main for parties of Senior Scouts and Rovers who are willing to do a bit of work on the estate.

Q. Can Scouts visit Gilwell even if they are not in camp?

A. Scouts in uniform are welcome at any time and there is a tour of Gilwell every Sunday at 3-00 p.m., which is about the best time to learn all about the place. You can come out for a day or half a day and cook your lunch or run a Wide Game if you like, but you are expected to pay the camp fee when you visit.

Q. What about other people visiting Gilwell, parents and Old Scouts, etc?



A. They can visit Gilwell so long as we know about it beforehand and permission has been obtained. There is an annual Open Day when we like to see as many parents as possible coming to Gilwell. This is usually in June, or early July and the date is always on the notice board.

Q. What about First Aid? Suppose one of the Patrol is hurt? . . .

A. A properly run Patrol has its own First Aid equipment but Gilwell is prepared as well and if you need help there is the Camp Hospital known as "The Barnacle", with trained Rover Scouts on duty to deal with accidents or illness. It is a good thing to report any accident and to let someone have a look at the casualty, but don't forget to make your own preparations as well.

Q. What about Camping Competitions and things of that sort?

A. Gilwell is always glad to have Local Association or even County Competitions and we will always reserve enough room for them. Gilwell has its own Camping Competition for Troops who camp here regularly and you can get information about that from the Camp Warden.

Q. What are Scouts at Gilwell expected to do?

A. This could be a long answer but I will try to keep it short. They are expected to behave like Scouts, both in and out of camp, and are expected to camp as well as they can and perhaps even a bit better if they are not very good. It is hoped they will join in the communal activities such as Camp Fire and Scouts' Own. They are expected to keep the few rules set out in the camp permit and they are expected to do a little Scouting, that is, not just to come to Gilwell and laze around. They can always get someone to help them with some part of Scouting, axemanship, pioneering, tracking and the like. So long as we know what you want to do we will fix up something for you. It is a pity to come to Gilwell and do nothing or just kick a football around, though there is a games field and you are welcome to use it for cricket, football or anything else.

Q. Can we use Epping Forest?

A. Yes, of course you can; anyone can, but you should not light fires.

Q. What sort of things in the Forest are interesting?

A. There is plenty of wild life, squirrels, deer and perhaps a badger if you are lucky. There are foxes, wood-pigeons, jays and woodpeckers and a whole host of other birds. There are hornbeam trees and lovely glades of beech trees and birches. There is a lot of interesting history, from Henry VIII to Dick Turpin, Boadicea to Lawrence of Arabia.

Q. How can we find out about all this?

A. Well any member of the Gilwell Staff will tell you, but the main Gilwell Book, of which perhaps your Scoutmaster has a copy, will tell you all you want to know. Epping Forest is a very lovely and interesting place and I hope all of you will at least visit part of it.

Q. Can we go anywhere we like in Gilwell?

A. You can go nearly everywhere in Gilwell. The Training Ground and the main buildings are out of bounds to campers except during the organised tours and the reason for this is simply that Training Courses are having to work very hard and if people wander about all over the place it disturbs them and they cannot do their job. This means that about four acres are out of bounds for most of the time, but that leaves a great deal to use and to see.

TREES OF GILWELL

Acacia (False) or Robina	Maidenhair (Ginko)
Apple	Maple, Field
Alder	Maple, London Plane
Ash	Maple, Norway
Beech	Maple, Sycamore
Beech, Purple	Maple, Canadian Sugar
Birch, Silver	Maple, Weeping
Birch, Weeping	Ash Leaf
Catalpa	Oak
Cedar, Atlas	Oak, Weeping
Cedar, Deodar	Oak, Evergreen or Holm
Cedar, of Lebanon	Oak, Lucombe
Cherry, Bird	Oak, Scarlet
Cherry, (Gean)	Pear
Cherry, Japanese Flowering	Pine, Himalayan Blue
Chestnut, Horse	Pine, Maritime
Chestnut, Red	Pine, Scotch
Chestnut, Sweet or Spanish	Pine, Swiss Stone
Cypress, Erect	Plum
Cypress, Lawson's Yellow	Poplar, Grey
Cypress, Monterey	Poplar, Lombardy
Elder	Poplar, Ontario or Balsam
Elder, Parsley-leaved	Rowan (Mountain Ash)
Elm, Wych	Rhododendron
Elm, Weeping	Shumak
Fig	Spindle
Greengage	Spruce, Norway
Guelder Rose	Strawberry
Hazel	Thorn, Hawthorn
Hazel, Purple	Thorn, Cockspur
Holly	Tree of Heaven
Holly, Yellow-berried	Tulip
Holly, Variegated	Walnut
Honey Locust	Wayfaring
Hornbeam	Wild Service
Laburnum	Whitebeam
Laurel, Portugal	Willow, Pussy
Laurustinus	Willow, Osier
Lime or Linden	White Beam
	Yew, (Female)
	Yew, Irish

In addition to the above trees, there is a great variety of shrubs, due largely to the kindness of Friends of Gilwell.