

Clive Richardson and other college boys had a meet at the last open day

If you wish to join in the fun contact him via his e-mail address :
cliverichardson2@aol.com
Brian Hodson BTC 57/58 would like to hear from you e mail:john-hodson@hotmail.co.uk

Sadly we report the news of the death of our friends
Wes Cowling
Dennis Pratt
And
Ernie Hammond

E-mail received from Stuart Hammond

I just wanted to advise of the sad passing away of my father Ernest (Ernie) John Hammond As many will know my Dad, like his brothers before him, George and William (Bill) worked for many many years with Bata starting at East Tilbury before postings in Sri Lanka, India, Canada and Zimbabwe.

I would be grateful if you could pass on notice of his very sad death in an upcoming newsletter or suchlike.

He died peacefully on 16th April 2010 aged 85.

We now have postcards and a mug for sale.

If you wish to make a donation to help with the running costs in the centre they will be gratefully received.

**Our next open day will be
13 April 2011**

11am to 4pm

Angela is looking forward to be here in person once again and will sign books.



Bata Reminiscence and Resource Centre
East Tilbury Library
East Tilbury
RM18 8ST

Tel:01375 844921

E-mail:
info@batamemories.org.uk
www.batamemories.org.uk

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday and Thursday
10am-1pm - 2pm-6pm

Friday

2pm-6pm

Saturday

10am-1pm

Volunteers on duty:
Thursday and Saturday
10am—1pm

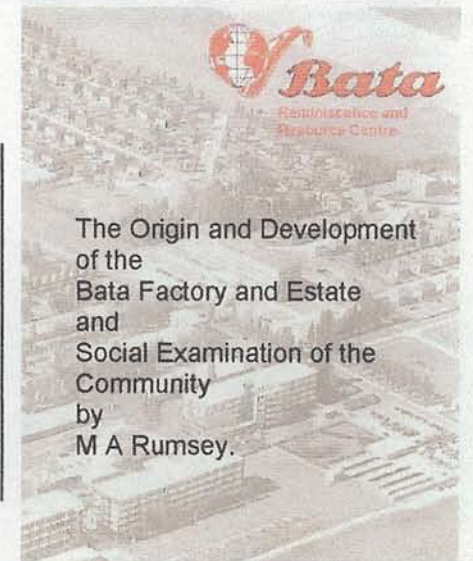


This year Guiding reaches its centenary year. As part of their celebrations

we were invited to put together a history board for the Orsett show ground in July. Guiding in East Tilbury did not begin until 1966, when the units were registered, although scouting was in evidence in 1930's, after the war years it resumed in 1966 to promote the Wayfinder shoe.

In case you missed the news "The Book" has arrived. After a successful two days of book signing Angela reported that even her friends wanted copies. Over 200 copies were sold over the period of two days.

The book is available only from the Centre at the sum of £2.00 (+ p.p. if required)



The Origin and Development of the Bata Factory and Estate and Social Examination of the Community by M A Rumsey.

Extracts from a Bata Record

1966

Why She Buys All Her Shoes From Bata

"My sister bought her first pair of Bata shoes before she was married—and that was 28 years ago. She has been buying Bata shoes ever since, and will not look at shoes from anywhere else."

This tribute was paid by Mrs. B. Sherry, secretary of Collier Row Catholic Women's Guild, when a party from the guild visited the British Bata factory on Wednesday.

"She swears by Bata shoes," added Mrs. Sherry, "and so do I. No other shoes, I am sure, would leave my feet so comfortable after walking nearly five miles into Romford, and back again in a net time of less than an hour. I do this quite frequently."

Mrs. Sherry said she received the same good value when she bought Bata shoes on the Continent, especially in Holland, where Bata shops seem to be most numerous.

The Romford store is the nearest Bata shop to Collier Row. Its popularity may be exemplified by the statement of several visitors that they get "lovely" shoes there.

PLANS TO FORM A GIRLS' CLUB

Steps are being taken to form a girls' club on Bata Estate, to meet every week, at Hostel No. 1. The club, it is suggested, will be in two sections—one for girls aged between five-and-a-half years to eight, and the other for girls between nine years and 13 years. Hobbywork, games, discussions, and other items of general interest will form the club's activities. Those interested are invited to attend a meeting at Hostel No. 1 tonight, at 6.30 p.m., when formation will be considered.



To write, edit, and publish a club magazine is one of the ambitions of Bata Estate Girls' Club (members pictured above). It was voted at the weekly meeting of the club, at Hostel No. 1. No definite plans were made, but the idea is to be considered later. There was a good attendance and speakers, including Miss Gwynne, Miss Driff, and Miss Armstrong were asked to the list of items in which members would like to take an active interest. It was announced that Mrs. V. Parkins would instruct members in physical training. At future meetings members will be encouraged to attend by the provision of marks for attendance and cleanliness.

Girls Club moved from Hostel No. 1 to the Bata Social Centre on 18th May 1967. The average number of girls at a weekly meeting eight but during the year 1967/8 numbers increased to twenty on occasions. In 1968 whilst out playing rounders in the park, the girls were joined by friends and brothers who enjoyed the evening and asked if they could join. The girls agreed to officially open the club to the boys on 15th July 1969. In September 1969 the club enjoyed a trip to Southend. During the following year numbers had increased to thirty-eight, after the Christmas break, unfortunately due to ill health of Mrs Howard the meetings did not resume until April 1971.

Decimal Day and new fees came into effect, juniors 2n.p and 3n.p for seniors. In September that same year only eleven members returned, but the following week numbers had increased to 19 and by October the club was back to thirty at the weekly meeting.

In 1972 the club made a blanket for Bennet Lodge, it was hoped that by being sponsored to make a square funds would be raised for an outing.

1 July 1973 six children, Mrs Howard and Barbara went to St Mary's Bay Holiday Camp for a week. The weather was good and the accommodation better than ever. All enjoyed it and hope to go again next year. August 1973 16 members and four helpers went to Westcliff for the day.

August 1974 27 members and 7 helpers went to Walton-on-the-Naze, for a lovely day.

1976 meetings are now split as it was too hectic trying to put juniors and seniors together. 4 - 7yrs 6 - 7pm 3p 7 - 14yrs 7 - 8pm 5p. August trip to Walton-on-the-Naze. 1977 visit to Colchester Zoo. During the 1980s the club experienced some changes and some new faces. Sylvia left us and Julie joined as a helper. We no longer had separate junior and senior meetings and the club was open to children of school age up to age 10 and we had forty children registered on the books.

1993 and our Christmas party was games and buffet table. 26 members and 2 young helpers and Mrs Howard, Julie and Barbara, and we have a waiting list of 16 names.

1994 our book shows 37 members are registered this year, and in 1995 39 members are recorded.

In 1996 ten boys and twelve girls registered, but in 1997 only eighteen were recorded and only seven were girls. By 1998 we were very aware of the safe number ratio and this limited our club number to sixteen with two adult helpers. In 1999 our numbers dropped to thirteen but by the year 2000 we had grown again and as most of the children were older now we were able to go to nineteen.

The new millennium and we experienced a slow decline in numbers, we advertised in the local school paper and the following week had 34 children, but although they said they enjoyed the experience not all returned weekly. Many ideas were tried, but when it came down to it what we had to offer apparently appealed to some, but not all. This is

where a slow decline in interest has taken its toll. New members came along but without their need for team games, playing with skipping ropes or bats and balls, we began to lose numbers. Those that were loyal to us found they enjoyed a new experience, as that of being a member of a large family; we had opportunity to tackle more challenging home crafts and board games. We were recipients of money from the Forum, which was spent on craft and new games equipment. Those who were with us were able to enjoy them all and now we have been able to pass on to other youth organisations all that we had amassed over the years.

Our last activity was to be rather grown up, considering our members young age, we went to the Ship Restaurant for a meal with the helpers. There were six children and four adults, all have been members of the Boys and Girls Club at some time in their lives and were still connected at its close on 12th July 2010. Do you remember being a member of this club, do you have memories to share?

Personal *****

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So you know where we are. Evelyn Haxell, now resident at Merriloots would love to receive you and Mrs Cermak is in a care home in Bowers Gifford