



Sedgley's Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village
life*

1963

My first day in Sedgley

by *Pauline Gregory*

On Thursday 10th January 1963, I took the trolleybus from Eve Hill to the impressive-sounding 'Bull Ring', only to discover it was merely a traffic island!

I walked up Mill Bank to 'Dormston Secondary Modern School for Girls' where I met the headteacher, Miss Bovill. She'd sent an SOS to the Principal of Dudley Teacher Training College to see if he knew of anyone to run the School Guide Company for three months. Having gained my Queen's Guide Award, I volunteered.

I met the 2nd Sedgley (Dormston School) Guide Company - 24 girls aged between 11 and 15 years. They regarded me - a tall, thin 18-year-old with a very southern accent - in absolute silence, but soon showed how they could adapt to this stranger as I learned their accents, language and customs! Three months turned into many years...

To continue the Thursday meetings I did my final teaching practice at Dormston and was offered the post of Geography teacher in July 1965. There were many lively meetings, competitions, pantomimes and concerts, hikes, fire-lighting at Baggeridge, youth hostelling weekends and camping weeks at Beaudesert.

I became a member of All Saints' Church and was made very welcome by the Scouter at All Saints, Mike Gregory. We married in February 1968 in my home town of Beckenham in Kent, joined by a coach full of family, friends and teachers as well as a Guard of Honour of six Scouts and nine Guides.

Mike and I both continued in the Movements, later as District Commissioners. When our three children were older, Mike was Group Scout Leader and I was the Guider at All Saints', which led to joint summer camps and other events.



2nd Sedgley (Dormston School) Guide Company, summer 1963



Dormston Guide Company, youth hostelling, winter 1963/4



Mike and Pauline Gregory marry in Beckenham, Kent in 1968 with a Guard-of-Honour of Sedgley guides and scouts in attendance.



1st Sedgley Girl Guide Company, 50-year anniversary, 1983