

High school girls who were busy at Guide camp in the summer

By Dan Shaw

SINCE supplying us with a photograph of the Oldbury County High School Girl Guides, which we featured in last week's Bugle (October 22), Gemma Walker has uncovered more material related to her grandmother's time with the troop in the late 1920s.

Gemma's grandmother Clara Edna Pennington was a pupil at Oldbury County High School in the 1920s and during her time there the school moved from its original site in Flash Road, Oldbury, to new school buildings in Moat Road, Langley.

One of the teachers was Miss Dorothy Tweedie, a very popular lady who taught at the school for over 40 years and organised the school's own Girl Guide troop.

Gemma writes, "We have a couple of school photos, presumably showing Miss Tweedie. One is from around 1924 at Flash Road.

"My grandmother was born in August 1910 and joined the school's Preparatory Department in 1920. She moved with the senior school to Moat Road and recalled (to my parents) having to walk between the two sites on Wednesday afternoons, before the new school opened, to use the playing fields. They had to change for games in the wooden pavilion, which stood in the corner of the field.



Oldbury County Secondary School at Flash Road, 1924. Miss Tweedie sits ninth from the headmaster; Clara Edna Pennington is third row up, third from right

"When the 1st Oldbury County High School Girl guides met for the first time in the new school there were many new recruits eager to join the Company, which was considerably lessened owing to several of the members having left School the previous term. These recruits were very welcome and were soon taught the Guide Laws, the threefold promise, the correct salutes, and four simple knots so that in a few weeks' time they were ready to be enrolled."

ambulance (one of the most difficult badges of all) were examined and passed by Dr Broughton, who gave a prize for the girl gaining most marks. The winner was E. Pennington, who received a beautiful copy of *Puck of Pook's Hill*.

"After the Christmas holidays everyone began to think of camp, and at last it was decided that the Company, together with the Wolverhampton Guides, should go down to South Devon for

lost, for we thought we had done very badly.

"Judge the surprise of the Company when, in December, news came that Oldbury had been placed first and had won the much-coveted Shield!

"Next term the Guides began to work for a display to be given in February. It consisted mainly of dancing, with two short plays and a few songs. There were a Butterfly Dance, a Russian