

From the Bedfordshire Times and Independent of Friday, 6 October 1916

Jam Day in Bedford

'The Town Hall and the Primrose League Rooms were the receiving depots for pots of jam brought from town and country on Saturday, when Scout Boys arrived with great boxes from the villages, young ladies rode in on bicycles, little children and boys both great and small brought their offerings, and as late as 7 o'clock in the evening came one good woman with her little pot of jam, saying, "I know it is good, for I made it myself." Another poor woman hesitated to give her only pot of black currant, because her husband was subject to bronchitis and the jam was good for him. Finally, she resolved to give it up, concluding that her husband would have the bronchitis whether he had the jam or not, whereas the jam was, she thought, much more required by the sick and wounded soldiers. In her case, however, the will was taken for the deed, and she was told that her good feeling and spirit of sacrifice would do the soldiers as much good as the jam. These and many other instances indicate the glad willingness of the people to help in this movement. Mrs Heath and Mrs Spencer made house-to-house visitations, Mrs Barnett and Mrs Mitchell, and others motored on the jam quest, and returned from their journeys with a goodly store of gifts.'

'Expenses in connection were defrayed by gifts of money from Miss Wingfield, £1 1s; Mrs Marks, 10s; Miss Milligan 10s; and several smaller amounts, making a total of £4 14s.'

'The jam was collected by the following:- The Mayoress, 200lb; Mrs Lejeune, 320; Miss Hughes, 252; Mrs Ernest Blake and Miss Rowlands, 171; Mr W Blake, 78; Mrs Dann, 60; Mr Messent, 48; Mr French, 39; Mrs A H Blake, 30; Mr Bell, 22; Mrs Whitchurch, 20; Messrs Dudeney and Johnston, 18; Mr Wooding, 8; Cadena, 3; Biddenham, 50; Stagsden, 43; Lavendon, 10; Haynes, 4; Boy Scouts at Biggleswade, 132; Bletsoe, 9; Cardington, 73; Clapham, 30; Cople, 15; Dunton, 60; Dunstable, 36; Eaton Bray, 36; Elstow, 15 and 6d; Eversholt, 56; Flitwick, 10; Harlington, 80; Hockliffe, 30; Kempston, 143; Melchbourne, 52; Renhold, 17; Ridgmount, 42; Sharnbrook, 160; Silsoe, 20; Steppingley, 33; Stevington, 83; Woburn Sands, 199; and Wootton, 34.'