

# SPALDING Guardian

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## Little has changed

BOY scouts have been cooking on campfires, doing good turns and practising knots for exactly 100 years, since the first scout camp was run by Robert Baden-Powell in Dorset.

Scouting spread from the UK throughout the world and its principles and many of its practices have changed little since then.

The surprise is that there are 400,000 young people aged six to 18 in the UK, and 28 million worldwide, in the movement...and it's growing.

In Lincolnshire's 95

scout groups there were just over 4,000 youngsters last year, four per cent up on 2005.

Ian Cashmore, from Sutton Bridge, is Long Sutton's group scout leader and also county spokesman for the scouts, said: "The core values of scouting have remained the same, so it's great that the movement is growing.

"There is still an element of spirituality – there's a short prayer at meetings and we discuss beliefs – but today it's more open and not limited to Christianity.

"In the year 2000, young people were asked what

they thought about scouting, and the main change from that was new uniforms – polo/sweatshirts and cargo pants. Also training for adult scout leaders was improved, and new activities were brought in – you can now get badges for IT, for roller-blading and for researching other cultures.

"Girls have been allowed to join the cubs and scouts since the 1960s, but there weren't great numbers until more recently, and since January 1 this year it has been compulsory for them to be admitted."