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SCOUTS WILL BE PREPARED THANKS TO NEW STORE'S GIFT

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09:45 - 14 April 2007

Scouts have been given much-needed camping gear by a company celebrating its 100th year in business.

The equipment was today being presented to Gainsborough District Scouts by Halfords at its new store at Marshalls Yard in Beaumont Street, Gainsborough.

The kit includes a couple of two-man tents, 10 sleeping bags, 100 first aid kits, two walkie talkies, two gas stoves, two cooking sets and a travel rug.

And Scout leaders said it will all come in very handy when 300 Cubs, Scouts and Beavers from the district attend their camp in Loughterton at the end of May.

The kind gesture was to mark Halford's 100th anniversary this year - a milestone it shares with the Scouting movement.

Ian Cashmore, of Gainsborough and District Scouts, said the donation of equipment was gratefully received.

"It is a really generous donation of equipment and it is stuff that will be well used at the camp and in the future," he said.

"All Scout groups are set up as charities and we depend on the goodwill of companies and other organisations.

"It's fabulous to be sharing a centenary celebration with Halfords."

The new 14,000 square feet Halfords store includes a car parts store, BikeHut cycling department and all the latest in car accessories.

Halfords spokesman Laura Mason said the company was pleased to be able to make the gesture.

"We are delighted to help the local Scouts out with a fantastic package of camping and outdoor leisure equipment for their annual camp next month," she said.

"Along with the Scouts, here at Halfords we are also celebrating our centenary this year, so we are thrilled to be helping with this venture at such an exciting time."

To mark the opening, the glamorous Ripspeed girls will be making appearances and there will be music, stiltwalking and face painting for children throughout the weekend.

Thousands of Scouts from across Britain will be marking the centenary of the movement this year.

The first Scout camp was a trial camp of Boy Scouts at Brownsea Island, Dorset, from August 1 to 9, 1907.

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 Jamie Forrester
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Lord Baden-Powell, who created the movement, had returned to England a national hero after defending the town of Mafeking for seven months during the Boer War in South Africa.

He discovered that many boys and young men were avidly reading his book Aids to Scouting which was originally written as a military training manual.

On his headstone on his grave in Africa are the words, "Robert Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World" surmounted by the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Badges.

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