



The Ladysmith connection

Ladysmith is a title that is given to a number of locations in the Tameside area from a shopping centre to army barracks of the same name; its origins derived from a town in South Africa.

Maybe you could be living on a street named Ladysmith?

The reason behind its popularity goes back to the winning of the Second Boer War of 1899-1902 where many served as part of the Manchester Regiment in Britain's conflict with the Boers in that part of Africa, including the siege of town of Ladysmith.

At that time, South Africa was part of the British Empire with small colonies of Dutch Boer settlers living alongside their British counterparts. However tensions ran high and with an influx of more British when gold and diamonds were discovered, feelings ran high leading to the outbreak of war.

After a gruelling two years of warfare, a British victory was declared. Ladysmith became a household name.



LOCAL STUDIES AND ARCHIVES CENTRE

Cotton Street East

Ashton under Lyne OL6 7BY

Tel: 0161 342 4242

culture

Tameside



A well known outcome of the Second Boer War was the introduction of the Scouting movement in Britain.

Created by the then Colonel Robert Baden-Powell who was himself a commander of troops in the conflict, and later to be knighted; he went about establishing a training programme for young boys between the ages of 12 and 15 years that mirrored closely the work of young men who were sent to the frontline to act as stretcher bearers or messengers. He admired their initiative in difficult circumstances and thought by teaching boys the values of communication and decision making techniques, they would be equipped for life.

After publishing a book in 1908 called 'Scouting for Boys' the idea of good citizenship became a worldwide phenomenon, with the Girl Guiding movement following in its wake in 1910.

One aspect of the Scouting movement is to award skills learnt in the form of fabric badges that represent the activity achieved. These are sewn onto the arms of the uniform. Below are some badges from the earliest days of Scouting. Can you work out which each skill they represent? Answers below



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____

Answers: 1. Handyman 2. Cooking 3. Cycling 4. First Aid 5. Pathfinder 6. Athlete 7. Musician
 1. Handyman: Owns a bicycle in good working order; must be able to ride his bicycle satisfactorily and keep it in repair. On ceasing to own a bicycle he must hand back his badge
 2. Cooking: Can demonstrate position of main arteries; how to stop bleeding from vein artery; how to improvise splints and to diagnose and bind a fractured limb; how to deal with choking, burning, poison, grit in eye, sprains and bruises; how to diagnose and treat fits, fainting and the examiners may require a demonstration
 3. Cycling: Owns a bicycle in good working order; must be able to ride his bicycle satisfactorily and keep it in repair. On ceasing to own a bicycle he must hand back his badge
 4. First Aid: Can demonstrate position of main arteries; how to stop bleeding from vein artery; how to improvise splints and to diagnose and bind a fractured limb; how to deal with choking, burning, poison, grit in eye, sprains and bruises; how to diagnose and treat fits, fainting and the examiners may require a demonstration
 5. Pathfinder: Athlete: can demonstrate the correct method of sitting, standing, walking, running and starting in a race and can give evidence of training and taking regular outdoor exercise
 6. Musician: Shows an ability to play an instrument that would be of use in a band or orchestra [other than drums and triangle], and to read simple music, or to play a drum properly and any kind of musical instrument or toy such as penny whistle, mouth organ etc. and sing a song.

During the Boer War, some of the towns in South Africa were surrounded by the Boer enemy soldiers, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of making those inside, surrender. This happened to Ladysmith and for 118 days, none of the people living in the town were able to leave their houses because of the constant gunfire and shelling. Children had to think of games to amuse themselves indoors. Using what they could find around the house, they would make their own toys. Popular at the time was the spinning top, and by following the instructions below, you can make your own. Ladysmith was finally freed in February 1900 but many people suffered from hunger and illness during that time.

Make a spinning top

You will need:

A short pencil

A piece of cardboard

Scissors

Coloured pens

Sticky tape or glue

Instructions

1. Draw a circle on a piece of card, 7cm in diameter. You could draw around a mug to create a perfect circle.
2. Cut the circle out carefully with scissors.
3. Draw a pattern on the card with coloured pens. Patterns that start at the centre of the cardboard and work out to the edge will look really good when the top is spinning. The more creative you are, the more dramatic the top will look when spinning. Add some sequins to make it sparkle.
4. Take your pencil and poke it through the centre of the circle of card so the point sticks out by a couple of centimetres. Ask an adult to help you with this. Use a little sticky tape or glue to hold the pencil in place.
5. Your spinning top is finished!

It will work best on a flat surface, but remember it is a pencil so will leave a mark. Use it outside, or on newspaper if you use it indoors.



Make your own moving pictures

Things you will need:

Thin card or strong paper (a length of wallpaper is ideal)

Crayons/pencils/felt tip pens

Glue

Two kitchen roller inners

Cardboard box approximately 25cm

Newspaper

Four old pencils that are no longer used. Alternatively pieces of dowel or chopsticks will do

Paint

Instructions

- Paint or cover your cardboard box both inside and out. This will be the theatre in which your film will be shown.
- Scrunch up a balls of newspaper and insert them into either end of the kitchen roll tubes, gluing where necessary.
- Make a hole in the newspaper and sink half of an old pencil or dowel into each end and glue securely. The tubes will now look like two rolling pins when dry.
- Measure length of cardboard box and double it. Use this measurement to cut a piece of paper as a long rectangle.
- Draw a scene such as a row of houses, shops, woods or maybe all three onto the length of paper. This will be the background panorama. Use your imagination...
- Punch a hole top and bottom of the cardboard box and carefully insert the rollers at each end of the box.
- Slide one end of your scene behind one roller and pull along and take it round the back of the other roller. Bring the two ends together and secure them with glue or sellotape.
- When the pencils are turned, the scene you have created will move as a continuous loop.
- To make it look like something is moving, draw a figure, car, bus, bike, or whatever else you would like to see moving and secure it to the bottom of the box in front of the scene.

