

In 2016, I asked Ann Eden to relate the story behind our Necker badge, which is of course - unique in Scouting and a very special badge for us. Here's what she recounted...

When the group formed, we used to wear the Methodist Scouts badge below.



The scallop shell comes from the Wesley coat of arms and also symbolises pilgrimage. (John Wesley is credited with founding Methodism.) The badge was discontinued about 15 years ago so we had a competition to design a necker badge.

The competition was won by Andrew Crawford (son of Victor who has often been our home contact) who was a YL at the time. His design incorporates the:

Cross - duty to God (which was essential part of the promise when the badge was designed)
Scout fleur de lys – see [The story behind the Scout emblem | Scouts](#)
Methodist shell as above
Group necker colours in the corners.

There isn't much symbolism in the necker colours. When we lived in Rochdale I started a cub pack at our church and we needed to choose a necker. Mark Eden (our current District Commissioner) has always been a Wolverhampton Wanderers supporter and they play in gold and black. So my Rochdale pack had gold and black halves. We chose halves rather than border as these neckers are cheaper.

When we moved to Macclesfield and I started 24th Macc, I wanted to use the same colours but 1st Upton Priory had gold with black border. (This group later amalgamated with 3rd Macc St Georges who had all red necker. They combined the name to become 3rd Macc Upton Priory and combined the necker to have all 3 colours).

So when choosing colour as we couldn't have gold we chose orange and a dark colour to contrast - so maroon. Our colours are therefore officially orange and maroon. (Despite the fact that Graham Childs always referred to them as claret and gold which Huddersfield town played in many years ago..... just a little joke between Graham and myself).



Ann Eden