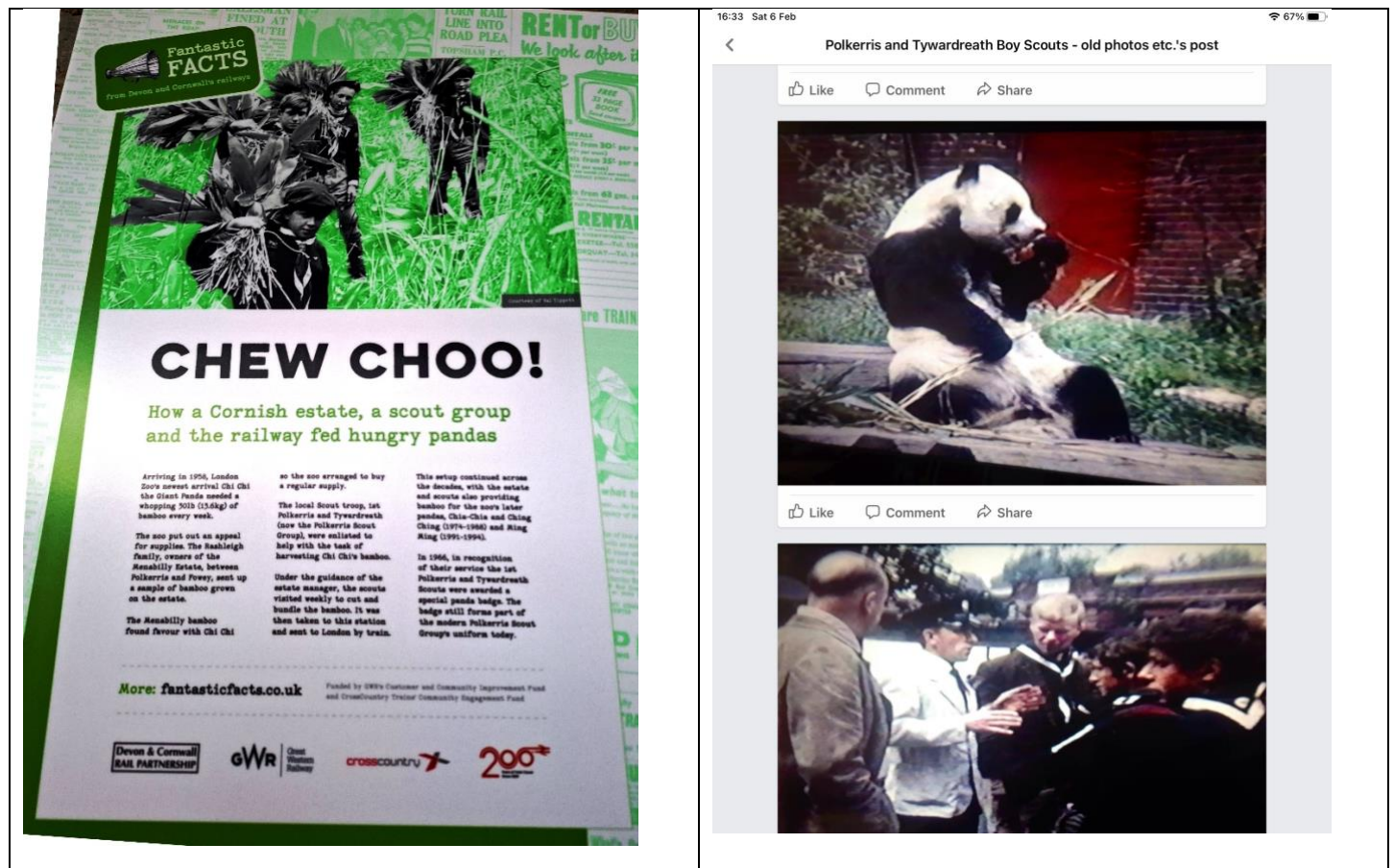


<https://orangecpm.de/ueber-uns/Stories from the Station at Par> example Scouts send Bamboo to London Zoo.

Words from a soundtrack recorded on the platform with Polkerris Scouts, 21st October 2025. Relates to the new sign and wonderful past memories about sending bamboo to the pandas.



Opening Introduction – this story dates from quite a long time ago. As you see on the poster, it all began in 1958, which is over 65 years ago! And carried on until the middle of the 1990s.

When you have had a good look at the poster, and understood the basic facts, press play and hear more from the Scouts Leaders of today, who were little boys helping with the task back in the day!

Scout Leader Voice 1 – We used to go down on a Sunday morning, the 1st job we ever had ... the 1st paid job anyway. We used to get paid to cut bamboo; the Scout group would get half and the Scouts themselves would get the other half (e.g. paid to each individually). We'd have to carry it here, at about 7 o'clock in the morning, and then the train would take it up later in the day. But we had to cut it nice and early (19 seconds).

We used to use, what was it? Loppers! Yes, loppers. That was it and you had to cut it very low and you had to make it very neat ... very tall sticks (29 seconds). You wrapped it in plastic, and it had to be exactly 20 kilos. Yes, we had to weigh it on a hand-held weighing scale and had to weigh 20 kilos of bamboo. (37 secs)

Young Scout – That sounds fun! Leader says it was fun.

Scout Leader Voice 2 – Any body got any ideas why do you think they took the bamboo from all the way down in Cornwall, up to London? Wouldn't there have been somewhere closer?

(Child says 'I know why'). Well, we've got bamboo here but there was a special type of bamboo we needed to cut OK. It was a wide-leafed bamboo, and they used to cut it up in Sussex, for the 1st pandas that came over from China, but then it started flowering .. and the pandas won't eat any bamboo that is flowering, so then we ended up being a source for them, for the bamboo. (1 minute 14 secs).

Young Scout Question – 'cos the flowers don't grow on the bamboo down here?

Scout Leader Voice 2 – Yes. Every 30 years the flowers will grow, but they weren't flowering here at that time ... (1m 22 secs).

These guys here (referring to the old photo) are about 6 or 7 years older; for them it's about 45 years ago and that is on the estate of our president, who is called Sir Richard Rashleigh and who owns the land over near Polkerris. Anybody got any questions? (1 m 39 secs)



Scout Leader Voice 1 – So what else did the Scouts used to send to London Zoo?

Scout Leader Voice 2 – Ah, yes. We used to collect worms and they used to go to the Terrapins! (Parent comments 'Their restaurant made spaghetti!!').

Scout Leader Voice 1 - London Zoo paid 8 pence for a worm!



Scout Leader Voice 2 – Going back to the Pandas (Badge

1m 59 secs) this is why the Scout Association said you have to have special allowance to have this on the back of your scarf, but they said to Polkerris Scouts that we can have a Panda on our scarves, now! (Parent comments, so there is no other scarf

in the world that has a scarf like ours! 2m 15 secs)

Parent adds a question – Why don't we cut bamboo (any more e.g. today?)

Scout Leader 2 – Anybody got any ideas? Why do we not cut bamboo any more?

Answer – At the moment, they haven't got any pandas at London Zoo. Not any more!

Ding Dong ... train is coming. (ends 2m 27 secs).