

Co-ordinator



MONTHLY NEWS SERVICE FOR LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT
SCOUTERS, ASSISTANTS, COMMITTEE OFFICIALS AND GUIDERS ::

NUMBER 33

FEBRUARY 1962



NORTON CAMP 1962

All the Scout District is invited to camp again on our now traditional in-the-public-eye site on Norton Common. Dates: Friday evening 18 May, to Sunday afternoon 20 May.

Barbecue and campfire are once more planned for Saturday evening, immediately preceded by a big Cub stunt. Rock Council have approved this and there is a smell of pageant in the air, as in '57. Scouters are asked to bring ideas and song lists to their next Council, on 12 March, when Guide and B-P Guild representatives are also invited to discuss the details. Something sensational in the way of Senior participation will be hoped for. Watch CO-ORDINATOR for advance news.

D I S T R I C T * * * * *
* * G A N G S H O W 1 9 6 2

You probably know by now that rehearsals are well under way every Saturday evening at DHQ, and the show goes on at St Francis' Theatre on WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 25, 26 and 27 APRIL. A great deal of hard work and agonizing decisions have gone in to finding a time and place for this year's show, and the committee, supported by the LA, think this is the best that can be done, even though there will be NO SATURDAY PERFORMANCE.

All the old members of the Gang have a special word of thanks from the committee, even if they can't be with us this year for academic or other reasons. Good luck to one and all! And an invitation is open to all those who've helped backstage in the past. If you've time, we'd love to see you again!

You, as a reader of CO-ORDINATOR, have the chance of booking before anyone else. Please use the form enclosed in this copy.

DISTRICT CUBS' FIRST AID COMPETITION

Wednesday 14 February at DHQ.

Boys should know the whole of the Cub first aid badge, even though they won't be tested in all it contains. Team times are:-
6.0 1L. 6.10 2L Thursday. 6.20 2L Friday.
6.30 3L. 6.40 4L. 6.50 5L. 7.0 7L Tues.
7.10 7L Wednesday. 7.20 1B. 7.30 1A.
7.40 2B. Bandages and things are provided.

SCOUT FIRST AID CONTEST: THE BARTON SHIELD

Sunday 25 February at DHQ

Individual standards expected are (i) first aid badge, (ii) first class, (iii) second class, (iv) tenderfoot. Staves are provided. Team times: 2.0 1L & 3L; 2.15 2L 'A'; 2.30 2L 'B'; 2.45 4L 'A'; 3.0 4L 'B'; 3.15 5L; 3.30 7L; 3.45 1B; 4.0 2B; 4.15 1A. Tell the DSM of any alterations before the Friday.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS : M A I N T E N A N C E

1. Regular maintenance

a) All tasks that need to be done once or more each year will be listed as regular maintenance tasks.

b) These tasks will be the responsibility of persons

for a period of 12 months starting on 1 January each year.

c) The House Committee will be responsible for allocating the tasks each year according to the capabilities of the people concerned.

2. Periodic maintenance

a) All tasks that need to be done once every two or more years will be listed as periodic maintenance.

b) These tasks will be allocated to voluntary or paid labour according to the decision of the House Committee.

c) The House Committee will draw up a programme of tasks which will be reviewed in January of each year and published in CO-ORDINATOR.

3. Alterations or improvements

a) All suggestions for improvement of the hall and surrounding ground will be submitted to the House Committee.

b) The committee will draw up a programme of tasks which will be reviewed in January of each year.

c) The tasks will be allocated to voluntary or paid labour according to the decision of the House Committee.

4. Repair of damage

a) Any damage to the hall will be reported by the person responsible to the DC.

b) The DC will decide who will repair and pay for the damage.

c) The DC will ensure that the repair is done in good time.

Regular maintenance tasks are allocated as follows. Pick up and burn all rubbish - (sides) 1L Cubs, (front) 3L Cubs. Clean all lower windows quarterly - (sides) 3L Cubs. (front) 1L Cubs. Cut grass and hedges and ensure clean drains - (sides) 3L Boy Scouts, (front) 1L Boy Scouts. Clean top windows and gutters six-monthly - 1L and 3L Senior Scouts. Maintain fences, toilets, den and kitchen - LDRC. Repair damaged chairs - LDRC with Mr Finney. Electrical equipment - LDRC with Mr Baker. BROKEN WINDOWS TO BE MENDED BY THE BREAKER AT SCOUTER'S DISCRETION. THE HALL TO BE SWEEPED EVERY EVENING BY THE PEOPLE WHO USE IT.

ARE
SENIORS
WORTH
WHILE
?

SEE PAGE 2

ARE SENIORS WORTH WHILE?

IN THE FEBRUARY "SCOUTER", a Wiltshire SSL says "My Senior Troop is not a large one - only 18 boys". In all Letchworth & Baldock District, there seems to be a regular attendance of 20 to 28 Seniors or near-Seniors, spread among five separate weekly meetings.

WHY ARE WE NOT GETTING BOYS IN SENIORS? This question was put to the PLs on their training course in December. One said that the Boy Scout sections don't know enough about what Seniors do, and another agreed: "They don't see many there already, so they don't think it worth while".

HOPING TO TAME this vicious circle, CO-ORDINATOR, with the support of the DSSL*, has been asking questions of the people directly concerned with Seniors in this District. Apart from the DSSL, three men hold warrants in the Senior section - and one of those is soon leaving. We quizzed them all, as well as other Scouters concerned, and several of the older Seniors themselves,

THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS we asked, with a fairly comprehensive selection of answers set out indiscriminately and anonymously below.

* * * * *

HOW ARE YOUR SENIORS DOING? "Very well, actually" - "Looking up, at the moment, with the recent intake" - "They're all in good health" - "Quite well" - "We're trying to stop the leak by bringing the age limit down a bit, to include 'misfits' who can't get what they want in the Boy Scout troop" - "They could do better if they didn't talk so much" - "Rough" - "Not doing" - "We have none two possible Seniors are not attending".

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE DISTRICT ORGANIZATION FOR SENIORS? "For inter-troop stuff, yes" - "It should be a pretty loose organization..." - "Not really; well, yes and no" - "A difficult question: we only meet when there's something to meet for" - "Except that nothing ever comes through in time: notification about a fortnight before is the weak link" - "No: we ought to get together a bit" - "I don't know much about it" - "Personally, I think, no: Pothunters is about all there is" - "Frankly, no, because we have none: that would strengthen efficiency if you could get the lead from the top" - "No: there isn't any" - "What organization?"

ARE YOU IN TOUCH WITH OTHER SENIOR TROOPS? "Occasionally" - "Occasionally in badge work", "occasional venturer journeys" - "Unofficially, through Rover dances" - "It was tried, but there didn't seem to be any enthusiasm" - "Not really" - "Not organized meetings" - "Not really no" - "Not at all".

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COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS were constructive, and usually optimistic. One leader plans activities. for Seniors in pairs, and is carefull to keep the troop an even number. One Senior meeting regularly starts with 15 minutes first-class work for the Boy Scout PLs, who are then permitted to stay on for Senior work, which they are keen to do. One Scouter thinks it is now time to start an official District Senior Troop, not to deplete good existing troops or damage group loyalty, but because the only way to run Seniors is to get a reasonable sized gang together.

"Pothunters is good, but more could be done in the way of District camps and badge courses."

"A Senior Committee should meet, to arrange badge testing."

"The Soouters don't meet often enough."

"The Council meets too irregularly. Nobody bothered or knew about, Pioneer I; and at Norton Camp 1961, Seniors didn't get any notification of the stunt required, and they are not interested in going again because they were not catered for in the programmes"

But our last question was: ARE SENIORS WORTH WHILE? And these are the answers we got: "To me, yes" - "Yes, if we can get a decent troop running" - "Oh yes,: I'll step on somebodies toes, but I think they're the most critical part of Scouting; a big challenge if only the movement would take it up; if you want to know about them, go and see them" "Yes, but you're asking a bit of a cynic at the moment: I've some doubts as to whether they're necessary".

ARE SENIORS WORTH WHILE? "YES.: no reservations" - "YES: it provides constructive work and cultivates imagination" - "YES,, definitely: it cultivates physical abilities" - "YES: I see no way in which it isn't worth while; there's everything for it" - "OF COURSE; no doubts whatsoever" - "YES, definitely: but you must have the right man" - "Oh DEFINITELY, no doubt about that; I think they're the most important part of Scouting at the moment, because there you have your potential Scouters".

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*District Senior Scout Leader Jim Bruce read this survey before we printed it, and he said: "As I see it, Scouting is preparing you for adventure; Senior Scouting is the adventure; and Rovering is preparation for service. Until we can get over to the lads that Senior Scouting is adventure, well never get Senior Scouting in this,District. I am suggesting a 'Brains Trust' one evening soon, consisting of the DC, DSSL, DSM and SSLs, to which every boy of 18 and upward will be invited." The time and place for this Brains Trust will be in the March CO-ORDINATOR. We look forward to announcing more co-operative Senior activities, more regular meetings of SSLs, and more and. wider plans for the widening circle of Adventurers in Senior Scouting.

TRAINING COURSES CONFERENCES

CUB WOOD BADGE PART 2 COURSE

This is at Well End on three weekends: 28-29 April, 5-6 and 18-20 May, starting at 3 pm on each Saturday and 7.30 pm on the last Friday; finishing about 5 pm each Sunday. Cost is £3, but financial help is available. Full details from your GSM or the DC. Applications must be in by 7 April.

CUB WOOD BADGE PRELIMINARY TRAINING COURSE

at the 19 St Albans HQ, 10 and 11 March. Details available as above. Applications must be in by 24 February. Transport is available from door-to-door: ask the DC.

ROVER WOOD BADGE PRELIMINARY TRAINING COURSE

Stevenage District HQ ("Look Wide", Fry Road) from 3.30 pm Saturday to 5 pm Sunday, 7 and 8 April. This costs 6/- and entries must be in by 31. March.

CUB INSTRUCTORS' TRAINING COURSE

Here's an unusual opportunity for CIs aged 15 to 18. From 3.30 to 9.30 pm. on 3 March, with a meal included, all for 2/6. Place: 2 Barnet HQ, Wood Street. Applications to Mr R.V. Schultz, 23 Pine Grove, Brookmans Park, by 24 February.

SENIOR SCOUT LEADERS

At Hertford on 17 and 18 March, this conference is open to all concerned with Seniors. It starts at 3.30 on the Saturday and ends at 4.0 on the Sunday. Charles Booth needs the names by 5 March. Cost: 2/-, plus meals - up to 12/- for the entire 24½ hours' feeding!

NATIONAL SCOUTERS CONFERENCE

Though this is not til 14-16 September, it will be a big thing, so the County Secretary wants provisional names by 22 February. Place: Butlin's, Skegness.

COUNTY SCOUTERS (BOY SCOUT SECTION)

On 31 March and 1 April at St Audrey's School, Travellers Lane, Hatfield, this has the theme: "Preparation for Adventure" and stars Lord Balniel, MP; the CC for West Riding; Don.Grisbrook; John Lee; Melville Balsillie.

Application forms for all these courses and conferences are, or will soon be, available to each Group in the District. If you go, could you please jot down a few words about it for CO-ORDINATOR? Ta.

CHALLENGE

2B Scouts wish to challenge any other Boy Scout troop in the District to five-a-side indoor football. They regret they can accept no home fixtures, but away matches can be arranged for any night, by getting in touch with BS Eric Austin, at 15 Park Close, Baldock.

SEW WHAT?

1B Seniors are anxious to meet an old or retired SEWING MACHINE which might help in their camping equipment manufacturing sessions. Any offers, please, to John Davies, 44 Chiltern Road, Baldock, or John Hilditch, 38 The Leas.

ANY USE TO YOU?

About 20 stout metal tent-pegs are in need of an active outdoor life. Apply to the Lewises of 5L, at 33 West View, Letchworth:

CURIOUS TITLE

Hitchin Scout District has appointed Mr J.P.Sampson, of 9 The Avenue, to a new post with what we consider an interesting and attractive designation. He is the District Publicity Co-ordinator.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Youth Sunday is 11 March, the service at Letchworth Grammar School hall at 5 pm; no separate service for Baldock after all. Full details will follow, and so will plans for the YAC Sports Day and Swimming Gala.

Any enquiries: Mrs M.C.Drylie, 21 Newlands, or F.Marshall, 231 Icknield Way, L.

CORRESPONDENCE

"18 January 1962

"By the look of your empty correspondence columns I felt I had to write about Something.

"1. I think that the design for the District badge is very good and that it ought to be adopted immediately. The notice board outside the DHQ shows that, at least, it has been unofficially accepted,

"2. I am glad that something is being done about the appalling state of the DHQ. The outside appearance is certainly no advertisement to the Scout movement in the District. Although a House Committee was set up a long time ago and duties delegated to various sections using the HQ, and even lists typed out, nothing has been done. In fairness, I must admit some Rovers did tidy up the side of the DHQ, but that is now just about as bad. Let us see some ACTION.

"3. I shall be very sorry if there is no District Gang Show this year because there is no hall available. This is one event in which the whole District can participate - Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts, Rovers and Scouters. I do not think there is any other occasion on which members from all sections get together, and I am sure it would be greatly missed.

"4. Please can we have the compiler of CO-ORDINATOR referred to as the EDITOR and not the typist?

"Yours, A ROVER."

(Name and address supplied)

Notes: (1) is approved by Scouters' and Rock Councils and referred to the next LA Executive. (2): see page 1. (3): see page 1. (4) Rhubarb.

GUIDERS



GNUS

THINKING DAY PARADE : SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY
at St Mary's, Hitchin. Assemble at St Andrew's school at 2.20 pm. A coach will leave Baldock (Allnutts) at 2, Eastholn at 2.5 and Arena Car Park at 2.10: fare about 6d. All Guiders please phone Mrs Kelly (Letchworth 560) by 11 February, with approximate numbers for the coach.

We want a good turnout this year; Brownie Sixers are invited, and older Brownies at BO's discretion. Please ask all girls to watch their behaviour in public, as last year there were some unfavourable comments about manners on buses.

Colour party rehearsal: Tuesday 15 February, St Mary's, 6.45: all colour parties to be in uniform and take one colour per company. Stockings or white ankle socks to be worn, and all three to wear the same (by stockings we mean ordinary brown nylon and not blue or green ones).

After tea (take your own, drinks provided, take a nug) on Sunday, it's hoped to have slides of New Zealand Guiding.

Order of precedence this year: 10L, 1B, 3B, 1W, 1L, 2L 4L, 5L.

BADGE LISTS

Guide lists should be in by now to Mrs Hiles. Brownie lists to Mrs Neal by 13 February, please.

DIVISION COMPETITION : PATROL HIKES

Date for completing winter hike has been moved from 22 February to 1 March, to include half-term holidays. Any patrol having done one hike by then may come ten days later to Quickswood Farm, when the best one will be chosen to represent the District.

COUNTY CAMP ADVISER

Lady Marjorie Stopford's term of office has ended. Though she'll still test and train campers, all correspondence on camps, licences and permits must now go to the County Camp Recorder, Mrs A. Brown, 40 Walfield Avenue, Whetstone, N.20.

JUMBLE SALE: 10 FEBRUARY

Help is wanted. from Guiders and older Guides at Scout HQ, Icknield Way, as well as all the jumble you can collect. It starts at 2 pm, so please try to be early.

EASTER FAIR : 14 APRIL : The LA wants each company to run a stall. Details later.

FEBRUARY
DATES

- 10 Guide LA jumble sale, Scout DHQ, 2 pm (admission 5d; refreshments)
- 10 Rover-Ranger dance, St Paul's hall, 7.50 pm (3/- including refreshments)
- 10-11 Cub Wood Badge preliminary training course, Elstree
- 15 Brownie badge lists to be in to Mrs Neal
- 14 District Cub first aid competition, DHQ, 6 pm (see page 1 for details)
- 15 Colour party rehearsal for Thinking Day (see above)
- 16 Letchworth & District B-P Guild fourth annual dinner, Wilbury Hotel
- 17-18 and 5-4 March : PL(S)s' training course (qualifying DofE Gold), Stevenage
- 17-18 County Rover competition hike, Welwyn Garden City and elsewhere
- 18 Thinking Day parade, Hitchin (see above for details)
- 18 4L Rover Crew annual general meeting, 7.30 pm
- 22 Founder's Day
- 22 Rock Council, DHQ, 8.15 pm : All CMs and assistants, please note!
- 25 BARTON SHIELD Scout first aid contest, DHQ from 2 pm (details on page 1)

MARCH 1962
DATES

- 3 Cub Instructors' training course, Barnet (see page 3)
- 3-4 Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Rover camp, Luton
- 5 Proposed establishment of 8L Scout Troop
- 5 LA Executive Committee, DHQ, 8.0 : All Scouter & Lay members are required.
- 7 Last items in for CO-ORDINATOR 34, please!
- 10. Jumble sale for Gang Show funde, DHQ, 2.30 pm (admission 3d; refreshments)
- 10 Guide Divisional competition qualifying hike, Quickswood, from 11 am. (If wet, postponed to 17 March)
- 10 Rover-Ranger dance, St Paul's hall, 7.30 pm (3s. including refreshments)
- 10-11 Cub Wood Badge preliminary training course, St Albans (details on page 3)
- 11 Distribution of CO-ORDINATOR 34
- 11 YAC Youth Sunday service, Letchworth Grammar School hall, 3 pm
- 12 Scouters' Council, DHQ, 8 pm : At least one Scouter from each Group, please!
- 17-18 SSLs' Conference, Hertford (details on page 3)
- 20 Guide and Ranger Guiders' Committee, Ranger Hut, 7.30 pm.
- 24 District Cub football: first rounds : details of draw in next CO-ORDINATOR
- 24 County Seniors' cross-country race
- 25 British Summer Time begins, 2 am
- 31 District Cub football: last rounds and Cub-final, Westbury School field
- 31 and 1 April : County Scouters' Conference, Hatfield. (see page 3)

APRIL
DATES

- 7-8 Rover Wood Badge preliminary training course, Stevenage (see page 3)
- 14 Guide LA Easter Fair, St Paul's hall, 2-6 pm
- 14 Intercounty Seniors' cross-country race, Bromley, Kent
- 22 Easter Sunday
- 23-28 National Bob-a-job Week
- 24 District Gang Show dress rehearsal, St Francis' Theatre
- 25-27 District Gang Show, St Francis' Theatre, 7.30 pm
- 29 District Scout service and St George's parade, St Mary's church, Ashwell