

## From the Gang Show—

This is the first opportunity I have had to send the thanks of the Gang Show Committee to everyone in the Scout and Guide Districts who helped in any way to make this year's show a success. Some of you were mentioned on the programme - many of you were not - but to all of you involved in any way, and not least to those in the audience, our sincere thanks.

The Committee is already thinking of the 1974 Gang Show, which will be the twentieth annual production in this District. Newcomers on the production team will always be welcome, so if you would like to come and give us any special skill or knowledge, please get in touch with me at 4 Monklands, or the producer, Harry Frankland at 26 Hillshott, Letchworth.

In particular we are looking for a team of about four people to work together on the specialized job of publicity, which Tony Gray has coped with so well on his own for several years. Do I hear any volunteers?

FRED ASTRIDGE  
Chairman of the  
Gang Show Committee

## From the Scout Shop—

Three new Scout Shop catalogues have now arrived - (a) Uniform, Trophies, Presentation and Flags '73, (b) Camping and Outdoor Activities '73, and (c) Book List '73. We have, however, only enough copies to supply one set to each Group. So, we ask each Group to make sure that one Scouter collects a set and sees that it is circulated or made available to all concerned.

## For Baldock Guiders—

12 JUNE : Guiders are invited to the LA meeting at Park Street School at 8 pm, to discuss the arrangements for the Christmas fair on 10 November.

14 JUNE : Brownie Sports at St Mary's School, 6 pm.

23 JUNE : Camper badge tests at Nortonbury Farm.

14 JULY (proposed date) : Brownie Revels in Weston Park.

## For everybody—

Champion Hills VSU welcome you to their BARN DANCE on Friday 1 June at Newnham Farm Buildings, with a pig roast and a licensed bar. Tickets at 50p are still available from the Unit Secretary, Terry Brett, 5 Ashwell Road, Bygrave, or VSL Colin Phillips, 29 Haselfoot, Letchworth.

## ICKNIELD SHIELD 1973

LIGHTWEIGHT PATROL CAMPING COMPETITION  
SATURDAY-SUNDAY 16-17 JUNE

The competition is a short hike followed by about 26 hours lightweight camping, for teams of at least three Scouts from a normal Patrol. No member shall have reached his sixteenth birthday.

Each patrol hikes not more than eight miles to the competition camp site, from a given starting point where they receive sealed instructions.

All equipment must be carried on the backs of the patrols in rucsacs or pack frames. Total weight of equipment including rucsacs or pack frames, must not exceed 20 pounds per boy, plus 20 pounds per patrol. (Example: 20 x 4 boys + 20 = 100 lb. for a patrol of four.) Patrols reporting at the start with equipment over the weight limit will remove from their packs and leave with the organizer whichever items they choose, to bring the weight down to the limit.

Patrols will start hiking at 0900 on the Saturday and must arrive at the camp site between 1400 and 1430, carrying out a specific project on the hike.

Arriving at the camp site, each patrol will be inspected by three judges appointed from outside the District by the Troop Scouters' Council.

Maximum points awarded under the following headings will be: (a) Arrival, 20; (b) Pitching camp, 30; (c) Evening meal, 15; (d) Night security, 20; (e) Breakfast, 15; (f) Morning inspection, 20; (g) Project, 10; (h) Lunch, 20; (j) Striking camp, 25; (k) Judges' discretion, 5 per judge = 15. Maximum total points, 190.

Patrols must work out their own menus, and should make full use of dehydrated foods; points will be awarded for sufficiency, variety, nutritional value, cooking, presentation and serving. Cooking will be on bottled gas or other pressure stoves.

Detailed timetables will be supplied to patrols submitting entries by 9 June to DSL Jeff Robson, 67 High Avenue, Letchworth. Entries must be in writing and show (a) NAME OF PATROL, (b) TROOP, (c) NAME AND ADDRESS OF PATROL LEADER, (d) Scout Leader's signature of approval, and each patrol entry must enclose 50p entry fee.

The winning patrol will hold the Icknield Shield for one year, and certificates will be awarded for the first three places. Those in first and second places will be eligible to represent the District in the County Lightweight Camping Contest.

(Winners in 1972 were PANTHERS of 8L Spartan Troop.)

## For Letchworth <sup>North</sup> & <sup>South</sup> Guiders

- 5 JUNE : SOUTH Guiders' meeting, 7.30 pm, Guide Hall, Icknield Way  
 9 JUNE : LA coffee morning and grand raffle draws COUNTERFOILS AND MONEY MUST BE RETURNED TO YOUR DC BY 5 JUNE, PLEASE!  
 9 JUNE : SOUTH Round Table washing up afternoon  
 9 JUNE : SOUTH District Show meeting in the evening  
 16 JUNE : SOUTH Brownie Revels  
 19 JUNE : NORTH Guiders' meeting, 7.30 pm, DHQ  
 22-24 JUNE : Campers' badge at Nortonbury  
 4 JULY : SOUTH District sports  
 13-15 JULY : PLs' permit at Weston Park

Note: Will all NORTH Guiders please let Mrs Bitmead have badge orders by the first of each month.

## District SCOUT Dates

- 31 MAY : DISTRICT PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL, DHQ, 1900

### June 1973

- 6 JUNE : DISTRICT PACK SCOUTERS' COUNCIL, 16 Brandles Road, 2015  
 9 JUNE : Entries must be in for Icknield Shield competition (see page 1)  
 9 JUNE : 5L Group jumble sale, Spring Road  
 10 JUNE : County Canoe race, Bedford to Great Barford, ending 1630  
 15-17 7L Group Family Camp, Weston Park  
 16-17 ICKNIELD SHIELD LIGHTWEIGHT PATROL CAMPING COMPETITION (see page 1)  
 21 DISTRICT TROOP SCOUTERS' COUNCIL, DHQ, 2000  
 23 Memorial service to Melville Balsillie, St Albans Cathedral, 1000  
 23-24 4L Cavalier Pack camp, Weston Park  
 28 Last items in, please, for CO-ORDINATOR 170

### July 1973

- 3 JULY : DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DHQ, 2000  
 7-8 Operation Chaingang (see column 2)  
 14 Letchworth & Hitchin Local Yokels' Carnival  
 14-21 Letchworth-France-Switzerland International Camp part 1, Well End  
 21-28 Letchworth-France-Switzerland International Camp part 2, Coetmor Mill  
 21 - 6 August : First Lofoten expedition

### August 1973

- 6-22 Second Lofoten expedition  
 22 - 7 September : Champion Hills VSU expedition to Morocco

CO-ORDINATOR : free to all Scouters and Group and District officials. 32½p annual subscription for anyone else - payable to District Public Relations Officer, 80 Spring Road, Letchworth, to whom all items for publication should also be delivered.

## The WHALEBONE Story

The Whalebone Trophy was made by Mr John Davies from an actual cetacean vertebra discovered on the coast at Aberdeen on Sunday 30 July 1961. It was originally awarded for occasional special contests for Senior Scouts, but has in recent years been open to older Scouts in troop teams taking part in similar events.

The first Operation Tarzan was won by 1L Senior Scouts in 1959, followed in 1960 by Operation Kon-Tiki which was won by a combined 1L and 3L Senior team. The Whalebone then came on the scene and was won in the following "Operations".

Tarzan 1962.....	1A Senior Scouts	
Kon-Tiki 1963.....	2L	,,
Burnup 1965.....	2L	,,
Pheidippides 1965.....	1B	,,
Tarzan 1966.....	1B	,,
Santa 1966.....	5L	,,
Ferret 1967.....	1B	,,
Montgolfier 1967 -	no contest	
Ugh 1967.....	5L Senior Scouts	
Kon-Tiki 1971.....	1-3L Scouts	
Tarzan 1972.....	1-3L	,,

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The Whalebone is on offer again in 1973, in "Operation Chaingang", involving for the first time entire Scout patrols if they wish to participate. A subcommittee appointed by the District Troop Scouters' Council has published the provisional rules, in which patrols of three or more (including PL or APL) spend 20 hours in camp "chained" together by two-foot pieces of rope or sisal secured by sheetbends to rubber shackles on the leg. Larger patrols may subdivide and be linked 3-and-2, or 3-and-3, or 3-and-4, or 3-3-2.

This takes place on 7 and 8 July at a venue to be announced. Patrols start to prepare their sites at 1530 on Saturday, EXCEPT for erection of their tent. At 1630 they are checked in and "chained", and must remain so till 1230 on Sunday. In this time they have meals and camp gadgets to prepare, a bridge to build, a wide game and relay races.

In the interests of safety, patrols may split into pairs while in the cooking area. Any whole patrol or patrol section remains "chained" as far as the perimeter of the toilet area. Only first aid or genuine emergency will allow relaxation of these rules.

Each patrol starts with 100 points (of value to District GPH and Just-for-Fun League scores!). Penalties are deducted for being unshackled, not having sheetbends at any snap inspection, or for poor timekeeping. Bonus points are given for the projects, games and menus.

Results and presentation of the Whalebone Trophy will be expected about 1430 on the Sunday, following the conclusion of "Operation Chaingang 1973". Entry forms will be circulated to all troops during the next few weeks.