



LETCWORTH & BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
Monthly bulletin : free to Scouters and
officials, 32½p annually to others*

SEPTEMBER
1974

CO-ORDINATOR 184

RETURN OF TWO OLD FAVOURITES!

J M T 5

OPERATION FERRET

JIM'S MYSTERY TOUR (founded 1962) REVIVES THIS MONTH, with a completely new weekend of long-distance initiative tests for teams of two invested Venture Scouts or Scouts over 15 in Letchworth & Baldock District groups. On the night of Friday 27 September, victims will be dumped without maps at secret dropping places somewhere in the United Kingdom. Following cryptic clues and using maximum intelligence and observation, they ought to arrive on Sunday afternoon at the finish, which may or may not be somewhere like Coventry or Peterborough. All available details so far are being circulated with this CO-ORDINATOR to Scout Leaders. Further copies are available on request from VSL Colin Phillips, 29 Haselfoot, Letchworth, or Jim Bruce, 50 Beech Hill, Letchworth. Entries MUST be in by the general briefing on Monday 16 September. NO later entries will be considered.

The last time that the Whalebone Trophy was fought for this way was on Sunday 19 February 1967. It was then described as a "Senior-sized scavenger hunt of unparalleled unpredictability"

Except for the fact that it is now for the Scout section (ages 11-16 only), the revived Operation Ferret on Saturday and Sunday 21 and 22 September 1974 will be very similar in character.

Teams of FOUR Scouts, representing their Troop OR Patrol, wishing to take part will report in UNIFORM at DHQ between 0800 and 1000 on SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, to receive lists of the 60 objects required to be found by 1600 on Sunday 22 September.

There is no entry fee, and no entry form is necessary. Only the Scouts in the team applying on Saturday morning may hand in the objects at the finish; but there is no restriction on the numbers of helpers, they may get during the intervening period, provided that all objects are acquired completely legally. A label must be firmly fixed to each object produced, showing its list number and the name of the team entering it. Three judges will award points with inscrutable impartiality, and their decision is final. The team with most points by 1600 on the Sunday wins the Whalebone Trophy for this year. All objects must be removed from DHQ as soon as possible after adjudication, unless otherwise directed by the judges..

Limited audience accommodation will be available to readers of CO-ORDINATOR. Also, you may have room to watch!

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

At the last Water Activities Committee meeting, the "Name the Dinghies" contest was awarded to Mrs Kath Tippet, and the dinghies are to be named KITTIWAKE and ARCTIC TERN (which together with the Gulls are all members of the Laridae family of seabirds).

On the page 2 diary you will see two new dates; a SAILING INSTRUCTOR DAY at Fairlands on 14 September, and a CANOE DAY for north Hertfordshire Scouts and Leaders, also at Fairlands, on 12 October - the venue for this being Look Wide, Fry Road, Stevenage at 0930.

PETER DEARY

OUR THREE GUIDE DISTRICTS

BALDOCK Just to remind you of the dates which appeared in the last CO-ORDINATOR: Guide Guiders' study group, 5 September; Division Brownie Revels at Highfield School, 7; LA and Guiders' meeting on the Christmas fair, 11; Guiders' meeting, 19; Newspaper collection, 14; and sale at "International" shop, 26.

LETCWORTH SOUTH An alteration! The District Bazaar is brought forward from 26 to 19 October. Please be sure to alter this in your diaries!

LETCWORTH NORTH After the Brownie Revels, a district meeting at 7.30 on 7 September. Ranger Guider training at DHQ from 7.30 to 10 on 23 September. And an LA and Guiders' evening get together at DHQ, 8 pm on 3 October.

* Subscriptions and items for publication should be sent to the District Public Relations Officer, Ken Johnson, 80 Spring Road, Letchworth. Until 11 September, however, he is only accessible at 17 Westmoor Park, Tavistock, Devon: phone Tavistock 3072

DISTRIBUTION

We have still not ironed out the snags. All groups except Eighth and Fifth Letchworth failed to collect their small bundles of CO-ORDINATOR & HSN/HG for local delivery last month. Consequently the District lost another £2.10 in the unnecessary purchase of stamps. - Which makes well over five quid wasted since the scheme started in April.

For October, each Letchworth and Baldock Group representative should call at Letchworth Library on Tuesday or Wednesday 1 or 2 October, please! Copies not collected by 1 pm Wednesday will have to be posted.

LAST ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER CO-ORDINATOR should reach the DPRO by 26 September, please.

1964 - 1974 - 1984?

Looking back in the CO-ORDINATOR file, we see that just ten years ago this month the District diary contained the following items...

SEPTEMBER 1964

- 3 Scouters' Council, DHQ, 8 pm: please do your very best to attend.
- 5-12 5L troop camp, Lochearnhead
- 7 District swimming sports for Cubs and Scouts, Letchworth pool, 6.15 pm
- 7 Rock Council at Letchworth swimming pool, after Cub sports
- 7 LA Executive Committee, DHQ, 8.15
- 12 Letchworth Guides' LA Jumble sale
- 19-20 Icknield Shield camping competition
- 20 County Cubmasters' Wayfaring, Welwyn Garden City
- 20 "Setting up home": first talk in this series for Rovers, Rangers and others
- 23 Last items in, please, for CO-ORDINATOR 65
- 26 Wedding of Mr Max Vines and Miss Patricia Borlotti
- 26-27 Isle of Wight Rover Moot

.....

What a lot of things have changed in only ten years! It makes you wonder what other things will change in the next ten years.

So here is a competition for all readers of CO-ORDINATOR. Jot down a list of the things that you think might be on the District diary for September 1984. Best list will win a prize of some sort and be published next month. Most accurate list will be discovered in 1984, if Big Brother isn't watching.

AUGUST 1974

- 29 DISTRICT PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL, DHQ, 1915: all PLs and APLs are expected, in uniform, to debate District affairs. Every delegate has a vote!

SEPTEMBER 1974

- 7 HARMERGREEN TROPHY for District Cub packs competing on Norton Common
- 12 DISTRICT TROOP SCOUTERS' COUNCIL, DHQ, 1945 for 2000
- 14 SAILING INSTRUCTOR DAY, Fairlands
- 16 JMT5 GENERAL BRIEFING for all possible candidates, DHQ, 2000. This is also the last occasion for handing in entries for this unique competition. See page 1.
- 19 ORBIT '74 REUNION for all survivors of the great wet adventure, and their loved ones if any, DHQ, 1930
- 21-22 OPERATION FERRET for the Whalebone Trophy. Rules and things on page 1.
- 27-29 JMT5 : Jim's fifth Mystery Tour, starting at DHQ on Friday evening, finishing at Point X on Sunday afternoon
- 28-29 County LIGHTWEIGHT CAMPING COMPETITION, Well End: presentations at 1615 on Sunday

OCTOBER 1974

- 5-6 "OPERATION LIFEBOAT" sponsored window-cleaning. Sponsor forms will be distributed to all Troops during September.

- 5 Eighth Letchworth HQ official opening by the County Commissioner, 1500
- 8 District Executive Committee, DHQ, 2000
- 12 Canoe day at Fairlands (see page 1)
- 27 Barton Shield (Scout patrol first aid competition)

NOVEMBER 1974

- 2 7L Group bazaar
- 24 B-P Guild Cup winter patrol competition
- 30 GANG SHOW 1975: first rehearsal, DHQ 1830

DECEMBER 1974

- 10 District Executive Committee, DHQ, 2000
- 14 District Scout six-a-side football competition