



CO-ORDINATOR

No.331

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THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK
DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL.

Free to Leaders and Group Officers: £1.20 annually to others.

QUEEN'S SCOUT AWARD

Philip Kerrigan (Champion Hills V.S.U.)

Congratulations to Philip on achieving the highest award in Scouting. Philip has progressed through Cubs and Scouts to Champion Hills and throughout his record has been outstanding. He was one of our District representatives to the World Jamboree in Canada and he has also attended an EEC Youth Conference on the environment at Almere in Holland. He is now passing on his Scouting knowledge and skills as an Assistant Scout Leader at the 7th Letchworth.

Philip was presented with his award by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire at the County Queen's Scout Award Presentation Dinner.

CHIEF SCOUT'S AWARD

The District will be represented by six Scouts at the Chief Scouts Award Weekend at B.P. House on the 19/20 March. They are Simon Ellmers and David Mayes (1/3rd Letchworth); James Blacker, Graham Wright and Richard Young (7th Letchworth) and Andrew Sims (11th Letchworth).

GOLD ARROW

Well done Robert Liddle of 11th Letchworth Cubs who has gained his Gold Arrow.

GOLD ARROW AWARD PRESENTATION

Chris Taylor would like to know, by 5 March, the names of Cubs who will be attending the Presentation.

The Presentation will take place at 3.30 pm on Saturday 26 March at the 1/3rd Headquarters in Icknield Way.

CUB SCOUT SIXERS & SECONDRS WEEKEND

70 boys attended this event. The following is a description of the weekend from one of the Sixers who attended:

Nortonbury Activity Weekend

On Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 February, Sixers and Seconders came from all over the Letchworth & Baldock District. They went there to be trained as good Sixers and Seconders. They were sorted into 5 groups. They were all sent into 5 rooms - A, B, C, D and E. Group A was how to run games; B group was about Sixers and Seconders meetings; C Group was about how to do up a flag and about the flags of England, Scotland and Ireland and the Union flag; D group was about uniform and badges and E group was about moving up into Scouts and all the laws. Lunch was provided. You stayed for the day.

Names were picked out of a hat to see which Sixers and Seconders would be going each day. There were three breaks in the day, except for flag break and flag down.

Thomas Lawrie
Sixer of the Red Six
1st Ashwell Cub Scout Pack

Our thanks to Anne Lilley and Gwen Pack for arranging the weekend and all other leaders and helpers to ensured its success.

WARRANTS

The Warrants Committee has awarded warrants to:

Alan Jacobs	GSL 5th Letchworth
Graham Adams	ASL 8th Letchworth
Debbie Dilley	ACSL 2nd Baldock

We welcome them to the District and wish them success in their Scouting.

Renewal of Warrants

Leaders with Warrants due for renewal on 31 March 1988 should send their Warrant to Verelene Knox (District Secretary).

FERRET TROPHY - 19/20 March

This is a giant scavenger hunt over two days. The event is a Group event but the entry form and details will be sent to the Scout Leader. Anybody connected with the Group can take part, but you will need to contact your Scout Leader for details.

The Competition will take place on the 19 and 20 March with the check-in at the 8th Letchworth H.Q in Sparhawke.

The event two years ago was very popular and a great success. I would advise all leaders to rope in as many Group Members as possible - the more the merrier.

Steve Lusty
ADC Scouts

DISTRICT DIARY

March

4-6	Peak Assault
14	GSL's Meeting - Nortonbury (new date)
17	District Executive - Nortonbury
19-20	Ferret Trophy
21	Cub Leaders Meeting - Nortonbury (new date)
23	Fellowship visit to Sainsbury's, Buntingford
26	Gold Arrow Awards - 1/3rd HQ, Ickniel Way
28	District Team Meeting - 12th Letchworth HQ, Lordship Farm School, Fouracres (new venue)

April

4	1st Ashwell AGM
5-9	Gang Show - Plinston Hall
13	Scout Leaders Meeting - Nortonbury
15	7th Letchworth AGM
23	Cubs - County Six-a-side football
	Venture Scouts "21st" birthday event
24	St Georges Day Parade - St Georges Church, Norton Way South

APRIL EDITION OF CO-ORDINATOR

If you have any items for the April edition please get them to Bob Williams by no later than 20 March.

XVI WORLD JAMBOREE : AUSTRALIA 1988

December 24-January 17, a time to remember. One minute we were sitting in Manchester airport feeling a mixture of boredom, excitement and coldness. The next minute we were sitting down sipping iced orange juice in a garden of a suburban bungalow in Melbourne (pronounced Melbon as my Australian hosts immediately pointed out).

The few days I spent in Melbourne with my hosts were some of the busiest, but relaxed days in my life. This seemed typical of the Australian lifestyle. The urgency which makes cities such as London 'buzz' with activity did not exist. In comparison to life in a beehive, living in Melbourne (which typified most of urban Australia) would be nearer to spending your life drifting in a barge.

While staying in Melbourne we visited several places in Victoria from Bells surf beach to the Giant Gippsland Earthworm Museum. The Gippsland earthworm grows to about 6 feet long, and as they only live in a very small area in comparison to the rest of the continent, the Australians have managed to make a buck or two by building a worm shaped museum which has turned into a shrine to the Japanese tourist.

After our 'initiation' week was over we moved onto the Jamboree campsite, Cataract Park. This was situated near a town called Wollongong. Wollongong itself is a fairly small coastal town which lies about an hour and a half's drive from Sydney.

Once we arrived at our subcamp we were shown to our site. We pitched our tents and after we had moved ours again because of an ants nest it really felt like the Jamboree had started. That evening, the official opening ceremony took place so all 15,000 of us went to the main arena to watch the show which was to be compered by Rolf Harris. During the ceremony, the flag of each country represented was paraded onto the stage by a Scout from the country concerned. The opening ceremony was finished by lighting the Jamboree flame and singing the Jamboree song. This sounded fairly odd as it was sung in both English and French at the same time.

For the next ten days we took part in many activities which had been arranged by our Australian hosts such as Archery, Caving, Abseiling, Exploring Sydney, Surfing, the Bike Bungle and Challenge valley, an assault course with more than its fair share of mud (this was about 4 feet deep in places).

Also we took part in meal exchanges with scouts of other nationalities and did some service to the campsite.

Eventually the camp had to end and as before everyone moved into the main arena to watch the closing ceremony. This was followed by a spectacular firework display.

The next day we rose at 4.00 am to catch the bus to Sydney airport. From Sydney we flew onto Townsville.'

Townsville is one of the largest towns in North Queensland and offers, in my mind, the most appealing tourist attraction possible, The Great Barrier Reef.

Our stay in Townsville was as busy as the time we spent in Melbourne. The first place we visited was called Waterworld where there is a complex with water slides, swimming pool, a jacuzzi and other water based recreations. Another day was spent visiting the billabong sanctuary. Here we saw many animals native to Australia such as crocodiles, several snakes, Kangaroos, Pelicans, Kookaburras and Wombats to name but a few. In the afternoon we visited the Reef Wonderland. The Reef Wonderland is a series of giant aquariums with many of the animals in that you could find on the North Queensland coastline such as coral, angel fish and sharks.

The highlight of our week in Townsville was our journey out to the barrier reef. Once at the reef we were able to go snorkling, this was a great experience as you could touch the fish as they swam past and see the marine life first-hand. Also we were able to go for a trip in a semi-submersible boat called the yellow submarine. It was then that we got our first good look at the different types of coral.

As with all things our stay in Townsville had to end and we found ourselves saying goodbye and heading back home.

Andrew Sims
11 Letchworth VSU.

The trip to Australia started on Christmas Eve, Andrew Sims and I left from Manchester Airport, we spent Christmas day in the clouds on the way to Australia, landing in Melbourne where we stayed with an Australian family.

We went all over Victoria, visiting the beach and seeing the tallships, we spent 5 days in Melbourne before flying to Sydney to spend ten days at Cataract Park. We were approximately 80 km from Sydney in an area called Wollongong, here we took part in many excellent activities and played several sports.

The Jamboree itself was started by Rolf Harris who starred in a concert given by several of the groups of scouts. Included in the Jamboree was a trip to Sydney during which we went over the Sydney bridge, around the Opera House and up the Sydney tower: We also went on a trip to the beach and we all had a go at surfing, it is more difficult than it looks and none of us managed to get very far.

One of the most enjoyable things that I did at the Jamboree was the bike bungle, this involved building up a bike and riding it on a muddy course, all of our group finished caked in mud, I followed this straight away by going on Challenge Valley, this was a big commando type assault course, which has been used by the Australian Army, this was exciting, filthy but exhausting. The nature trail was interesting, first we were shown photographs of Australian animals, then we were allowed into the animal pen where we could stroke kangaroos, lizards and Emu's.

One noticeable thing about Australia was that when it rains, it rains! We were caught in a big storm on the penultimate day, the storm destroying many tents on the subcamps. Our subcamp was more in the shelter, so we weren't badly hit. The weather in Townsville was a sharp contrast, we went there for the week after the jamboree, it got up to 40° when we visited the Great Barrier Reef.

We had a typical 'Aussie Barby' with all the English, Scottish and Australian scouts together, just before we left, we then left for the twenty four hour journey home.

I found the Jamboree a really worthwhile experience, an experience I'll remember for many years, I will always remember the wonderful weather, although it was only when the plane touched down in Heathrow I realised how much I'd missed the cold English climate.

Chris Bates
11 Letchworth Venture Scout

The Jamboree officially started on January 1 1988 but we arrived on December 31st to set up our camp site. The opening ceremony started at 8.00 pm and incorporated displays from countries introduced by Rolf Harris. The ceremony took place on New Years Eve and as usual we, the British, excelled with our noise and celebrations.

The following day everybody was up and out early ready for a days activity but to our disappointment all the activities were booked, i.e. other people had been and got all of the tickets, so we booked up for the remainder of the Jamboree (8 days). For the first two days most of the troop went round the site swapping badges, woggles or their uniform. The activities available were:- Challenge valley, a water slide, sharing knowledge, abseiling, caving, leatherwork, bike bungle, orienteering, adventure trail, exploring Sydney, surf carnival, surf awareness, archery, amateur radio, Guinness Book of Records, nature awareness. If you cannot count there were 16 activities to be attempted if you wanted. There was an award to be gained called the Participants Award where you did as many activities as you could plus a meal exchange with a non British troop and 4 hours service. Out of all the activities challenge valley was the most demanding and fun. It was an assault course covered with mud and water and by the end you were totally covered from head to toe in mud exhausted but a better person for it, its obstacles ranged from hurdles to water filled tunnels. The sun was shining the majority of the time except for during a storm one evening nearing the end of the Jamboree, our tents were blown down but we managed to stay dry and warm that night, an exciting evening. The food was just like normal camp food for instance one evening when we could not see what we were eating until the lamp was lit and I saw blood oozing out of a semi-raw drumstick I was chewing.

Most of us made a lot of good friends and were sorry to leave but we still had a really good week in Tasmania to look forward to.

Pete Thorogood
Beech Springs VSU