



# CO-ORDINATOR

No.332

April 1988.

## THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF LETCHWORTH AND BALDOCK DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL.

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

### FERRET TROPHY

Where in Letchworth did an emergency police vehicle come across the ADC Cubs eating a hot Sunday lunch whilst looking after a pig and being entertained by choirs, a Scottish piper and a uni-cyclist?

Answer – 8th Letchworth HQ on Sunday 20 March, and the occasion was the Ferret trophy. All weekend five teams of contestants had been searching Letchworth and beyond to find a list of items cunningly devised by Steve Lusty and Nigel Pitchers. Congratulations to the teams who met the challenge with great ingenuity – especially the 11th Letchworth who won with 902 points.

The other results were:

1/3rd Letchworth	:	690 points
5th Letchworth	:	530 points
7th Letchworth	:	753 points
8th Letchworth	:	632 points

Our thanks to Steve and Nigel for a most entertaining and interesting weekend.

### VENTURES – 21st ANNIVERSARY

The Ventures have built a platform upon which will be pitched a tent. Three Ventures will live in the tent for twenty-one hours. In the meantime it will be pushed/pulled by a relay of Venture Scouts for 21 miles around the District on Saturday 23 April, starting around Ashwell and finishing in Baldock. Give them your support and a big cheer if you see them.

### OUTWARD BOUND

Congratulations to Graham Wright, Senior Patrol Leader at 7th Letchworth, who has been sponsored by the Letchworth Garden City Corporation to attend an Outward Bound course at Ullswater in August.

Chris Bates, 11th Letchworth has also been awarded a sponsorship but has yet to decide on the venue.

## CUBS

### Gold Arrow

Congratulations to Andrew Garner, 11th Letchworth on achieving his Gold Arrow,

### SIX-A-SIDE FOOTBALL - Saturday 19 March 1988

10 teams entered this event.

The results of the semi-finals were:

1st Ashwell	-	2
11th Letchworth	-	0
and		
10th Letchworth	-	1
4th Letchworth	-	0

The final between 1st Ashwell and 10th Letchworth went to penalties.  
1st Ashwell won 2-1. The scorers for Ashwell were Stewart Bishop and Daniel Harper.

Many thanks to Mark Simmons for organising a splendid event.

### ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

Our St George's Day service will be held at St George's Church, Norton Way North on Sunday 24 April.

The parade is being organised by John Chapman, Peter Deary and Steve Lusty.

The parade will assemble at the 8th Letchworth HQ in the grounds of Grange Junior School, Sparhawke at 2.15 pm and march to St George's Church.

There will be a Wishing Nell for the Great Ormond Street appeal in the Church. Packs and troops are asked to make a collection beforehand and place it in a purse in the shape of a tear. A representative from each pack and troop will be asked to place the purse in the Wishing Well during the service.

John Chapman will contact Groups with information about the rehearsal.

### GANG SHOW -- 5-9 APRIL

The cast is rehearsing hard and producing a first-class show. Please give them your support by booking your seat and bring your friends along as well.

### CAPITAL GRANTS FOR BUILDING AND REPAIRS

Scouts and other Youth Organisations have been invited to apply to the County Council for Capital Grants for building and repairs.

However, the amount available is small and it must be understood that any particular Group's chances are slim.

In order to get more realistic help in future years Colin McIntyre (County Secretary) would like to agree the case with the County Council on the basis of a sound knowledge of the value of Scout property in the County. Therefore, whether or not you intend to apply for a grant, I would be obliged if GSL's whose Group owns property would return the application form distributed with this edition of Co-ordinator to me giving details of the property and its value. (Please let me have the information by 22 April)

Bob Williams.

#### CANOE REGISTRATION

Groups and Units are reminded that their canoes are due for 1988 registration and examination.

Please contact Dave Liddle (Letchworth 682798) for this to be done.

#### RESUSCI ANNIE

Frank Cooke has taken over looking after, on behalf of Nortonbury Executive Committee, Resusci Annie which can be borrowed by Cub, Scout, Guide or Brownie units within the District at a minimum donation of £1 per occasion, units to supply own lungs (Frank has a stock).

Frank can also obtain the use of an aqualung if any group is interested.

Frank can be contacted at - 27 Bedford Road, Letchworth (672717)

#### FRED COGAR's PRESENTATION

It is intended to make a presentation to Fred Cogar at the District AGM. If you would like to make a personal donation towards the gift please give it to your DC, ADC's or directly to Mike Mansfield our District Treasurer

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#### THE GARDEN CITY 15 CHARITY WALK - Sunday 15 May

Why not join the 6th Garden City 15 Charity Walk organised by the Rotary Club of Letchworth Garden City to boost your Groups funds?

The Garden City 15 Walks have increased in popularity each year and last year nearly £20,000 was raised for various charities by the 961 walkers.

The total course is 15 miles but there are drop out points around the course. Remember it is not always the people who walk the furthest who raise the most money. The important thing is to get as much sponsorship as possible before the event.

GSL's have full information about the event and entry forms.,

## CANOE COURSES

- Course A      Designed for beginners, leading to BCU 1 Star Award - fee £7.50
- Course B      More advanced skills and rescue techniques up to BCU 2 Star Award - fee £7.50
- Course C      Eskimo Rolling - Fee £7.50.

Venue - Letchworth Outdoor Pool and River Great Ouse.

### Pool Sessions

<u>Monday nights</u>		<u>Course No</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A1/A2	6.30 & 7.30	A1 and B1	9th, 16th and 23rd May
81/B2	7.30 & 8.30	A2 and B2	6th, 13th and 20th June
Rolling A	6.30 & 7.30	Rolling A & B	27th June
" B	7.30 & 8.30		4th July

GSL's have further details and application forms.

Dave Liddle

District Canoe Adviser - 53 The Crescent, Letchworth Tel: 682798

## DISTRICT DIARY

### April

- 5-9      Gang Show
- 14      District Executive (2 Paynes Close, Letchworth)
- 14      10th Letchworth AGM
- 15      7th Letchworth AGM
- 16      Beaver Fun Day - Nortonbury
- 20      4th Letchworth AGM
- 20      5th Letchworth AGM
- 20      Scout Leaders Meeting, Nortonbury (New date)
- 23      Venture Scouts 21st Anniversary event
- 23      Cubs - County Six-a-Side Football
- 24      St George's Day Parade - St George's Church, Norton Way North
- 25      Cub Leaders Meeting - Nortonbury
- 26      2nd Baldock AGM
- 26      Fellowship/Ventures - Ten Pin Bowling
- 27      1/3rd Letchworth AGM

### May

- 4      11th Letchworth AGM
- 4      1st Ashwell AGM
- 6      8th Letchworth AGM
- 6      British Meat Cooking Competition
- 11      12th Letchworth AGM
- 18      District AGM - Council Chambers, Gernon Road
- 29      Champion Hills - Five-a-side football - Baldock F.C.

## 16th WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE – AUSTRALIA 1987/88

On a very cold and early morning we were off. After leaving Chalfont St Peter we boarded the Jumbo 747 that was to take us to Melbourne via Muscat, Singapore and Perth. Most of the air crew were in good Christmas spirits and allowed us to enjoy ourselves although British Airways probably hadn't seen anything quite like it before.

During the flight we hung up Christmas Decorations and sang Carols and other songs. The flight was long but we were able to watch films and listen to music. British Airways also came up with a first – a pre recorded Queen's speech. We arrived in Melbourne at 3 am and managed to find a travel lodge floor to sleep on in our sleeping bags – unpacked hurriedly. We were up early that morning, put on a coach and driven through Melbourne City Centre. The landmarks were pointed out to us before arriving at a football stadium where we were to meet our host families.

We were first to leave; our family lived about 30 minutes drive from the City Centre. The father, Fred, is a Scout Leader and his sons Peter (14), Alister (12), and Rohan (10) are in the Scouts and Cubs. They live (with their mother Helen) in a one storey building with a swimming pool in the back garden.

Because four of the family were in the Scouting movement I was able to learn a great deal about Australian scouting. I was also asked about the British Scouting movement and from this we both found out the similarities; how problems in Troops had been solved; and ideas for further programmes.

When in Melbourne we were able to visit the zoo, the City Centre (which impressed me by its cleanliness) and the Surf Beaches.

From Melbourne it was an hour's flight to Sydney. After transferring luggage, we took a coach to Cataract Scout Park, the home of the Sixteenth World Scout Jamboree to the strains of 'Rule Britannia'.

We were in sub camp 5, Emu, among scouts of many other countries. After setting up camp we went to the Opening Ceremony. The ceremony, hosted by Rolf Harris, was very emotional with Scouts of all countries swapping goodwill messages and shaking the ever important left hand.

The Jamboree provided many activities, such as Surf Awareness; Amateur Radio, Abseiling; Archery; Bike Bungle; Challenge Valley; Guinness Book of Records; Leather Work; Caving; Orienteering; Sharing Knowledge; Nature Awareness and Water Slides. Participating in the activities was only part of the fun. The activities involved working with, and relying on, our fellow Scouts from different countries. There was also a "Jamboree Participant Award". To gain the award you had to take part in the activities, go on a meal exchange and undertake four hours of Jamboree Service. For the meal exchange I visited an American Scout Troop for lunch (jelly, sandwiches and spaghetti!). For my Jamboree service I did four hours of Belaying Beginner Abseilers.

The highlight of the Jamboree for me was attending a Presentation to the Australian Scout Movement. This was on the night a bad electric storm hit the site and by the time I arrived back at the campsite it was a sodden flattened mess.

Then the Jamboree was over. Everyone had a lump in their throats; many had tears in their eyes.

The comment of a Norwegian female Scout Leader, in her broken English summed it all up for me "Isn't it great to be a Scout?"

Hobart, Tasmania was next on the itinerary and a great place it turned out to be. The family were very friendly and did all they could do to show us their part of Australia. We visited the first Tasmanian settling point with its ruined prisons etc. We also saw the tall ships preparing to set sail to Sydney.

At the Jamboree I gained tremendous experience from meeting all the Scouts. We exchanged badges and most importantly names and addresses in order to keep in contact, swap ideas and keep Scouting truly international.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the District for selecting me to represent them at the Jamboree. I am also indebted to the many, many people and organisations who spent both time and money to raise the necessary funds for the trip. Finally I would like to thank the Troop 09 Leader, Mr Nigel Clarke, who supervised the expedition.

Lee Crossman  
12th Letchworth Scout Group/Champion Hills VSU.

Australia is a fantastic place. It has everything going for it. Space to breathe, but huge cities and industries, fun-loving, hard-working people who are never down for long.

I found many things different about Australia. It is so large, yet there is absolutely no change of accent the length and width of it. The people I was staying with found it hard to believe that people who live so close together, like us in Britain, could have such differing accents.

I also noticed how far they were prepared to go to anything. When we asked how far it was to the beach, we were told it was a short journey in the car. An hour and a half later we arrived at the beach.

In Melbourne the normal 'house' is a large bungalow. When I pointed this out and said that the usual house in Britain is two storey, they were very annoyed with me because a bungalow for Aussies is a two or one roomed shed which seventeen/eighteen year olds might put up in their parents backyard to stay out of the way. To home owners its like saying the house is useless, horrible and pokey.

But no matter what differences there were, the Australians I met were all really nice and friendly and I would advise anyone considering going to Australia to go, believe me you'll never want to leave.

N McCallion  
11th Letchworth Scout Group